



DR. CAROL GAY

Gay's death leaves scholarly works behind

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., today at St. John's Episcopal Church for Dr. Carol Gay, 52, a YSU English professor and co-founder of the YSU English Festival. She died Dec. 18 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

She was a Youngstown resident throughout her life. She graduated from Youngstown College in 1954 with a bachelor's degree and received her master's degree from Ohio State University in 1957.

Later that year she was appointed as a limited-service professor at Youngstown College.

In 1965 she became a full-service faculty member and in 1972 she received her doctorate from Kent State University.

Gay and her husband Thomas, a YSU associate professor of English, created the YSU English Festival in 1977 as a lasting memorial for their daughter Candace who died of cancer earlier that year.

The English Festival has become nationally recognized for its method of encouraging high school students to maintain and develop an interest in literature and writing. The festival requires its 2,400 junior and senior high school students to read seven committee-approved books and participate in essay writing contests, discussions and lectures.

The festival has spawned similar programs in Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Last summer the English Festival helped the YSU English Department win a bronze medal from the prestigious National Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

The family requests that any donations be made to the Carol Gay English Festival Memorial Fund. The fund will help pay the expenses for the main speaker at future festivals.

Gay was a coordinator of the Graduate Studies of English at YSU from Fall 1980 to Fall 1985 as well as a member of the community relations committees at Rayen High School and Hayes Junior High School.

Her interests were in American and children's literature as well as having a fondness for the writing of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Articles on American literature included those on Cotton Mather, Lucretia Hale, Jacob Abbott and Maria Cummins. She also wrote a monograph on western writer Zane Grey.

Her work with children's literature included articles in *Children's Literature Quarterly* and the *English Journal* and essays in *Classic Children's Novels and the Movies* and *Beyond Fact: Nonfiction for Children and Young People*.

She had recently finished the first drafts on a biography of Franklin B. Sanborn, an American journalist and humanitarian who also wrote biographies of Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.