

Professor leaves fond memories

By RICHARD M. JENKINS
Jambar Reporter

Once in a lifetime, one has the privilege to meet a man like Dr. Gary L. Green. He came to YSU in 1985 and enriched lives in a way that cannot be adequately expressed.

Green died of cancer last week in California, and friends and colleagues described Green as a brilliant man in and out of the classroom. Before his 29th birthday, he had received his bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees, all in English, from the University of Oklahoma.

A specialist in early American literature and film studies, Green had just won early promotion to the rank of associate professor, which would have been effective next fall.

Outside of the classroom, Green was incessantly researching and writing. He was the co-author of a book examining the life and work of silent film star Buster Keaton. He also wrote essays on George Cukor and *The Philadelphia Story*.

In 1987 the *Smithsonian Studies in American Art* published Green's article on a re-evaluation of *Casablanca*. Before he became ill, he was working on a book about Preston Sturges, a director of comedies in the 1940s.

In his other speciality, early American Literature to 1865, Green's essay on vampirism was published last year in *The Dictionary of Literary Themes and Motifs*, and had delivered a paper on Cotton Mather and other Puritan

writers and had reviewed books on Gothic and horror themes for scholarly journals.

His book will never be finished, so the loss to the literary world is considerable. In the words of Dr. Toni A. Culjak, English, "He had so much left to say and write — so many ideas he wanted to pursue."

His understanding and love of the written word earned Green the admiration of the staff and student body. His ability and productivity demonstrated the passion he had for his work.

Many members of the staff have said the loss of Green has caused a vast emptiness within the English department.

A well-prepared and popular teacher, Green had received consistently high evaluations from his students. As a professor Green came to every class with a relentless enthusiasm and caring that generated kinetic energy throughout the classroom. His ability to excite the minds of students was a gift he used to its fullest extent.

Green brought insight and understanding to the teaching profession. Although the vacancy his loss has created will be filled, in the minds of many, Green will never be replaced.

Dr. Stephanie Tingley, English, summed it up best: "I will miss a good colleague and friend."

Material gifts should take the form of contributions to the Gary Green Award at YSU.

A memorial service for Dr. Green will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, June 1, in Room 132, DeBartholomeo Hall.