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Remembering Joyce Durham

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Remembering Joyce Durham

01.15.2009 | Faculty

Family members have planned a memorial service Saturday, Jan. 31, in honor of Joyce (Green) Durham, professor emerita of English, who died Jan. 5 after a lengthy illness. She was 69.

The service will be at 1:30 p.m. at Normandy United Methodist Church, 450 W. Alex-Bell Road, Centerville.

Durham taught 25 years at UD, including two summers in Paris and three in London. In teaching effective business writing, she always encouraged students to use clear, "plain" English, conveying a perpetual disdain for passive voice, convoluted sentences, "50-cent" words and ambiguity. She retired in 2005.

On Mothers' Day 2008, family members contributed money, books and other items in Durham's name to the Family Resource Center at Dayton Children's Medical Center and created the Joyce Durham Fund to support the expansion of the center, a free library of books, games, videos and other materials on pediatric health, safety and psychosocial issues.

A Dayton native, Durham earned her bachelor's degree from Ohio University, her master's from The Ohio State University and her doctorate from the University of Maryland. She is survived by her husband, David; daughters Kristin Riley and Erika Krebs; grandchildren Aidan and Isabelle Riley; and three brothers.

Those who wish to make memorial contributions may make them to the Joyce Durham Library, Dayton Children's Medical Center Development Department, 1 Children's Plaza, Dayton, OH 45404-1815, or to or the Joyce R. Durham Scholarship Fund at Ohio University, Chubb Hall 020, Athens, OH 45701-2979.