12-9-1982

Professor Gene Kiernan 1924-1982

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DAYTON, Ohio, December 9, 1982 -- University of Dayton

professor Gene E. Kiernan, Ph.D., a popular and respected Communication Arts faculty member, died early Wednesday, December 8, at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton. She was 58.

Dr. Kiernan died of cancer. Her illness was diagnosed over a year and a half ago, but Dr. Kiernan continued to teach until early in the winter term of 1982.

In 1979, Dr. Kiernan developed and began to host a television show for local public television. As "The Devil's Advocate" she and her guests explored the pros and cons of local issues. The monthly program aired on Channel 16.

Dr. Kiernan was an active member of the University of Dayton community and served as the first president of the University Colleagues, a fellowship group of the UD faculty and staff.

Dr. Kiernan joined the UD faculty in 1967 and became a tenured associate professor in 1974. Prior to her appointment to the UD faculty she taught speech and English at Twin Valley South High School. Her college education was undertaken at age 38, after raising two sons.

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Dr. Kiernan earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Dayton in 1965 and 1969, respectively, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Rhetoric and Mass Communication) from Ohio State University in 1971.

Her teaching assignments at UD included undergraduate and graduate courses in the mass media, ethics in communication, journalism, and speech. An innovative instructional concept introduced by Dr. Kiernan in 1979, and continuing today, uses upperclass student facilitators to grade oral presentations of freshman students in speech classes in the Department of Communication Arts.

Dr. Kiernan's professional memberships included those in the American Association of Higher Education; American Association of University Professors; National Association for Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors; Speech-Communication Association of America; Central States Speech Association; Ohio Speech-Communication Association; National Association for Education in Journalism; and the Ohio Journalism Educators Association.

Dr. Kiernan also served on the advisory board of the Salvation Army in 1981.

Dr. Kiernan lived at 108 Sherbrooke Avenue (Kettering). She is survived by her mother, Enah Chase (Olean, New York), and two sons, Matthew (Boston) and Timothy (Miami, Florida).

Funeral arrangements have not been finalized. They will be handled by Meyer and Boehmer Funeral Home, 1733 Brown Street.