



Joyce Arline Palmer

September 4, 1941 - November 8, 2015

Dr. Joyce Palmer, retired from the Texas Woman's University English faculty, died Sunday, November 8, 2015, at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital. She was 74.

Dr. Palmer was born in Columbia, Tennessee September 4, 1941, to James Edward and Arline Roberts Cornette. She was graduated from David Lipscomb High School in Nashville, Tennessee and she and her twin sister, Joan, were co-valedictorians.

Dr. Palmer attended David Lipscomb University in Nashville and received her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She married Leslie Palmer in 1965.

She taught in the English Department at Texas Woman's University for 47 years, specializing in eighteenth-century British literature. She was a contributor to several books on the English language, sponsored the Omega Rho Alpha honor society, and collaborated with her husband, who was an English professor at the University of North Texas, on published scholarly papers. She was a member of many professional societies, including the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Dr. Palmer attended the Samuel Johnson Commemorative Conference at Oxford and the commemorative celebrations at Lichfield, England, honoring Samuel Johnson in his birthplace. She was full of music, singing in the Denton Community Chorus and in the car on numerous road trips with her family. She also enjoyed attending Brave Combo concerts.

A lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Dr. Palmer loved and remains much beloved by a multitude of friends, former students and family.

Dr. Palmer is survived by her son, David Palmer of Seattle; her daughter, Rachel Shelton and husband Larry of Dripping Springs, Texas; twin sister, Joan Stone of Nashville; nephew Danny Stone of Houston and his wife, Candy; and great-nieces Sydney and Emma.

Visitation is Tuesday, November 10th, 5 to 7PM at Denton Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be held Wednesday, 10AM at Denton Church of Christ, 1510 Audra Lane, Denton. Officiating will be Brother Terry Collins. Burial to follow at Roselawn Memorial Park.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Park

3801 Roselawn Drive
Denton, TX 76207

Tribute Wall

LW

“ *Dr. Palmer was one of my favorite graduate professors who inspired a love for her specialty and also gave loving support to each of her students. She made a difference in my life. Lin Weinberg, 1993*

Lin Weinberg - December 09, 2015 at 09:16 PM

AS

“ *I randomly look at the obituaries and found Dr. Palmer's today. I only knew her for one semester at TWU. She introduced me to some powerful short stories and I had never had an English professor or teacher make me want to seek out classic literature like she did. I'm a teacher now, and want her family to know that her legacy lives in all of those who she inspired, if even for a semester.*

A. Sembroski - November 23, 2015 at 05:50 PM

AP

“ *With deepest sympathy for your loss.*



Adele Petty - November 11, 2015 at 04:22 PM



“ We all remember carpooling with Joyce and Rachel when Sheila was in elementary school, and Joyce always made it an engaging and fun experience. Joyce was always so energetic and so humorous and we will miss her. We send our sincere heartfelt sympathies to Rachel and the rest of the family.

Elizabeth, Pete and Sheila Gunter

Sheila Gunter - November 11, 2015 at 03:05 PM

MD

“ We remember sharing all of those wonderful times with Joyce, Leslie, David and Rachel at the UNT basketball games. We cheered for UNT then NTSU while Joyce graded papers. We have wonderful memories and will miss her as we miss Leslie. Our deepest sympathies.

Manus and Ruthann Donahue

Manus Donahue - November 11, 2015 at 12:25 PM

LR

“ We remember Joyce's Christian life & service and we are sorry to learn of her passing. With our sympathy,
George & Lenora Reaves

Lenora Reaves - November 11, 2015 at 11:35 AM

SC

“ Joyce was such a delight every time I got to share with her in the Denton Community Chorus. She will be missed.....

Sally Casassa - November 11, 2015 at 10:06 AM

TB

“ I had the good fortune to have taken two of Dr. Palmer's English courses at TWU. I will forever be grateful for her soft-spoken wisdom.

~Traci Burt

Traci Burt - November 11, 2015 at 08:02 AM



“ My condolences to the family and friends. I started college at TWU at the age of 17. Dr. Palmer was one of my first professors. I remember her kindness and smile. She will be greatly missed.



Tammy Oveross - November 10, 2015 at 10:24 PM

MS

“ We are sorry for your loss.

Millard and Nancy Smith
Sanger, TX

Millard and Nancy Smith - November 10, 2015 at 09:50 PM

DK

“ I hadn't talked with Mrs. Palmer for several years, but I have always treasured the time I spent at the Palmer house when I was younger. She was kind and generous to me. David and Rachel, I am so sorry for your loss. May your mother rest in peace.

David Kamman

David Kamman - November 10, 2015 at 07:05 PM

JJ

“ *Dr. Palmer was a wonderful professor with an unequivocal passion for literature. She touched so many with her witty and insightful lectures. She gave me a passion for reading that I will keep with me always.*



Jaime Jaco-Cooper - November 10, 2015 at 05:08 PM

JA

“ *Please accept my deepest condolences to the Palmer family on the passing of your mother, Joyce. I knew her best as Dr. Palmer. She was my British Literature professor at Texas Woman's University around 1986. Dr. Palmer was a wonderful professor who definitely found her calling in life! She loved teaching and it showed. She led interesting discussions, was encouraging, and inspired critical thinking. When I reread novels such as Moll Flanders, The Vicar of Wakefield, and Great Expectations, I will be reminded of her kind face. Dr. Palmer will always be in our hearts and minds and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers as you grieve her passing.*

Sincerely,

Janet Yeatts Ackerman

Janet Ackerman - November 10, 2015 at 02:14 PM

CW

“ Dr. Palmer was such a great professor, who made eighteenth century literature exciting. 'She Stoops to Conquer' is still one of my favorite plays and I was lucky enough to both be taught it and see the play with her later. She also let me take seven words from William Congreve's 'The Way of the World' and turn it into an inspection on how Welsh women were perceived in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. More amused than anything, she encouraged my fascination with all things Welsh. You will be mourned, Dr. Palmer, by all those lives whom you touched. I am blessed for having known you and have been taught by you. Rest in Peace.

Christina Wagoner - November 10, 2015 at 02:00 PM

DS

“ Dr. Palmer was a mentor, a friend, and a fierce advocate for her students, her colleagues, and her TWU. She was kinder than she had to be and more generous than any of us deserved. She is one of the reasons I chose TWU; she helped me (re)embrace my love of travel, Samuel Johnson, obscure 18th century poetry, and -- most importantly -- learning for learning's sake. Today, I am a tenured professor myself, and not a semester goes by that I don't mention something to my students that I learned from Dr. Palmer. She was a peaceful soul, and she will be missed. -- Donna Souder-Hodge

Donna Souder - November 10, 2015 at 12:27 PM

OH

David and Rachel, my sympathy to you. I know your hearts are breaking with the loss of your precious Mom.. Hold tightly to your precious memories of her, as I will do.

Oma Hood/Hardy - November 10, 2015 at 01:03 PM

LC

Rachel and David, I am so sorry for your loss. I have such nice memories of your mom coming into the public library (where I work). She shared quite a few tales and had such a twinkle in her eye when she told them. I loved her smile and her generosity.

Leslie Trice Couture - November 11, 2015 at 09:40 AM

DK

*I remember Joyce fondly, as we both received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the U of Tennessee in the 1960s.
Donald Kay, Columbia, South Carolina*

Donald Kay - December 18, 2015 at 04:07 AM