



J. Kalmar

March 27, 2010

Dr. J. Elaine Kalmar (1933-2010)

CEDAR FALLS- Dr. J. Elaine Kalmar, 76 of Cedar Falls, died Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo.

She was a faculty member in the Department of English at the University of Northern Iowa for 28 years, retiring in December 1999.

She completed B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at the University of New Mexico. Her post-doctoral studies included participating in at least five Folger Library Seminars and at least three Summer Seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Kalmar was a remarkably versatile teacher focusing on classical literature, early English literature, and women writers. She was a member of numerous scholarly organizations including the Modern Language Association. She was strongly committed to faculty governance, and contributed extensively by serving on a multitude of departmental, college, and university committees.

Dr. Kalmar had a strong interest in the performing arts, and for several years, she wrote reviews for the Waterloo Courier of university and community performances of drama, music, and dance. Also, over many years, she

organized theater trips for UNI students to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Altogether, Dr. Kalmar was devoted to the arts, to books (she was an avid collector), to early English literature, and to scholarly discussion within literary studies. She was undaunted in her efforts to engage student learning, in her pursuit of fairness and equity among faculty and for students, and in her advocacy for genuine faculty participation in university governance. Hers was a spirited, intellectually lively, and good-hearted presence that nurtured learning among both her students and her colleagues.

Survivors include four children, Christopher Kalmar of Hiawatha, IA, Peter Kalmar of Roseville, CA, Amy Kalmar of Gold River, CA, and Joel Kalmar of Cedar Falls, IA.

Family directed memorial services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 17, 2010 in Baker Hall Rm 161 on the UNI Campus. Please enter Baker Hall through the entrance directly south of the Campanile. For further information, please call Ken Baughman at 266-1209. Richardson Funeral Home assisted the family.