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Margaret Horvath Retirement
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Margaret C. Horvath, professor of Human Ecology, will be retiring this year after 25 years of inspirational service to YSU and the Youngstown community.

Professor Horvath's contributions and excellence in teaching have earned her the YSU Distinguished Professor Award in 1993.

She initially joined the Department of Home Economics (recently renamed Human Ecology) as a limited service faculty member in 1967. She completed an M.A. degree in Food and Nutrition from Kent State University and rejoined the faculty in a full-time position in 1973. Shortly after, she developed the associate degree Dietetic Technology Program and was the coordinator of that program from 1976 to 1985.

Horvath has taught every course in the Dietetic Technology Program as well as some of the upper level Food and Nutrition courses.

She has also contributed to the development of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics and the four year Food and Nutrition program.

One of her most recent accomplishments includes the development of the Hospitality Management Program, which she feels was her most significant success. "I feel honored to have gotten the ball rolling on this program", said Horvath.

Professor Horvath relates that the most satisfying part of being a faculty member at YSU is broadening the experiences of

the students beyond a local point of view. "I felt I owed it to the University and the students to try to broaden my scope in different parts of the country to bring different points of view back to the classroom at YSU", said Horvath.

That's what drove her to maintain a variety of national and state level affiliations, which include numerous offices held with the American Dietetic Association, the Ohio Dietetic Association, and the Mahoning Valley Dietetic Association.

Her continuous involvement with these professional organizations included President of the Ohio Dietetic Association; Legislative Committee member at the local and state level; and Long-Range Planning Committee chairman at the state level. Nationally, she was an Ohio Delegate to the American Dietetic Association, a member of the Awards and Scholarship Committee and a member of the Council on Education.

Professor Horvath has received the President's Award from the Ohio Dietetic Association, and the Outstanding Professional Service Award from the Mahoning Valley Dietetic Association.

She has also maintained years of involvement with the American Heart Association and had received their Distinguished Service Award in 1993.

"There is always a tie in with teaching and service", said Horvath. She has always been able to place her students in various community programs so that they can gain professional experience away from the classroom.

Horvath says the most enjoyable moments in her

faculty experience have been centered around interacting with the students and seeing them develop. "I really enjoy it when they come back and you see their success and know you had at least a little to do about it", said Horvath.

In addition to her tireless efforts with her students and professional organizations, she was also appointed to the Ohio Board of Dietetics and was elected Chairman while serving between 1987 and 1992.

Her accomplishments in teaching at YSU include developing team taught courses within the Human Ecology and Health and Physical Education departments; revising the Food Science course on the basis of training received at the Culinary Institute of America; and coordinating student field experiences in the Youngstown City schools related to nutrition education and the Hearty School Lunch program.

Reflecting back on her initial years at YSU, professor Horvath fondly remembers her first office in Clingan Waddell Hall, where the Department of Home Economics was located. "I had a lot of fun there and became very close to the Art Department faculty who were right across the hall. The faculty were always a team, and we supported one another, even though we were small in numbers", said Horvath.

She said this still holds true today. "In Human Ecology, we're very people oriented", said Horvath, while she elaborates on the unselfish contributions made by her co-workers.

Human Ecology Department Chair, Dr. Janice Elias said,

"Margaret brings so much positive energy to a situation. She sees every problem we've faced as an opportunity".

Other faculty comments describe Margaret as a gifted teacher with a dramatic touch and the ability to simplify complex concepts. Her professional integrity, sincerity, and friendly smile have won the admiration of many students as well.

She is seen as a "role model" and "motivator" by many students and alumni. Her involvement in the community as well as professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels have been a great inspiration to many.

Horvath points out that her family involvement at YSU includes more than her faculty appointment. Her husband, Arthur Horvath, composed the official Youngstown College fight song, "The Pete Penguin March", while he was a student at the Dana School of Music in 1949. She adds that it was both meeting her husband and wanting to be near her family that brought her back to the Youngstown area, and eventually to YSU.

Now she is looking forward to retiring near family in Richmond, Virginia. "My husband and I have planned this since we were first married. I'm looking forward to being near my daughters and grandchildren there", said Horvath. She's also planning on staying involved with the American Heart Association and other activities in the Richmond area, along with "enjoying the short winter season there".