

Dorothy Eldredge Jegla

February 11, 2011

Dorothy Eldredge Jegla died as a result of a blood cell cancer. Dottie was on the faculty of Kenyon College in Ohio for 26 years, teaching and researching plant biology and developmental biology, becoming a leading expert in the sunflower and displaying a devotion to conserving the world. After earning her masters and doctorate degrees at Yale, she was promoted to associate professor of biology, was granted tenure, and appointed full professor and served as department chair before retiring in 1997 when she was awarded an honorary doctorate of science. Dottie won the Trustee Award for Distinguished Teaching (at Kenyon) in its inaugural year.

A Memorial Service was held at the college on Alumni weekend: "Dorothy Jegla was the first woman to be elevated to full professor in the natural sciences, and the first woman to be honored with emerita status upon her retirement." Her husband, Tom, Professor Emeritus of Biology, speaks of her "gentle soul, her inner strength and childlike wonder at the natural world." Dottie leaves 2 sons as well.