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Sue Garr: Cancer didn't kill prof's will to teach

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BY JOE ROSSITER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Through her long bout with breast cancer, Sue Garr kept her objective clear: She would not let the disease disrupt her life and she would remain active until the end.

True to her word, the mother of two continued doing what she enjoyed most: teaching, traveling and cherishing her loved ones.

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A professor of accounting in Wayne State University's School of Business for nearly 25 years, Mrs. Garr died Friday at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe. She was 61 and lived in Grosse Pointe.

"She was incredibly positive about the experience," said her husband, John Garr. "She knew what was coming but chose to dwell instead on the things she wanted to accomplish. She never slowed down for a minute."

A certified public accountant, Mrs. Garr joined the faculty of Wayne State in 1982 after her children had grown. She lectured on the use of technology for teaching accounting concepts.

"She was the ultimate teacher who worked countless hours behind the scenes preparing for classes," said her husband.

"Although she was tough, her kids learned and she was quite popular with the students."

Born Sue Deliso, she grew up on Detroit's east side and graduated from Dominican High School in 1963. She attended the University of Detroit, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing in 1967 and a master's in business administration in 1980.

She married John Garr in 1969. They had attended the same grade school and gone to college together.

A lover of art and its history, Mrs. Garr served as a volunteer docent at the Art Institute of Chicago for the past four years, giving monthly tours to school groups. The volunteering also provided her with a convenient opportunity to visit her children, John Garr and Suellen Garr, and granddaughter, who live in Chicago.

Mrs. Garr also is survived by a sister.

Visitation is from 2-9 p.m. today at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Friday at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The body was cremated.

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WSU's Sue Garr

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