



Marsha Beth Kruger

April 21, 1952 - September 17, 2025

Marsha Beth Kruger, age 73, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2025 at Josie Harper Hospice, Omaha Nebraska. She was born in Wahoo Nebraska on April 21, 1952, the daughter of James and Ruby Fencl.

She is survived by her long time significant other, George Lesser, her brother, Douglas Fencl, her former husband John Kruger, and their son, Michael Kruger.

Marsha was a 1970 graduate of Elkhorn High School, and received her undergraduate degree in California, and a Master's Degree in English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Marsha was always an avid reader and bibliophile, and her dream was to teach what she loved at the college level. Her dream came true, and she taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha for the next 40 years in the Department of English, primarily in UNO's first year writing sequence, but also taught literature and business writing. She taught thousands of students the importance of the written word, a priceless and enduring tool that would enhance their careers and the quality of their lives. Marsha assisted in the development of UNO's Writing Center, and served as Associate Director of the Center for four years. She was involved in curriculum development for the department, and mentored countless graduate teaching assistants and new instructors. She served in Women's and Gender Studies program, and was on the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of

Women. She earned the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Lecturer award, and also received a teaching award from Project Achieve. After her retirement, her love of books continued, as she was involved in numerous book clubs with her many friends and acquaintances. She will be remembered by those she inspired to realize their full potential and live their lives with honesty and integrity.

Private Family Service to be held at a later date.

Memorials suggested to Muddy Paws Second Chance Rescue/Omaha

Tribute Wall

CJ

“*Marsha did so, so much to strengthen the writing program at UNO. But what I will remember most about her was her no-nonsense, wise, common-sense approach to life -- which she shared not only in public venues like committee meetings, but also privately, in hallway chats. Also, she was oh so dedicated to her students -- and the good ones who wanted to learn appreciated all she did for them. Marsha made this world a better place during her time here, and it was an honor for me to know her.*”

Chuck Johanningsmeier - October 12, 2025 at 12:07 PM

TG

“*I met Marsha when I joined the UNO English Department as a new Assistant Professor. She was so cheerful and positive. I enjoyed my interactions with her whenever I bumped into her in the hallway. In her long service to the department, she has touched countless lives and mentored innumerable students, and that should be celebrated.*”

Tanushree Ghosh - October 11, 2025 at 11:29 AM

IP

“*I directed the writing program in the 90s. Marsha was simply wonderful to work with. She was a great teacher.*”

Irvin Peckham - October 11, 2025 at 08:23 AM

KG

“ *Martha brightened my day every time I happened to run into her in the hallway in the UNO Arts and Sciences Building (which I'm happy to say was quite often as her office was near the printer!). She brought grace and kindness to every meeting of which she was a part. I loved her feisty and generous spirit. She will live on in the valuable legacy she has left in the UNO English Department. Both faculty and students will continue to benefit from her important contributions for years to come. Sending love to all of her family and friends. Love, Kristin Girten*

Kristin Girten - October 10, 2025 at 04:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marsha Beth Kruger.*



September 24, 2025 at 11:51 AM