John M. Mohan

John M. Mohan, 66, professor of Russian at Grinnell College, died suddenly at his home in Grinnell on Saturday, April 5.

A funeral mass for John Mohan will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell. A memorial service will be held also, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, in Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus.

Visitiation will be held from noon until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, at Smith Funeral Home. The family will be present from 6:30 to 8 p.m. that evening. A scripture service will follow at 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Clifford Reid, Paul Sebastian and Anatoly Vishnevskiy. A memorial service also was held Thursday, April 10, in Herrick Chapel at Grinnell College. Memorials may be made to St. Mary's.

The son of James and Clare O'Donnell Mohan, he was born Sept. 21, 1936, in Ashland, Pa. He received the bachelor of science degree from Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md.; the master of arts degree from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., and the doctor of philosophy degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. He also pursued graduate studies at Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia. He served in the United States Army from 1959 to 1962 during which he studied Russian language at the United States Defense Language Institute, Monterey, Calif., then served as a communications analyst in Turkey.

He was married on Oct. 22, 1966, in Greenbelt, Md., to Joan Elizabeth Haslinger. He was a teacher of English, Russian and social studies in Baltimore County Schools, Baltimore, Md., and a teaching assistant in Russian language and literature at Cornell University prior to joining the faculty of Grinnell College in 1973. A full professor since 1991, he helped establish the Russian department in the early 1970s and for the last 29 years had taught all levels of Russian language and literature. He served as Russian Department chair for many years and most recently was chair of the Humanities Division and a member of the college's Executive Council. He also chaired the Faculty Organization Committee, the President's Medalist Committee, the Grinnell Alumni College, the Committee on Russian and Eastern European Studies and the Committee on Academic Standing's subcommittee on academic dishonesty.

He was a 1971 Fulbright Scholar and received the Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Educator and Citizen Award in 1996. He aided with the establishment of the Iowa Peace Institute and for many years assisted with translation and consultation for a variety of journalists, politicians, teachers, business persons and individuals. He wrote on a number of topics in the field of 19th and 20th century Russian literature and had published numerous articles in a variety of scholarly journals.

He was an adviser to ARS student host families and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife Joan of Grinnell; two sons John Paul Mohan of Iowa City and Joseph Thomas Mohan of Galesburg, Ill.; one sister Molly Sebastian of Emmasau, Pa., and one brother, James Mohan of Camarillo, Calif. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Eileen Mohan.