

Janet “Jan” Marks

September 18, 1948 – May 17, 2026

Jan Hakenholz Marks was born on September 18, 1948, in Mason City, IA, to Robert and Dorothy Hakenholz, and passed away on May 17, 2026. Following high school graduation in 1967, she attended Emporia State University where she earned a BS degree in theatre and a minor in English. She met her future husband, Steve Marks, at Emporia State, and they were married in June 1970. In July 1975, she earned her Master of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Oklahoma State University. For 38 years, Jan was a tenured faculty member in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. During her time at OSU, she served as an instructor, clinical supervisor, advisor, mentor, and leader who impacted generations of speech-language pathologists. She had a passion for teaching and coordinated innovative programs, presented nationally, and served in leadership roles at both the state and national levels within the speech-language-hearing profession. She was honored as the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Professor in 2002. In addition, she served as a Lamaze instructor, taught aerobics at the Colvin Center and BodyWorks; and for many years served as a speech-language pathologist with the Stillwater Medical Center Home Health. Jan is survived by her husband, Steve Marks; her daughter, Stephanie Marks; and her son, Christopher Marks and wife Melissa, and her sister, Carol Straka and husband Bill Straka. In addition, she is survived by other family members, including sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, as well as great-nieces and great nephews.