



Dr. Gayle Williams Duskin

August 6, 2025

Dr. Gayle Williams Duskin was born on February 20, 1937 in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Sister Leola Eillis Williams and the late Hathaway “Curley” Williams. The only daughter in her family, she attended Bush Kindergarten, James Weldon Johnson Elementary, and Gaudet Episcopal High School before earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Secondary Education (English) from Dillard University, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Tulane University, and a Doctorate in Composition and Rhetoric from Louisiana State University.

A faithful member of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, Dr. Gayle accepted Jesus Christ at an early age, and her faith guided her throughout her life. She was united in marriage to Richard Duskin for over 55 years, and together they raised three children.

Dr. Gayle’s lifelong passion for education touched countless lives. She taught at several New Orleans schools, served with the Teacher Center Staff Development, and later retired as professor and co-chair of the English Department at both Dillard University and Southern University at New Orleans. She was a proud member of Eastern Star, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the Red Hat Society, and Gay Silhouettes.

Known for her generous spirit, love of people, and self-described “wordsmith”

nature, Dr. Gayle was an avid reader, a nurturing presence, and a source of wisdom and kindness to many.

She was called home on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at her residence, surrounded by loved ones. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Richard Duskin, her daughter Lisa Duskin-Rohilliard, her son Richard Gregory Duskin, and her brother Leon Williams. She leaves to cherish her memory her son Mark Duskin; son-in-law Darrell Rohilliard, Sr.; grandchildren Dominique Stewart, Darrell, Jr., Joshua, and Jordan Rohilliard, Mariah and Summer Duskin; great-granddaughters Kyndall and Kylani Tillman; and a host of relatives and friends.

Dr. Gayle lived an extraordinary life of love, learning, and service. Her legacy will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend a Funeral Service at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, 8282 I-10 Service Road, New Orleans, LA 70126 on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 10:00am. Visitation will begin at 9:00am until 10:00am. Internment: Mount Olivet Cemetery, 400 Noman Mayer Ave, New Orleans, LA 70122. Arrangements entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home, 3933 Washington Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125. Please visit www.rhodesfuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, share memories and condolences with the family.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olivet Cemetery

4000 Norman Mayer Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70122

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 22. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
8282 I-10 Service Rd
New Orleans, LA 70126
(504) 488-8488

Funeral Service

AUG 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
8282 I-10 Service Rd
New Orleans, LA 70126
(504) 488-8488

Tribute Wall

TG

“ I met Dr. Duskin in the hallway of the English department when I came for a campus visit. She spoke of English studies with a sparkle in her eye. I chose DU because of her. She later invited me to become an English major. From Comp studies to literary studies, she inspired. I remember her often when I teach my college students. She was my role model. Thank you for caring about us, Dr. Duskin. Your light still shines.

Tara T. Green - September 06, 2025 at 03:20 PM

LA

“ I remember Ms. Duskin as my English teacher at Andrew J. Bell Jr. High. in the 1960s, where she was a young, feisty teacher. Later, we became colleagues as I also became an English professor, like Dr. Duskin. She would often attend professional conferences to which she, as caregiver, would bring her elderly mother. She remained active in the profession in spite of her many family and work obligations. May her soul now rest comfortably in the bosom of Jesus. Dr. Lena Ampadu, Baltimore, MD

Lena Ampadu - August 22, 2025 at 07:15 AM

LA

“ Lena Ampadu lit a candle in memory of Gayle Duskin



Lena Ampadu - August 22, 2025 at 07:05 AM

DB

“ Dr. Gayle Duskin was a beloved and memorable Dillard University professor who cherished every opportunity afforded to her to educate and uplift young, curious minds.

Dr. Derek D. Bardell - August 20, 2025 at 03:56 PM

KP

“ Thank you for your encouragement and great love of literature. Your students appreciate you



Katara Washington Patton - August 20, 2025 at 01:57 PM

MB

“ I can remember my freshman year at Dillard University and I met Dr. Duskin. She was my English 102 Professor. I will never forget when she said “wording is everything “ and how much she catered to teaching us the correct way to write professionally. Your words, Dr. Duskin will forever be engraved in my memory and heart. Bless you and your family during this tough time. May you now rest peacefully and full of GODS mercy.

Ms. Blanchard - August 20, 2025 at 01:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Gayle Williams Duskin.



August 19, 2025 at 03:45 PM

FV

“ Let your light so shine before men, that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5: 16

Dear Family and Friends of Dr. Duskin, as you mourn for your Beloved, may you also find comfort in remembering the countless number of lives she has impacted in their quest for knowledge. In her own, unique way, she has been an encourager to any who crossed her path. Her light still shines through you and The Holy Spirit's Guiding Light will see you through this tender time. You are not alone as you walk towards healing.

*Your brothers and sisters in Christ,
Franklin Avenue Baptist Church
Restoration And Care Grief Ministry*

Frances Ventress - August 18, 2025 at 10:46 PM