

Writer-educator Mark Gibbons, 38, dies of auto accident injuries

MARION — Dr. Mark Leigh Gibbons, 38, of 46 Spring St., died early today as a result of injuries he received in an auto accident. He was the son of Virginia Gibbons Roy of Marion and the late Dr. Leo N. Gibbons of Middleboro.

He was born in Middleboro and educated in Middleboro public schools. He received a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in 1964, where he graduated magna cum laude. He received a master's degree in literature from Rutgers University in 1966 and his doctorate in English literature from the same school in 1972.

While at Amherst he won the Ingram-Merrill Award for poetry and the Grunig Award for best honors thesis. He was a teaching fellow at Rutgers University and an assistant professor of English at

Boston College from 1970-77. He was also an instructor of English at Tabor Academy in Marion from 1964-77 and an editorial assistant for Reader's Digest from 1969-70.

He was a writer in residence for the Eagle Hill Foundation of Greenwich, Conn., and was a writer and consultant for Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J. He had just completed a manuscript for a textbook dealing with diagnosing learning disabilities in children.

Survivors include his mother, his stepfather, Howard A. Roy of Marion; and his sister, Gail Hart of Worcester.

A memorial service is planned at 2 p.m. Sunday at St. Rita's Church in Marion. A funeral Mass will follow at a date to be announced. Arrangements are being made by the Cornwell Memorial Chapel, Center Street, Wareham.