



Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison

July 11, 1946 - June 1, 2020

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison, 73, passed away, Monday, June 1, 2020, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Oxford, MS. A visitation will be held Friday, June 5, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home. A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Pavilion at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Oxford. Interment will be held in the Oxford City Cemetery immediately following the service. Due to current Pandemic and limits on attendance and in an effort to give everyone an opportunity to express their condolences, the family would appreciate written messages to Dr. Murchison or written memories to be placed on the casket or in receptacles placed near the casket. After all, Doc Murch probably taught you how to write! Dr. Carroll Stone and JD Shaw will officiate the service. Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is in charge of arrangements.

Dr. Murchison was born July 11, 1946, in Sikeston, Missouri to Dan Murchison and Margaret Giles Murchison. She graduated from Union University in 1968 with a degree in English and history. She then attended the University of Mississippi, receiving her M.A. in 1970 and PhD in 1978. Falling in love with Oxford, she took a job at Oxford High School in 1975 as the junior/senior advanced placement English teacher and chair of the English department. She held that position for 25 years and was named STAR teacher nine times.

In 1980 the University of Mississippi hired her to establish a program for gifted high school students, and in 2000 she moved to the university full-time, serving as associate director of summer school, director of pre-college programs, and director of credit programs.

During that time, she added new programs that contributed significantly to the university's recruitment of the best and brightest students in the state and region. Those programs included Project PACE, summer college for high school students, Lott Leadership Institute, Summer Academy, the Independent Study High School, and numerous academic competitions. In 2013, she was promoted to assistant provost for regional education, managing the four regional campuses of the University of Mississippi. She also developed the university's Japanese Saturday School in 2008. Upon her retirement in June 2015, a scholarship was established in her name.

Teaching was not her career; it was her calling and her mission field. Dr. Murchison has established scholarships in the name of her siblings and made significant donations to higher education in their honor. While education was very important to her, she also cared deeply for each person she taught.

As their aunt and great aunt, her family loved her dearly. Her love for them extended two generations down as she attended all types of events for her great nieces and nephews. They were the beneficiary of lots of free tutoring, sometimes so subtly that they didn't even recognize it as lessons. She played cards with the great nephews, enjoyed writing with the great nieces, and traveled to Alaska and Europe with her brother in law and sister in law after her siblings passed away. The great nieces and nephews enjoyed spending a week at a time with her, with each noting that there was no such thing as a "quick trip" with Aunt Lynne because of the innumerable friends and former students with whom Aunt Lynne always had time to show off her family and

catch up with the student. Holidays with family were a real highlight for her. Each Christmas she spent two weeks traveling from place to place to be sure she could celebrate the holidays with the entire family. As much as her family loved her, they enjoyed “getting under her skin” by using poor grammar in front of her and creating impossible sentences for her to diagram, which usually was followed by Lynne smiling and shaking her head, followed by a brief teaching moment.

Her family describes her as a confidante, a great listener, loving, supportive, and brilliant. She loved the Lord and was a true prayer warrior. Her students were her joy. She loved Shakespeare and had memorized lots of literature.

Dr. Murchison’s love for children went far beyond her family and her students. She crocheted baby blankets for lots of friends, and her greatest passion might well have been for Operation Christmas Child. She also loved her Covenant Church family.

Dr. Murchison is survived by a host of nieces and nephews who adored her: Daniel Thomas Murchison, Jr., Timothy Glenn Murchison, William Tyler Murchison, Amie Kirby Ramsey, James Matthew Kirby, Daniel Andrew Kirby, as well as her sister-in-law, Vicki Dillow Murchison, and brother-in-law, James Lynn Kirby. She is also survived by 8 great nieces and 8 great nephews.

Dr. Murchison was preceded in death by both her parents, Dan and Margaret Murchison; her brother, Daniel Thomas Murchison, Sr.; and her sister, Judith Murchison Kirby.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Donations and memorials may be made to Operation Christmas Child (samaritanspurse.org), to the Dr. M. Lynne Murchison Scholarship Fund (P.O. Box 249, University, MS 38677), or to the Tom Murchison Endowed Scholarship Fund (<https://give.evertrue.com/unionuniversity/tom-murchison-scholarship>).

Cemetery Details

Oxford Memorial Cemetery

Oxford, MS

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford
601 Commerce Parkway
Oxford, MS 38655
(662) 234-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

JUN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Garden of Memories Cemetery
295 Mississippi Highway 7 North
Oxford, MS 38655

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison



Coleman Funeral Home - June 05, 2020 at 03:06 PM

MD

Lynne, I would love to talk with you again. Your contributions to this world were many. You are missed.

M. Dowd - October 14, 2021 at 10:13 PM

MD

“ What a loss of a fine Christian woman. I am devastated. Lynn was an Exceptional person. There will never be another like her. I'm only now learning of her passing. I have tried unceasingly to reach her , but to no avail. I now know why. We last communicated in March and she was not feeling well and the covid19 lock up was beginning. I thought perhaps she was with family.....but no, She's gone home. I'll miss her so. To her family that she loved so much, my sympathy. She is with Tom, Judy her Parents and Jesus Christ for sure.



Marilyn Dowd - July 14, 2020 at 12:15 AM

MB

“ I worked with Lynne at OHS. Very professional, knowledgeable, talented. She loved her family, she worked hard at her job, she was a good friend. She had a wicked sense of humor- I know it was her idea to short sheet my bed on our AP Conference trip!

Mary Benson
Gulf Breeze, FL

Mary Benson - July 02, 2020 at 10:04 AM

MM

“ Lynne was a good friend and confidante. She was my 2nd cousin on my Dad's side. I got to know her as her student in high school. (Initially, I was scared of her!). Lynne was an excellent teacher. (My writing skills I attribute to the instruction at Oxford High--her and Judy Jones!) After college and during graduate school, I would try and visit Lynne whenever I went back to Oxford. Lynne always gave me excellent advice and was a great encouragement to me and all of my endeavors. To me, Lynne was always wise and kind. Lynne was a godly woman and will be missed here, but cherished in Heaven.

--Michael Mann

Michael Mann - June 12, 2020 at 03:21 PM

MA

“ I will always remember how kind Lynne was to me when I was a freshman at Union Universityscared and nervous.....Lynne always had a kind word, a hug, and good advice for me. I have always been so grateful for her kindness. She was a lovely Chi Omega sister.

Martha Shires Alewine - June 10, 2020 at 11:34 AM

CY

“*Lynne was the kind of teacher who could draw you in with her smarts, her mystique, her otherness, her sense of being proper. She was not your typical Southern high school teacher.*

I graduated in 1979 and am sorry to say that I only saw her once in person between now and then. We did exchange a few e-mails, and I felt a reticence to stay in touch with her that I don't understand.

I feel supremely lucky to have visited with her recently one last time. My husband and I had a lovely tea at her house in April 2017.

Christine Yun



Christine Yun - June 08, 2020 at 01:55 PM

BM

“*Dr. Murchison was simply a towering figure to generations of Oxford High students. I doubt many of us realized it at the time, but the Oxford schools gave us a top-notch education and Dr. Murchison was the first among equals in an extraordinary teaching force. She spent decades generously pouring herself out to make us better than we were; I learned things in her class that I use to this day. When I heard of her death, I got down my old Norton anthology and read some of the poems that she managed to make us care about. Dr. Murchison enriched so many lives; please know how deeply she was respected, loved, and appreciated by her students.*

--Bethany Moreton

Bethany Moreton - June 07, 2020 at 09:44 PM

LR

“ *Linda Davis Roby lit a candle in memory of Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison*



Linda Davis Roby - June 07, 2020 at 01:40 AM

LR

“ *Lynne and I worked together at Oxford High School. She was head of the English Department there and taught AP English classes. She was a wonderful friend. I will always remember her for her kindnesses, her intellect, and the way she connected with her students. Her students loved her dearly. One of my special memories is reading her dissertation for her. We used to play tennis together, too. Lynne, above all else, was a fine Christian lady, and she served to be a shining light to me. I think she is too young to have passed, but she will live on through the life that she lived and the people she touched. Lynne, go with God and be blessed in your heavenly home. We will all miss you. Good-bye for now but not forever. My prayers go to Lynne's family, friends, and students who feel sorrow at the extinguishing of such a bright and wonderful person.*

Linda Davis Roby

Linda Davis Roby - June 07, 2020 at 01:38 AM

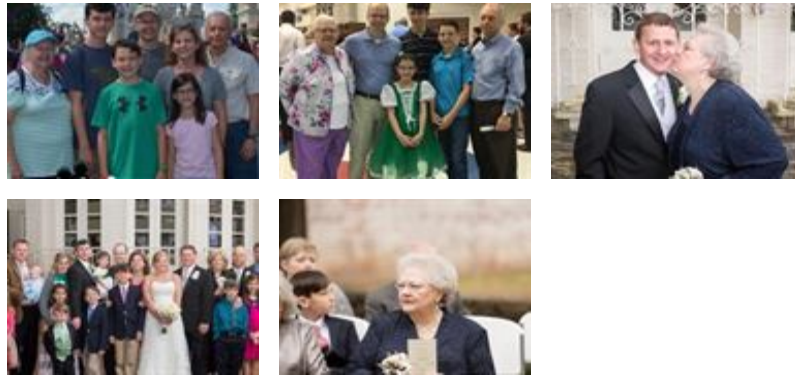
AC

“ *Lynne was a wonderful teacher, colleague and friend. She taught both of my children at Oxford High and knew their strengths better than any teacher they ever had. I loved working with her at the University and seeing what a good administrator she was. Wonderful lady! Our prayers and condolences to Dr. Murch's family.*

Ann and Bill Canty - June 05, 2020 at 03:13 PM



“ 118 files added to the album *Life Tributes*

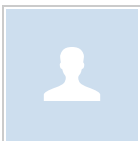


Coleman Funeral Home - June 05, 2020 at 02:03 PM



“ *Lynne was my husband Jimmy's second cousin. He so admired her keen intellect, her work ethic, and her faith. He was so proud of her and loved telling folks that Lynne was family! My children, Mary and Michael, had her as a teacher...they found her to be such a good teacher, strict but very fair. When Mary and Michael entered college, they both felt so prepared when they took the required English classes ... they gave Lynne all the credit! After my husband retired, we loved, from time to time, to meet Lynn for lunch. Since my husband's passing, I visited with her at her home. I will miss her greatly!*

Kitty Mann - June 05, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison.*



June 05, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ *Fields of Europe for Spring was purchased for the family of Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison.*



June 04, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ *Lynne,
A most gracious lady. I had known Lynne since 1963. I reconnected with her some years ago having lost contact ,after college days at Union University. She was a true friend and was there for me during some of the hardest times of my life. I am truly sadden by her death and will miss her greatly. However I know that she is in a much better place as she is un haven with her Godly family..
She and Tom are already probably in a serious debate at this moment..*

Ned Boston

Ned P. Boston - June 04, 2020 at 06:17 PM



“ *Karen Powell purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Dr. Margaret Lynne Murchison.*

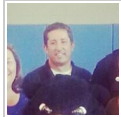


Karen Powell - June 04, 2020 at 11:17 AM

NI

“ *Dr. Murchison was one of the best teachers I had in high school. She pushed me to learn, read, and become a better writer. She was strict, but kind and fair. She inspired me to become a teacher. I was so happy to reconnect with her on Facebook in the last few years.*

Nikki - June 04, 2020 at 10:00 AM



God just got a damn good English Teacher, and I know for a fact she went to heaven because she taught all of us 80's kids. God Bless and Prayers.

Ben Couey - June 05, 2020 at 02:16 PM

RG

“ *I had the privilege to work for, with, and follow Lynne in her role at the University. She was a great lady and will be missed by us all. She listened deeply, cared for others she knew and did not know, and was a person that lived out her faith on a daily basis. When bringing a student concern to her, she would often say, "We just need to figure out a way to help this student." Her legacy will live on through the students and lives she influenced and touched. This world is a better place because of Lynne.*

Rick Gregory - June 04, 2020 at 09:02 AM

MD

“ *Dr. Murchison was the best high school English teacher in the world. I appreciated and admired her dearly.*
Martha Dollarhide

Martha Dollarhide - June 03, 2020 at 07:51 PM

JG

“ I had the privilege of working with Lynne for more than 15 years. She was, above all else, a Christian lady, and conducted herself as such at all times. Since her retirement, I have missed her quick wit, sharp intelligence, mentorship, and friendship. We shared a love of cozy mysteries--although we were both AP English teachers--and enjoyed swapping paperbacks back and forth (and points of grammar). She made me laugh, she taught me so much, and she will be missed so very deeply by both the Oxford and University communities. Gone to glory, my friend. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Janey Ginn - June 03, 2020 at 04:03 PM

BD

“ Dr. Murchison was my Brain Brawl coach and AP English teacher at Oxford High School. She was a great educator, tough but understanding. She challenged her students to think critically and engage mindfully. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was beloved by so many, even those not in her classes. She will be missed, but generations of her students will carry on her influence. "To teach is to touch a life forever."

Beth Murphey Downey - June 02, 2020 at 07:29 PM

BY

“ Lynne was a dear friend and a Chi O sister. Spent many good times together at Union and throughout the years. We even found a family connection through the Bufords. So glad we reconnected when I returned to West Tennessee and were able to get together frequently to reminisce. Will miss her soft voice and encouraging words. Heaven received another angel.

Beverly Buford Youree - June 02, 2020 at 04:23 PM