



## Dr. Robert "Bob" Thomas Plants

August 23, 1957 - June 3, 2020

Coleman Funeral Home

Robert Thomas Plants, born August 23, 1957, went home to be with the Lord very suddenly on May 28, 2020. An outdoor memorial service will be held at The Orchard on Saturday, June 13, 2020. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. with the memorial service to follow at 11:00 a.m. The service will also be live streamed on The Orchard's Facebook page. Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is in charge of arrangements.

He was preceded in death by his father Dr. Robert W. Plants. He is survived by his mother Kathryn Frances Hassell Plants, three sisters Ellen Massey, Mary K. Haik (Dr. Bill Haik) and Joy Batte (John Batte), six beautiful nieces: Kimberly Haik (Chad Cage), Terese Haik, Stephanie Haik Greenwell (Steve Greenwell), Dr. Lindsey Batte McMullan (Kelly McMullan), Leighton Batte Mosteller (Clifton Mosteller), Katie Batte Ringer (Jeff Ringer), five grandnieces, seven grandnephews and numerous cousins.

Bob graduated from University High School, Oxford, MS, and earned his B.A.E. and M. Ed. in Social Studies from the University of Mississippi. He received his Ed. D. from the University of Memphis in Instructional Technology and Design. He was Educational Coordinator for medical students in Memphis, worked for CBU, was Research Associate at the University of

Illinois at Chicago and Research Associate at Vanderbilt University before joining the University of Mississippi as Assistant Professor. He continued to teach at the University of Mississippi for 14 years, with courses in curriculum and design focused on the use of technology as a teaching and learning tool. Bob was very active in numerous educational technology groups including the SC Conference, Association for Talent Development, Apple OS Professionals, E-Learning 2.0, Innovative Learning, and the International Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association.

Bob was a founding member of the Orchard Church in Oxford, MS, and enjoyed serving there over thirteen years in many capacities. He worked with college groups, community groups and Bible Study groups and was “famous” as the first person that visitors and members saw when they entered the church. From his role in the Information Booth, he welcomed everyone with a smile and with information about the church.

He was an avid fan of Ole Miss football and basketball. He enjoyed engaging in Yoga, being outdoors riding his bicycle, and spending time with friends and neighbors. He was a faithful son to his parents, caring for both when his father was alive, and then caring for his mother. “Dr. Bob” was a stranger to no one. He leaves behind a legion of wonderful friends and a legacy of creative instructional strategies, encouraging forward thinking and especially utilizing technology.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Orchard Oxford (295 Highway 7 North, Oxford, MS 38655); the Robert W. Plants Teaching Award (University of Mississippi); or a charity of your choice.

Please leave online condolences on the Tribute Wall at [www.colemanfuneralhome.com](http://www.colemanfuneralhome.com).



# Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Robert "Bob" Thomas Plants



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**Coleman Funeral Home** - June 12, 2020 at 02:58 PM

EL

*Well done, Trey! Thank you!*

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**Ellen** - June 13, 2020 at 02:36 PM

FL

“ From the day we joined the Orchard we were welcomed every Sunday by Doc Bob even though, in the beginning, he did not know us.

*Once we became known to him his welcome was always accompanied by a very friendly smile and a wave.*

*We were shocked to learn that, at an early age, he has gone home to be with the Lord.*

*His smile and cheerful welcome will be sorely missed.*

*With all our love.*

*Frank & Gertie Liebenberg*

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**FRANK LIEBENBERG** - June 12, 2020 at 10:44 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert "Bob" Thomas Plants.*



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June 12, 2020 at 10:49 AM



“ *I met Bob when I started going to the Orchard back when we were meeting at the Powerhouse. Must have been 2007 or so. We became quick friends while doing greeting and coffee making. He remained a good friend until I moved in 2016. I am grieved by the loss of such extraordinary person. He loved well and that is what God asks of us at the core. He was accepting of all and had a joy the traveled with him wherever he went. Bob was a true giver with a servants heart. He was such a part of my time at the Orchard and in Oxford. He will be greatly missed by many. And I know Bob will be richly rewarded in heaven!*

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**Teeny Costley** - June 10, 2020 at 04:03 PM



“ *Hi Mr. Bob/Dr. Plants, I knew you as Mr. Bob first; meeting at the Orchard and weekly bible studies. Then I took one of your online classes and you became Dr. Plants and in that class I learned the value of balance and it continues with me as a journey through life. Prayers for your family.*

*Kelsey L*

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**Kelsey L** - June 10, 2020 at 03:08 PM

BL

“ So sorry to hear of Bobby's death. I did not know Bobby very well because of the differences in our location and age. I do know his three sisters as they and their mother spent some summer months with her parents, their grandparents, when their father was at classes at University of Arkansas (early to mid 1950's). I lived with Kathryn's parents at the time. She and I are first cousins. Ellen, Mary K, Joy, I know you are grieving the loss of your baby brother. It is not easy. Love to you from my family.

*Burton Loftus (Allen, TX)*

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**Burton L Loftus** - June 09, 2020 at 04:36 PM

MM

“ I had heard of the 'infamous' Bobby Plants years before I met him. He was a close friend of 2 of my dear Ole Miss/BSU friends. When we finally met after we had graduated he was just as funny, witty, and charming as they had portrayed him to be. He had this delightful wit which kept me laughing frequently. He lived in Nashville for a while and we did a lot of fun things together. He became an integral part of our reunions, and they would not have been the same without him. Saying he will be missed is an understatement. He was a very dear friend.

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**Marta Manner** - June 08, 2020 at 09:15 PM



“ I first knew Bobby when I worked with Dr. Plants on my dissertation and was at thePlants home very often, so I grew to love Bobby and getting to know him. Time went by and he grew up quickly. He loved his mom and dad, and he has meant so much to Kathryn, his mom, lately. I will miss just knowing he is not here. The last time I talked to Bobby, I told him I had a hard time getting to The Blake to visit, and he offered to come and get me—how thoughtful! We never got to do this. Although I will not be at the memorial service, my thoughts and prayers will be there, and much love, too!

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**Cindy Leigh** - June 07, 2020 at 10:13 PM



*This entry was actually written by Dr. Peggy Emerson. I just typed it in for her on my computer.*

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**Cindy Leigh** - June 08, 2020 at 04:12 PM

RT

“ A great friend and fellow professor. The students loved him, and his knowledge will continue to impact so many lives.  
Roy and Nancy

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**Roy Thurston** - June 07, 2020 at 08:58 AM



## “ Bobby Plants

*I was very much saddened to hear of the untimely death of Dr. Robert Thomas “Bob” Plants. When I first met “Bobby”, as we called him then, he was about ten years old and was holding Happy, the Plants family’s Dachshund, who was the most determined to bite me of any canine I’d ever met. I was a doctoral student at The University of Mississippi, and Dr. Robert W. Plants, Bobby’s dad, taught our doctoral readings seminar. Usually Dr. plants liked to have this specialized class at his home. I was adjusting to Happy, and wondering how I could win him over. Then Bobby led me into the living room where I saw the most amazing variegated blue wall in the living room with a 3-D mural of a gigantic fish, which after about the third week of class I figured out was an interpretation of the Lord’s supper. For little Bobby, growing up in the Plants family was an artistic adventure, beginning with Dr. Plants and including three artistic sisters, and a multi-talented mom who right at home orchestrating the adventures of the Walton family.*

*Over the years I watched Bobby navigate the teen years and develop strong ideas that sometimes conflicted with what he considered the conservative views of his father. When he chose to pursue a degree in technology education, it was something of a surprise to think that he would become a second “Dr. Plants”, with very creative ideas of his own.*

*After I finished my doctoral degree, Dr. Plants hired me to work in the School of Education, teaching undergraduate courses in Elementary Education. I worked for him (and for Dr. Sylvester Moorhead) until he retired, so I saw Bobby from time to time and was able to keep up with his interests and share his passions.*

*I think Dr. Jim Chambless was our School of Education Dean when Bobby, now a young professional called “Dr. Bob Plants”, joined our faculty. Since Bob’s office was just down the hall from mine, I saw him every day and enjoyed getting to know him as an adult. He had*

*strong beliefs, a definite commitment to teaching technology from a philosophical perspective, and an openness to sharing his knowledge with the entire faculty.*

*After I retired I saw Bob very seldom, but as long-time friends we were always able to continue as though no time had passed. Bob loved his sisters and his many nieces and great-nieces, and we usually spent our time catching up on family. It was definitely a shock to hear Bobby had died, and I certainly wish Covid 19 didn't interfere with my getting to see Bob's mother, Kathryn, and his other beloved family. I know he is now walking and talking (and maybe riding his bike) with the Angels...and probably holding little Happy in his arma.*

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**Cindy Leigh** - June 07, 2020 at 04:01 AM

JS

“ *This is sad news. I worked for Dr. Plants and was a good friend of Mrs. Plants. I lived across the street from them for a while and watched Bobby grow up. He was very faithful to his mom After Dr. Plants died. It was quite a shock to hear that Bobby passed on. He will ne missed. Jean M. Shaw*

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**Jean Shaw** - June 06, 2020 at 01:21 PM

DA

“ *No tears needed. There is no doubt where Bob is. But he will be missed by those of us Still here that still have work to do for the King.*

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**david** - June 05, 2020 at 08:14 PM

JM

“ Upon hearing of Bob's sudden passing, I was just paralyzed with sadness. I grew up on Longest road down the street from Dr. Plants and his lovely wife. My wife Maggie and I have been neighbors of Bob for several years at Northpointe. Bob was a great neighbor and lovely friend. We connected almost daily at our mailboxes and in our driveways. Bob was always in attendance at our neighborhood parties, Christmas, Mardi Gras, 4th of July, block parties and even boulevard gatherings. Being a social studies teacher, I relied on Bob for social studies and geography discussions on a regular basis. He tweeted me or facebooked me resources every day. Our dog, Greta, loved Bob-and of course he just adored Greta. They were inseparable. Bob was an old Oxford friend always asking about JoDale and Angelo-my parents. We talked Ole Miss sports-usually in the backyard. During Covid, we connected when we could to stay sane enjoying several front porch sittings this year in April and May. On the night we found out about Bob, I walked out of the back of my garage and stood in the street looking at his mailbox. It was very hard to look down the alley and know that I won't see my friend again here on earth. I love Bob Plants. I shall miss my friend.

Godspeed,

John Mistilis

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**John Mistilis** - June 05, 2020 at 05:03 PM

MM

“ Bob and our golden retriever, Greta, were fast friends. He would wait by the mailbox with open arms, and Greta would run as fast as she could for a hug and kind words. Bob will be remembered by me as a sweet, dear friend and neighbor. He always enjoyed the Blvd get togethers and was friendly to all.

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**Maggie Mistilis** - June 05, 2020 at 04:35 PM