



Dr. Beatrice Batson

July 13, 1920 - January 22, 2019

BATSON, Dr. Beatrice, age 98, of Batavia, Illinois, passed away on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. She was born in Charlotte, Tennessee, to George and Lora Fowler Batson on July 13, 1920. At the age of 12, Beatrice announced to her father that she would one day become a university professor. She attended Bryan College, taking her first steps toward achieving her goals. To further her understanding of unanswered questions, she enrolled in Wheaton College in a master's degree program. She went on to receive her Ph.D. from George Peabody College for Teachers at Vanderbilt University in 1956 and continued her studies with post-doctoral work at Northwestern University and Oxford University. In 1957, she began teaching at Wheaton College where she taught for 33 years. She served as Chair of the English Department from 1973 to 1987, and returned to chair the department for a year when the current chair was ill. Throughout her teaching career, she inspired students with her vision for the integration of faith and learning.

Dr. Batson was awarded Senior Teacher of the Year in 1963. She was later named 2007 Alumna of the Year for Distinguished Service to Alma Mater at Wheaton College. In addition to her legendary teaching career, she was also known for her work to organize the Shakespeare Collection and Institute at Wheaton College. She was an accomplished writer as well, authoring or editing ten books, as well as numerous articles, book reviews and essays for journals and magazines. Dr. Batson was an avid scholar. She was a co-founder of VII, the Marion E. Wade Center's annual journal designed to promote awareness of its seven authors, and to encourage critical assessment of these writers' works. Literature was not her only focus and passion. She was a deeply committed Christian who inspired students with her vision for the worship of Christ through the love of learning.

Dr. Batson is preceded in death by her parents, George and Lora Fowler Batson; brothers, Cooksey and Dewey Batson; sisters, Lillie Cooksey, Sara Rice and Ida Batson. She is survived by her brothers, Robert Batson and Earl (Nancy) Batson; nieces and nephews, David (Darlene) Batson, Leshia Bess, Pam (Relus) Fleming, Joe (DeEtta) Claytor, Sterling (Leah) Claytor, Kim (John) Engelman, and Beth (Steve) Batson; and loving great-nieces

and nephews. Funeral service will be held Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 11 AM in the Chapel of Cheatham County Funeral Home with Reverend William Fowler and Reverend, Dr. Tom Binford officiating. The family will receive guests Monday, January 28th from 4 PM to 8 PM and on Tuesday, January 29th from 10 AM until service hour of 11 AM. Serving as pallbearers will be David Batson, Steve Batson, Carter Preston, Cameron Davidson, Will Bess, Chris Hopkins, and Tim Preston. In lieu of flowers, donations in Dr. Batson's memory may be made to Wheaton College, Batson-Shakespeare Collection or Wheaton College, Dr. Beatrice Batson Scholarship Fund.

Cheatham County Funeral Home 615-792-2552 cheathamcountyfh@gmail.com

Website for donations: <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1156/donate/donate.aspx?sid=1156&gid=1&pgid=1068&cid=2247&dids=145.146&bledit=1>

Cemetery

Mt. Liberty

3655 Highway 49 east
Charlotte, TN, 37036

Events

JAN 28 Visitation 04:00PM - 08:00PM

28

Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC
117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

JAN 29 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

29

Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC
117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

JAN 29 Service 11:00AM

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Cheatham County Funeral Home, LLC
117 Elizabeth Street, Ashland City, TN, US, 37015

Comments



“ Like many others have written, Dr. Batson was my most influential teacher of literature at Wheaton who served as a model of Christian life and practice. I remember walking into her office in Blanchard Hall, a few weeks before graduating, fretting about what I would do after college. She looked up from a letter she was reading and offered to give my name in response to the query: Christian Herald Magazine was looking for an editorial assistant. Would I be interested? Yes, and yes, I got the job which started me on a career in publishing in New York that took me to California. I now work as a public librarian in Washington state, where I help patrons with everything and anything, including Shakespeare and other great writers, and any other topic under the sun. Dr. Batson was an inspiration then and her influence from my college days continues with me now. Heaven is a richer place with her in it! God bless all who love and miss her.

~Laurie Leslie Finlayson, '78

Laurie Finlayson - January 30, 2019 at 01:39 AM



“ Dr. Beatrice Batson was a revered colleague at Wheaton College. One of my most memorable privileges during our years on the faculty together was her asking me to be her peer evaluator during her post-tenure review. I attended her Shakespeare class and experienced her mastery of that literature, and subsequently wrote one of the highest review reports of my 36 years at Wheaton.

C. Hassell Bullock
Franklin S. Dyrness Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies

C. Hassell Bullock - January 29, 2019 at 08:55 PM



“ I cannot express how deeply saddened I am to hear of Dr. Batson's passing. I was hoping to see her in a couple of weeks with my children when we will be back at Wheaton. Now I know she will be in the cloud of witnesses with my mother, who passed two months' ago!

Dr. Batson was the Department Chair when I was an English Literature major from 1983-86. She inspired me to add English Literature to my Pre-Med courses, and was my Professor during Wheaton-in-England, which I was fortunate enough to attend. She was the consummate Professor of English Literature and Faith, and the way in which she wove her love of Shakespeare with her love of Christ was magical and compelling. Her academic excellence couple with engaging teaching style and enthusiasm are unrivaled in my long academic career. It was her inspiration that led me to pursue a PhD at Cambridge University, albeit in international law, rather than English literature!

We kept in touch throughout the years, and she was a constant and reliable source of support, encouragement, and joy. She was a role model, a mentor, a brilliant teacher, and a friend. She will be forever missed on this earth by so many, but left such an amazing legacy of learning, brilliance, and Christian love, that her presence shall go on.

Heaven has gained a precious gem, and I'm sure Dr. Batson is conversing at present with Shakespeare and Lewis, Tolkien and Sayers, MacDonald and Williams. Rest in Peace with the Prince of Peace and King of Kings, Dear Dr. Batson. I shall treasure your memory always, and how you made the world and Wheaton a better place with your testimony.

Blessings to Dr. Batson's Family,

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dr. Sandra Bunn-Livingstone,
B.A. 1986

Dr. Sandra Bunn-Livingstone, Esquire - January 29, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ My few brief moments of glory at Wheaton were on the athletic field not as a scholar. Yet I was mysteriously attracted to Literature, and the Wheaton Literature Department offered plenty of attractions. But none like Dr Batson.

My 17th Century Literature course with Dr Batson introduced John Donne, John Milton, Ben Jonson and others who thoroughly infected me with what words can do. These were writers who in a few quick strokes reached below an obsession with meaning to where music was made in my brain. I was launched. I became a voracious reader and writer for life. I found the same titillating music in writers around the globe.

Would I have had this wonderful life without Dr. Batson? Maybe. But I wouldn't have had her voice in my head as a constant companion.

I can still hear Dr. Batson quoting John Donne in that wonderful Oxford voice with jaw set, “For God sake hold your tongue and let me love!” Thank you, Dr Batson.

Anders Johnson, Wheaton Lit '68

Anders Fredrik Johnson - January 27, 2019 at 01:11 PM



“ I sit at my desk remembering all that Beatrice Batson taught me and all that she meant to me. One day in 1972, after freshman English class, she pulled me aside and gently asked “What is your major?” “Psychology,” I said sheepishly. I didn't even know what that was. “And Physical Education” – oh that I understood better. She said, “Why don't you just study English Literature and jog?” And so I did. I never regretted that decision.

I also remember the times I would go to Beatrice with questions of faith and how she would listen and give me wise counsel. I didn't see her often after graduation, but when I did her voice and her vitality took me back to those wonderful days. I was fortunate to correspond with her for many years and her voice and guidance will always be with me.

My condolences to her family and friends.
Linda Stormes '76

Linda Stormes - January 26, 2019 at 04:03 PM



“ I am indeed sorry to hear of the passing of Beatrice (Bea) Batson, who was my most inspiring professor at Wheaton; my sustaining colleague at Wheaton; and friend during the years I studied in Scotland. I came to Wheaton in 1955 as a transfer student and was hoping that I would find excellent professors in the English Department, which I did. I can honestly say that Dr. Kilby and Dr. Batson were two of the most inspirational professors that I have ever had at the undergraduate and graduate level. Beatrice's opening prayers, which she gave at every class set the elevated tone for that class. One felt immediately ushered into the presence of the King Himself. After graduating from Wheaton and going on for graduate work at UCLA and the University of Aberdeen, I kept in contact with Beatrice and enjoyed so much having her as a colleague, when I returned to teach at Wheaton College in 1967. Throughout my entire college-university teaching career of nearly 40 years, I have referred often to the class notes I took in Beatrice's classes---Shakespeare, 17th Century, Literary Criticism, Milton. Each class was special. I will never forget how Beatrice read Milton's "Paradise Lost." She read it with such passion and deep devotion. Without doubt, Beatrice deserves the rest that she is now enjoying. She was a true scholar, inspirational teacher, and loyal friend. My deepest condolences to her family.. Glenn Edward Sadler class of 1958.

Glenn Edward Sadler - January 25, 2019 at 07:25 PM



“ Dr. Batson was my most influential professor at Wheaton. Her invitation for the journey in World Lit my sophomore year began with advice from Socrates—“The unexamined life is not worth living.” So I examined my life—600 pages behind in my anthropology reading—and became a lit major. The rest is history as I became a teacher. When I returned to teaching in 1993 after an 18 year hiatus raising my family, my notes from Dr. Batson's class gave me what I needed to teach high school seniors. I began each of the ensuing 17 years with her challenge emblazoned across the board--"The unexamined life is not worth living"--and together we examined many of the writers I had examined back in 1963. She was always inspiring as her love for literature and the Lord were always present. .Our family does have a humorous reminiscence Fifteen years after my graduation from Wheaton my brother Mark had her for his required lit course and met with her since he was getting Cs on his work—she inquired why he wasn't the student his sister was--he stayed with his psychology major! I can see her rejoicing in heaven--the journey is complete.

Ruth Huslage Rupprecht '66

Ruth Rupprecht - January 25, 2019 at 06:14 PM



“ I had Dr. Batson for a teacher in 1959. I did not know until today that that was only her second year at Wheaton. She had a great impact on me, both through her teaching and through her personal affirmation in private conversation. Her encouragement and the world of thought she opened up for me were foundational for the rest of my life. I am very grateful for kindness and for the stimulus of her scholarship and her position that all truth is God's truth; that we should be unafraid to follow it wherever it leads us.

Dennis Nordmoe

Dennis Nordmoe - January 25, 2019 at 05:42 PM



“ I was a student at Wheaton from 1958-1962 and I had the great privilege to be a student in Dr. Batson's Shakespeare class. Just the other day I was reflecting about that class and all that I learned from her. She was more than just an excellent teacher; she was an excellent person and one of the great examples of a committed Christian. I received a life-long love of Shakespeare from her class and we are all better for her example. My sincerest condolences on her death.
Bob Cook, Wheaton 1962

Bob Cook - January 25, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ Dr. Batson was in a class by herself, so to speak, but those who had the privilege of sitting in her class could not see great literature in the same way again. She was a treasure to me then and a treasured memory now. Godspeed.

Nance Wabshaw - January 25, 2019 at 05:08 PM



“ I named my daughter "E.B." Sutton after Dr. Batson, the most wonderful English Professor I have ever had the privilege to study under. I did not realize that we were both Northwestern U. alums: well, that makes sense. After Wheaton I went on to study with Nobel Prize winners and the most famous Poets & Novelists in the nation; however, Dr. Batson remained the most brilliant and famous Professor in my heart, and she always will. This great Teacher saved my life. I am forever grateful.
Poet, Pamela Sutton, MSJ, MFA

Pamela Sutton - January 25, 2019 at 04:56 PM



“ The English Department and Wheaton Alumni purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Beatrice Batson.



The English Department and Wheaton Alumni - January 24, 2019 at 03:04 PM