



Jean Gould Bryant

June 25, 1939 - December 28, 2020

Jean Gould Bryant, 81, Professor Emerita at Florida State University, died peacefully in Tallahassee following a lengthy illness on December 28, 2020. Jean was born June 25, 1939, in Ventura, CA, to Louise Hudson Gould and Richard Bartlett Gould. Until graduating from high school, she attended Ventura schools, where she was active in student affairs and student government.

At Stanford University, she was a member of the Cap and Gown Honor Society and received a BA in History in 1961; an MA in Education in 1962; and an MA in History in 1966. She then taught high school for five years, largely at nearby Palo Alto High School, before returning to Stanford to work on her doctorate. She received her PhD in History from Stanford in 1973, the year her son, Steven Hales, was born. She had just completed her first year on the faculty at FSU.

Jean taught in the FSU History Department from 1972 until her retirement in 2001. She pioneered the study of Women's History and developed the interdisciplinary Women's Studies Program, which she directed from 1980 until she retired. As a result of her efforts, new courses were created across a broad spectrum of departments that integrated the study of women into established academic programs and also provided a new academic field of study.

As she built the program and an impressive research library, later named in her honor, Jean nurtured students who still revere her. In an essay on the gift of mentorship, a former president of the American Historical Association credited Jean with having changed the course of her life when she was an undergraduate at FSU.

Jean engaged in community outreach throughout her tenure. She brought colleagues and students together for the statewide march for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1982. She was an officer in Zonta, which is dedicated to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. She also coauthored *Creating Women: An Anthology of Readings on Women in Western Culture*, a two-volume collection of documents carefully set into context.

She was a loyal and gracious friend to contemporaries in the History Department. She worked, cooked, gardened, laughed, cried, entertained, shared, and went to the beach with them. It was a very special moment in time for a very dedicated cohort of friends.

Jean's zest for life and positivity will be remembered and she will always remain a role model to her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 37 years, Dr. Jerry Bryant of Tallahassee; her son, Steven Hales and his wife Soyun of Vacaville, CA; her brothers Bob (Gretchen) of Kaneohe, HI, and Dick (Anne) of Palo Alto, CA; stepbrothers Jim Hibbs (Maria) of Ventura, CA, John Hibbs of Eugene, OR, and Tip Wilson (Susan) of Fernley, NV; and stepchildren, Don Bryant (Sally), Bill Bryant (Marianne) and Lea Lane (Randy), all of Tallahassee; 10 step-grandchildren; and 2 step-great-grandchildren.

A private , family only graveside service is now scheduled for Saturday

morning at Roselawn Cemetery.

Gifts in memory of Jean may be made to Big Bend Hospice, 1723 Mahan Center Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32308; or to the FSU Foundation for the Woman's Studies Program, 325 West College Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32301-1403.

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee (850/385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

815 West Piedmont Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

DG

“ How proud I am to call Jean Bryant my sister! Even though two years younger than I, she was a constant inspiration to me. Her enthusiasm, her ever-ready smile, her loyalty, her ability of listen and her compassion for others were unmatched, and made us all better people. She was an incredible peer with whom to work and an ideal mentor to so many. She was a protector of family Heritage. She was revered by all who knew her in Ventura, CA where she grew up, and then at Stanford University, where she earned her BA, two MA's and her PhD. It was Florida State University's gain when she was hired to teach in the history department, but we are proud of her greatest legacy at FSU, the formation of the Women's Studies Department, as well as her active participation in ZONTA, the international service organization for women! She was a "giver" - to her husband, Jerry, and son, Steven Hales, and to all of her extended family. The world is a better place because of what Jean gave of herself. My wife, Anne, myself and my entire family have lost a great and beloved friend, but her legacy will continue to make us better people! THANK YOU, Jean - you will always be in our thoughts, and we will always greatly love you and be thankful for what you gave us.

Dick Gould - January 06, 2021 at 02:45 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Jean Gould Bryant.



January 06, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jean Gould Bryant.* ”



January 06, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ Ms. Bryant was one of the sweetest women I have ever met. Mother of one of my best friends (Steven Hales), Ms Bryant welcomed me to her sweet home in Tallahassee, during part of my PhD at FSU in 2000. I soon noticed that she was a very competent and respected professor at Florida State University. What surprised me the most was that experiencing her friendship was a life lesson every day, regarding the respect for others, tenderness, positivity and joy. What a nice woman she was! She loved to see the lively birds and animals circling her garden during breakfast. Those were such rich moments! Thanks to her, I learned to make some american dishes, like her american pancakes that, whenever I make here in Brazil, I remember her fondly. And I also remember when I was doing my PhD at Sandels Building, it was my birthday and I was pleasantly surprised because Ms. Bryant took some balloons, a cupcake and souvenir... it was so nice of her! She managed to make bad days better. Another memorable day was when, 15 years later, I was back in the United States doing my postdoctoral studies at UM (University of Miami), and I was able to take my parents to meet her and Jerry, also a great man. It was a magical moment, and I was very happy when she remembered me and my wife Carmen as soon as we arrived at her house. I considered her my second mother, and I am happy she could also meet my kids Lucca and Pietra! Thankfully, my beautiful friendship with Steven should continue for a long time, which will be a way to feel Ms Bryant close by as they both have common traits, qualities that I have learned to admire in both of these amazing people.

Rest in peace, Ms. Bryant!

*Herbert Gustavo Simoes
Brasilia, Brazil*

Hgsimoes Hgsimoes - January 05, 2021 at 06:31 PM

BB

“ I worked and taught with Jean for several years in the FSU Women's Studies Program, of which she was a founding member. Wonderful sense of humor and a sympathetic treatment of students, who adored her. She will be missed. My condolences to her husband and family. Bonnie Braendlin

Bonnie Braendlin - January 03, 2021 at 12:01 PM

MF

“ As an FSU history pre-doctoral student, I was grateful to have the faculty room available between classes.

One day, a few faculty members entered, still sharing their thoughts on women being interviewed for a new position. "Which one is that?" asked one. "The one with the great legs," said the other. No further explanation seemed to have been necessary. Clearly, by concurrence, there was one outstanding set of legs.

Several years later, sitting next to Jerry Bryant, he mentioned that his eye and interest was caught when he saw a woman mowing her lawn. "A woman with a push-mower," he expressed in surprise, "and she was in shorts." That was his wife, Jean. Great legs, again. (Well, Jerry, for the sake of this story -- the push mower is also equally as impressive.)

They all discovered that she had a huge heart, an incredible sense of humor, and a quick brain on top of those legs. Those legs may have gotten her where others may not have been invited, but like many remarkable women before her, she accentuated the positive to eliminate the negatives.

She was a scholar, a teacher, an activist: a model of life lived to its fullest, leaving behind a legacy and a challenge.

Marylyn Feaver - January 03, 2021 at 11:22 AM