



“...testimonies [were made] to Place’s astounding intelligence, academic achievements, warmth and genuine concern for others, and the love she bore to such disparate things as her cats, Scrabble, opera, and movies.”  
-Peter Morscheck



## Betty Place passes away

By Peter Morscheck  
STAFF WRITER

There was a different kind of silence at New Garden Friends Meeting last Wednesday. Scores of faculty, friends, family, and students—current

and former—gathered in celebration and remembrance of Dr. Mary Elizabeth Place, Director of the Guilford College library. She passed away on December 28th.

Director of Campus Ministries Max Carter led the group, as he has had to do so often re-

cently, in a memorial service in the manner of Friends. Following messages by her father, Jefferson, her husband, Alexander, and her brother, Wayne, myriad testimonies followed—testimonies to Place’s astounding intelligence, academic achievements, warmth and genuine concern for others, and the love she bore to such disparate things as her cats, Scrabble, opera, and movies.

Through it all, however, one theme rang true: Place touched the lives of whomever she met. And so it was a different kind of silence between the messages, anecdotes from professors Adrienne Israel and Jack Zerbe, a poem read by student worker Nathan White, or memories of past student workers who counted Place as their mentor. In this silence, barely five seconds could pass without someone sniffing to hold back tears.

Born on May 3, 1939, Place graduated from Duke University before gaining her M.A. in Germanic Literature from Vanderbilt in 1969. For the next six years she taught German at Wake Forest. She then completed her Ph.D. in German Language and Literature at Vanderbilt before beginning to work with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library Outreach Program and Environmental Protection Agency Special Library Program.

She completed her Masters of Library Science at UNC-CH in 1982 and joined the Guilford Library in 1983 as Coordinator of Information/References Services and Bibliographic Instruction. She distinguished herself even that first year, as Dr. Herb Poole noted in his annual report in 1984: “Due to her efforts, we have come a great distance in

Please see *Place*, page 3

## Dozens protest Powell’s visit

By Daniel Fleishman  
STAFF WRITER

At the close of the 1999 fall semester, General Colin Powell addressed a brimming 1,000-seat Dana Auditorium. He was also honored by Guilford College as a distinguished visiting professor of the arts, humanities and public affairs.

Both outside Hege library and Dana auditorium, some 50 protesters voiced their displeasure at the college’s decision to bring a “war hero” to a Quaker school with pacifist ideals.

The protesters handed out fliers on which headlines read, for example, “Is Guilford College what it claims to be? An examination of Guilford’s Quaker values in light of Colin Powell’s speech.”

Powell told the media in a pre-speech press conference, “I went into the military to protect the right to practice your Quaker beliefs just as I practice my beliefs as an Episcopalian who abhors war,” but added, “I recognize that war may be necessary to protect our freedoms and beliefs.”

Colin Powell was a professional soldier for 35 years until his retirement in 1993. In 1989 he was named chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His autobiography, *My American Journey*, was a best seller. For those reasons, and his struggle through a difficult childhood in the South Bronx of New York City to get to such a significant position, he is one of the most popular political figures in the country.

Please see *Powell*, page 2

The Guilfordian  
c/o Student Activities  
5800 W. Friendly Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27410

