Janis Crowe: A generous spirit

Furman University
Mary Evelyn Goodly McCrary ’43, October 31, Greenville. She was the first cellist to earn a bachelor’s degree from Furman and went on to play with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra for 40 years. She was also a member of the Foothills Symphony and played in the Berea First Baptist Symphony. She was director of the weekday kindergarten at John Knox Presbyterian Church for many years and taught music both privately and in the public schools.

Dorothy David Browning ’44, November 21, Greenville. She was active in Greenville Women’s Club and Stone Lake Garden Club.

Virginia Merritt Hawkins ’44, December 4, Columbia, S.C. She was a kindergarten teacher and a preschool leader for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. She was a past president of the Ministers Wives Association of Greenville.

Edward Lowry Babb ’45, May 5, Charlotte, N.C. Lou served in the U.S. Army in World War II and during the Korean War. Following his military service, he held sales and management positions in the textile and chemical industries. He was a longtime member of Dilworth Rotary Club, which he served as president. He volunteered at the Shepherd’s Center and was an Eagle Scout.

Ruth Walton Kemp ’45, October 26, Pompton Plains, N.J. She worked in various positions in the advertising industry in New York City.

Dorothy Cook Riddle ’45, November 6, Mount Pleasant, S.C. She worked with Provence-Jarrard Company in Greenville for a number of years. She was active in book, bridge and golf groups, and was a member at-large of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mary Frances Woodward Dennis ’46, November 7, Atlanta. In both Greenville and Atlanta she was actively involved in volunteer work through the Junior League and various other organizations.

Mildred Crenshaw Johnson ’46, October 1, Moore, S.C. She was retired from the Milliken Jordan Plant in Greenville with 35 years of service.

Jeanne Thomason Newton ’46, September 19, Muhlenberg Township, Pa.

Cora Perkins Shipman ’46, October 7, Matthews, N.C. “Cookie” worked as a salesperson for Ivey’s Department Store, as a bookkeeper for Southern Baking, and as a secretary for United Way. She was a gifted craftsman.

Howell Cantrell Tooley ’46, November 24, Greer, S.C. Hal was a retired realtor and automobile salesperson and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Frances Genevieve Smith Dabbs ’47, September 29, Charlotte, N.C. She retired as a claims supervisor after 30 years in the insurance industry.

Mills Ferguson Nunn ’47, November 13, West Columbia, S.C. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and retired as a commissioned officer from the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Office of the Judge Advocate General. He earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina and was a member of the South Carolina Bar for more than 60 years. He was active with the Columbia Executive Club, the American Legion, and the Colonel Thomas Taylor Chapter Sons of the American Revolution.

Margaret Lipscomb Ulmer ’47, September 25, Lexington, Ky. She was a member of several women’s clubs and of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Wallace A. Mullinax ’49, October 13, Greenville. Wally served in World War II as a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman attached to the 2nd Marine Division. He began a career in radio in 1944 and joined WESC in Greenville in 1949, remaining there for 41 years and retiring as vice president of sales. While at WESC he aired one of the first rhythm and blues programs in the Carolinas, was a pioneer talk show host, and in the 1960s was among the first broadcasters to program a full-time country music format. He also helped make broadcasts of motorsports and college football games available through syndication. After leaving WESC he co-founded WMTY in Greenwood, S.C.

He was president of the South Carolina Broadcasters Association (SCBA) and of its Educational Foundation and was elected to its Hall of Fame. In 2012 the SCBA established a scholarship in his name at Furman. His civic contributions included service on the Greenville County Council, the Greenville Memorial Auditorium Board of Directors and the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission. He was a trustee of North Greenville University, where he taught broadcasting and media sales. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Centers for Language Disorders in Greenville and of the James E. Daniel Post #3 of the American Legion, and was among the founders of Crime Stoppers of Greenville County.

He was president of the Greenville Sales and Marketing Association. Among the many honors he received were the G. Richard Shafter Award for Journalism from the University of South Carolina, the Silver Medal Award from the Greenville Advertising Federation, an Abe Lincoln Merit Award from the Southern Baptist Radio/Television Commission, and the South Carolina American Legion Service Award. In 1992 he was included in Who’s Who in American Advertising.

JANIS CROWE: A GENEROUS SPIRIT

JANIS ADAMS CROWE, longtime instructor in the Furman English department, died December 23 after an extended battle with endometrial cancer.

Born in California, she earned her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Vassar College and a master’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis. Besides Furman, she taught for several years at Clemson University.

Gill Allen, Crowe’s departmental colleague, described her as “a generous spirit” who worked “to convince freshmen that good essays needn’t conform to the simplistic five-paragraph template they’d learned in high school. She had genuine affection for her students, and she gently but firmly demanded the best work they were capable of producing.”

Active with the Greenville Literacy Association and the county Democratic Party, Crowe served for six years on the book selection committee of the South Carolina Association of Librarians. She sang with the Greenville Chorale and the local Quodlibet Singers, and was described in her obituary as “a lifelong animal lover, a supporter of humane farming, and a loyal fan of the Atlanta Braves.”

In addition, she was a U.S. figure skating test judge at the gold level in singles and pairs and at the international level in ice dancing. She was president of the Greenville Figure Skating Club for seven years and was an ice skating instructor with Special Olympics.

She is survived by her husband, Stanley Crowe, professor emeritus of English at Furman, and by her children, Simon ’96 and Kirkie.