IN MEMORIAM: KATHERINE VAUGHNS (1945–2013)



KATHERINE Vaughns, a longtime UM Carey faculty member and well-known supporter of the Baltimore arts community, died May 4 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Colleagues described Vaughns as relentlessly cheerful and wonderful company.

"I hired Kathy 25 years ago; she was vivacious, interesting, and very nice," recalls Professor William Reynolds. "In the many years that Kathy was on the faculty, I never knew her to be negative about anyone."

In her almost 30 years at the law school, Professor Vaughns became a dedicated teacher and scholar, specializing in civil procedure, complex litigation, and immigration, with much of her scholarship focusing on the latter.

"[Kathy] was a wonderful fighter for justice, for those who were overlooked and excluded," said Brenda Bratton Blom, Law School Professor Emeritus and former director of UM Carey Law's Clinical Law Program, of which Professor Vaughns was a faculty member. "She was suspicious of government powers, and fully committed to the power of regular people to control their own lives."

But perhaps more than anything, Professor Vaughns will be remembered for her staunch support of the performing arts, spending her later years linking law with the arts with an enthusiastic and contagious spirit. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of Center Stage, and also served as Secretary to its Executive Committee. She also served on the Maryland Film Festival's Board of Directors.

"WITH THEATRE, you are dealing with a medium and venue that is readily made present. It puts a human face on things."

-Kathy Vaughns

1

Most notable was her effort to produce *Brown v. Board Revisited: A Commemoration and Community Forum.* Authored by two of Vaughns' students, the play was performed at Center Stage on the fiftieth anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. Several organizations collaborated with UM Carey Law and Center Stage to produce the event including the Maryland State Bar Association, the Bar Association of Baltimore City, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture. "Actors" were drawn from Baltimore's legal, civic, educational, and cultural communities, including then Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Judge Andre M. Davis '78, UM Carey Law Professor Larry S. Gibson, and Harry Johnson '79, then president of the Maryland State Bar Association. More than 400 people attended the event and participated in the lively discussion that followed.

"Katherine was a brilliant and inspiring woman, with a deep commitment to, and passion for, the arts," said Kwame Kwei-Armah, Center Stage's artistic director. "She believed strongly in the power of the arts to transform lives."

"Kathy was a woman of great integrity who strongly believed in truth and justice," says Professor Taunya Lovell Banks. "She will be missed."

AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH, PROFESSOR VAUGHNS HAD TWO ARTICLES THAT WERE ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION:

"Border Fixation: The Art of the Appearance of Security and Control in Immigration Reform," 27 *Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development* (forthcoming 2013). In this article Professor Vaughns posits that the need for comprehensive reform of immigration laws is urgent but that Congress' "fixation" with our southern border with Mexico will hinder effective change. "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: *Kiyemba v. Obama* and the Meaning of Freedom, Separation of Powers, and the Rule of Law Ten Years After 9/11," 20 *Asian American Law Journal* (forthcoming 2013) (with Heather L. Williams '11), arose from Professor Vaughns' Terrorism and the Constitution Seminar and addresses the meaning of freedom in a post-9/11 world.

These articles will be printed posthumously.

TRIBUTES TO KATHY VAUGHNS

"Kathy Vaughns was my office next-door neighbor. A night owl like me, many of our richest conversations took place at 8 or 9 p.m., with one of us standing in the doorway of our offices. Over the years we bonded over certain kinds of old movies. Those starring Omar Sharif, even the bad ones, were held in special esteem. Kathy encouraged me always, as a mother, a colleague, and friend. I miss her." Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

"I will remember Kathy for her smile and her tremendous contribution to the Baltimore theatre and film community things that make Baltimore City so vibrant." David Bogen, Professor Emeritus of Law

"Professor Katherine L. Vaughns was the epitome of wisdom, character, and warmth. She respected diverse opinions while retaining strong and progressive viewpoints about numerous legal, political, and creative issues. She was my favorite professor at Maryland Law for all of these reasons, and for many others, including the fact that she strengthened belief within me. I continue to miss her terribly."

Andreea Ioana Pantor '05 (via Facebook)

"I have many fond memories, not least of which is the two of us often closing down the third floor together late at night and walking to the garage discussing theatre, law, current events, and life." *Roger Wolf, Professor Emeritus of Law* "Together we started teaching at the law school in 1984, and we were close friends, especially during the years when I was living in Baltimore. She was a wonderful friend and colleague, and I will miss her dearly." *Marley Weiss, Professor of Law*

"I will miss Katherine's never-ending enthusiasm for learning and her kind approach to her colleagues and friends. Her warm smile revealed a generous heart." *Max Stearns, Associate Dean for Faculty*

Max Stearns, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Marbury Professor of Law

"Kathy was one of my favorite colleagues. She frequently stopped by my office on her way to her own, usually making one of her sharp comments or insights. We often laughed about one thing or another, and she never forgot to ask me how I was doing, or remind me of an upcoming Center Stage performance. I would also regularly hear praise from Kathy's Immigration Law students, and about how she made a difference in their law school experience and their future career choices. She thrived in the small group or one-on-one conversation, and gave unselfishly to others." Doug Colbert, Professor of Law

"What a great professor who introduced me to immigration law, which is what I practice and love. Rest in peace." *Nicole Moorehead '01 (via Facebook)*

"A great professor who always had a smile, even when teaching CivPro to the 1Ls. You will be missed!" Angie Amisano (via Facebook)

"Kathy always had a smile and a wry observation about the world. She was never too busy to lend an ear, share her insights, or react to a colleague's idea. Her enthusiasm for Center Stage and the arts in Baltimore was contagious! I will miss her smile, her quick mind and, most of all, her warm heart." Jana Singer, Professor of Law

"For me, one of Kathy's most creative projects was to bring together her love for Center Stage with the law school for the 50th celebration of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The theatre was packed and after the performance the diverse audience participated in a great discussion, sharing stories about segregated Baltimore and the impact of the *Brown* decision on their lives. May Kathy's legacy for linking law and the arts and for all she did to make the law school a better place—live on in our hearts and souls."

Karen Rothenberg, Marjorie Cook Professor of Law

"I remember Kathy Vaughns for her laughter and generosity, for calling everyone 'Kiddo,' and for loving life in a grand way. She had another side, however, for she was always passionate about justice for those less fortunate. She was fine company and a true friend, and I miss her dearly." *Professor William Reynolds, Jacob A. France Professor of Judicial Process*

"Professor Vaughns was a great professor because she had a passion for immigration law and teaching. She will be missed." *Katherine Lindo 'og (via Facebook)* "Professor Vaughns was a great teacher. She was always encouraging me, inside and outside of the class." Octavia Shulman '09 (via Facebook)