



John H. Williamson

APR 28, 1938 - FEB 22, 2023



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Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Obituary | Page 3 |
| Tribute Wall | Page 5 |
| Media | Page 8 |



John H. Williamson

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Dr. John Hybert Williamson, 84, of Davidson, NC passed away on February 22, 2023. John (Hybert to hometown friends and family) was born in Clarkton, NC, on April 28, 1938 to Mary Elizabeth Ballentine and Robert Bennett Williamson. He attended Clarkton Elementary and High Schools, graduating in 1956. He married Marcia Ann Van Dusen from Lockport, NY on May 11, 1963, who preceded him in death after 46 years of marriage in 2009. After Marcia's death, John moved to The Pines at Davidson, where he lived surrounded by a large circle of friends.

John pursued a rich and honored career in genetics. He attended the North Carolina State College (now NC State University) in the Talent for Service scholarship program. He graduated with honors in 1960 and subsequently earned degrees from Cornell University (M.S. 1963) and the University of Georgia (Ph.D. 1966). After a post-doctoral fellowship at University of California at Riverside, he became a professor in the Biology Department at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada from 1969-1981, where he taught biology, conducted research in genetics, and served as Head of the Department. The opportunity to return home to North Carolina arose and John became the Chair of the Biology Department at Davidson College in 1981 and was the Herman Brown Professor until his retirement in 2000. His hard work and dedication resulted in over 100 publications. He made the world a better place by challenging thousands of students to think critically, see the world of biology with passion, and gain a sound education through hard work and perseverance.

John enjoyed gardening, genealogy, playing bridge (becoming a Life Master), travelling, reading, canning jams and preserves, music and above all, family. He was admired and inspired by all who knew him. In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his siblings Shirley Williamson Wooten, Charles Bennett Williamson and Phillip Henderson Williamson. John is survived by his sisters-in-law Jan Williamson Leppanen and Binky Aikman, children Dhelia (Glen Satten), Robert (Kelly) and Dean Williamson and grandchildren Jessica (Mitch Colston), Gentry, Sadie, Victoria and Iva, as well as many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews.



Obituary

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A celebration of his life will be held March 25, 2023 at Erwin Lodge, 1345 Grey Road Davidson, NC from 1-5 pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the John and Marcia Williamson Endowment at Central Carolina Community Foundation at 1105 Kelly Drive, Sanford, NC 27330 (<https://www.cccc.edu/foundation/give-now> in memory of John Williamson).

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.



Tribute Wall

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Susan Heiland posted:

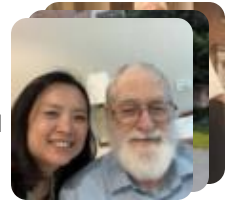
John was so kind to share his wonderful book of family research with a cousin from NY (my mother is on page 151!) I will always be thankful for his years of dedication to connect his kin. On this wintery day I was working on my own notes, thought of him and learned of his passing. I am sure he is rejoicing at a huge family reunion. May his memory be a blessing.

February 20 at 6:12 PM



Irene Tsang shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dr. Williamson is one of the kindest and gentlest person. He was not only a teacher but a friend and a mentor. During my 4 years in Davidson, we befriended each other and he introduced his favorite Chinese restaurant to me, Lotus. He and I would go there periodically for Chinese food and I also met Mrs. Williamson. He was a hard but fair and great teacher. He was the reason why I got into UNC Medical School. He encouraged me to pursue medicine before I had even conceived that idea. He believed in me before I believed in myself. I will always be grateful for Dr. Williamson's guidance and support that helped me realize my dream to become a doctor. I will miss his friendship and sharing Lotus Chinese food with him. Some comments from other Davidson students: "One of my very favorite professors at Davidson -- even though I was an English major! Genius. Excellent teacher. Kind soul. RIP""he was amazingly kind and engaged.""He believed in me before I did. I am forever grateful for his mentorship and friendship.""Told me that I had a lot of work to do if I wanted to get into medical school. I'm eternally grateful for the pushing. RIP.""Very kind to me as a work study student in the bio department office""Genetics genius. Kicked my butt out of the gate freshman year."Will miss you, Dr. Williamson. Irene (Tsang) Chao '91



February 22 at 7:36 AM



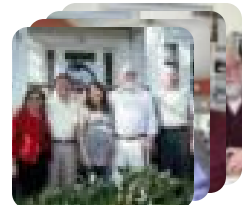
Lynda F. Turbeville posted:

John was my cousin and dear friend. His assistance with researching our family's genealogy is immeasurable. We have shared many good conversations and laughs. I shall miss him forever but John's sweet and gentle spirit will always be with those who loved him...

March 24 at 6:05 AM



Lynda F. Turbeville shared 6 photos to the **John H. Williamson** album.



February 22 at 7:36 AM



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BK

Brenda O Kelley posted:

One of my favorite memories of John is his rose garden. He gave the roses for Kelly's bridal bouquet when she married Rob. It was sweet and you could see the pride on his face and Kelly's joy!

March 21 at 1:03 PM

JP

Jeffrey Davis Page posted:

I was introduced to John via an email from one of his friends. My mother is a Williamson from Columbus County, NC and thus we are distant cousins. John asked my wife and I to visit him at Davidson. We made several trips there and John was one of the kindest and most thoughtful person's I have met. He shared much information on the Williamson and associated families. I am grateful to have known him. Such a wonderful person. Jeffrey Davis Page and Diane Todd

March 16 at 2:43 AM

DW

Debra Wooten posted:

I remember one day I had asked Uncle Hybert about cloning me because my boss at Burger King wanted 2 of me. Well, his response was it is more trouble than it's worth. And remember the gift of a shirt with the met-fly that he was experimenting on while he was in Calgary Canada. And heard stories of the Chuck Wagon Races.

March 7 at 2:02 PM

ED

E.B. And Sarah Dyer posted:

Please accept our sincere sympathy for the passing of John. He and Marcia were great friends and we miss both of them. John was instrumental in our choosing to live at the Pines in Davidson. He will be missed by so many friends here.E.B. and Sarah Dyer

March 5 at 5:28 AM



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Karen Bullock sent a virtual gift in honor of John.



I am so sorry to learn of John's passing. The Williamson and the Bullock families became friends shortly after my family moved to Davidson and we have shared in many good times and memories together for almost 40 years. After my own father's passing in 2011, John helped fill the gap in my life and was a father figure to me in many ways offering words of wisdom, help, guidance, care, concern, fatherly advice and friendship. I can't help but imagine the wonderful reunion John just encountered with Marcia after so many years apart. I can also envision Marcia smiling with coffee mug in hand simply saying to him in her energetic voice "Tell me about it!!" as they reunited and caught up on life's events. To the Williamson family, know that I share in your grief and loss and that I extend my deepest sympathies. I would like to offer these words below that a friend shared with me at the passing of my father which have provided peace, strength and courage to our family. Know that John Williamson has enriched my life and will not be forgotten. I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death. They continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in our memories. We find comfort in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love. Leo Buscaglia Karen Bullock

February 22 at 7:36 AM



Media

John H. Williamson
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Irene Tsang shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 24 at 8:01 PM

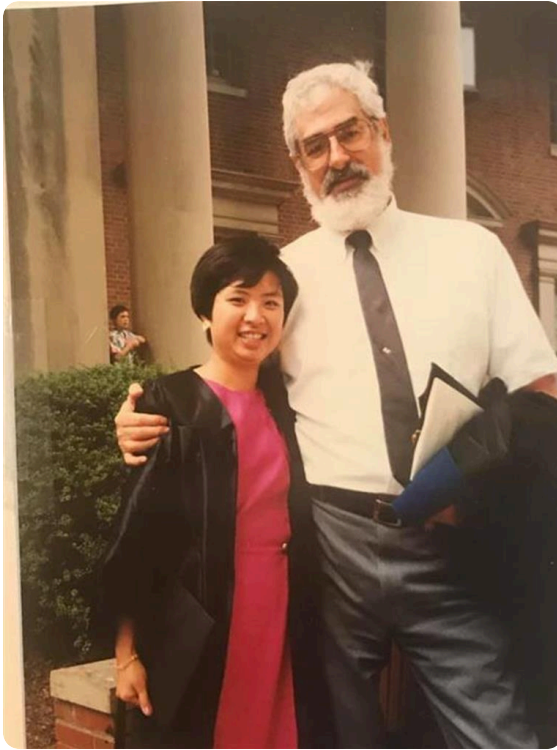


2021 The Pines

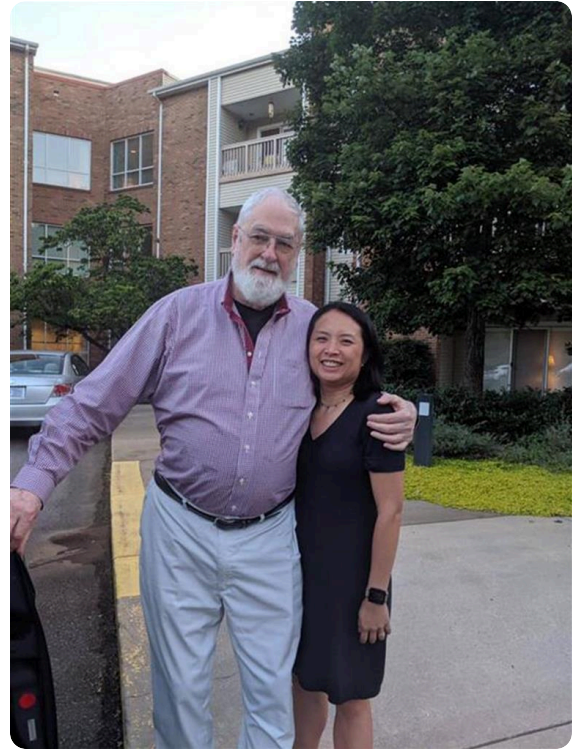


Media

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1991 Davidson College Graduation



2019 Visiting Dr. Williamson at The Pines



Lynda F. Turbeville shared 6 photos to the **John H. Williamson** album.

March 24 at 5:04 AM



Bob Williamson; Betty Williamson Branch; and John H. Williamson. SENC GS Meeting. 7-9-2011.



Cousins Lynda F. Turbeville & John H. Williamson, SENC GS Meeting, 7-9-2011.



John H. Williamson, Cousins Luncheon, Southport, N.C. 10-7-2011.



Cousins Luncheon, Southport, N.C. 10-7-2011.



Media

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Lynda Turbeville & John H. Williamson & Dr. Emily C. Hare. Davidson, N.C. 5-14-2021.



Birthday Luncheon for John H. Williamson, Davidson, N.C. 4-28-2013.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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