

# IN MEMORIAM

William A. Brown

Gretchen Walsh

## WILLIAM A. BROWN

William Allen Brown, PhD, age 73, passed away at home on Tuesday, August 28, 2007. William was born on January 29, 1934 in Beauford, North Carolina, where he attended DeWitt Clinton High School prior to joining the Air Force. On leaving the Air Force, he enrolled in Kentucky State University, where he majored in History, Government, French Language and Literature; graduating with highest distinction as valedictorian in 1959. He was then awarded a Fulbright grant to attend the Université de Sorbonne in Paris, where he again led his class.

Upon completing his studies in France, he entered the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study African history and Islamic studies. At Wisconsin, he was awarded a number of fellowships, including: a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship in Arabic, and a Foreign Area Fellowship for Africa. He conducted research in Mali from 1965-66 for his doctoral dissertation, "The Caliphate of Humdullahi, ca. 1818-64: A Study in African History and Tradition," which he submitted to Wisconsin in 1969 and remains the authoritative study of the area.

Professor Brown started his teaching career at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria and subsequently held positions at Yale University, Harvard University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, from which he retired as Emeritus Professor in 2006. He received

research grants from the Ford Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, The American Council of Learned Societies, The American Philosophical Society, and he published "Toward a Chronology for the Caliphate of Hamdullah," *Cahiers D' etudes Africanines*; "A New Bio-bibliographical Aid; 'The Izalat Al-Rayb' of Muhammad Boul Araf" and "Nasiwal Asudan: A Guide to Legal History in Mali," both in the Research bulletin Center of Arabic Documentation, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; and *Great Rulers of the African Past*. Professor Brown also organized the first conference on Black Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1967 that resulted in the publication of S. Henderson and M. Cook (eds.), *The Militant Black Writer in the U.S. and Africa*.

William Brown is preceded in death by parents, Mildred and William Brown, a nephew, Stacy Mumford, and his youngest sister, Mildred Denise Brown. He is survived by two sisters, Patricia Lessner and Marsha Brown; two nephews, Mark and Myles; two nieces, April and Robin; four grand nephews, Shabar, Mark Jr., Amir and Jaden; two great nieces, Jaquel and Shanel; and his brother-in-law Fred Philpot Jr.

Submitted by Thomas Spear, U of Wisconsin-Madison, September 10, 2007.

## GRETCHEN WALSH

Gretchen Walsh, thirty year Head Librarian of Boston University's African Studies Library, died of an aortic aneurysm 10 June 2007 while camping along the Green River in Utah on a rafting trip. She was 65 years old. Since 1995 she had experienced a profound love of the Western outdoors, and joyfully traveled

there often, fully intending to relocate from Quincy, Massachusetts upon her anticipated retirement to live in the West with her husband Dan.

Robert Hudson, Director of Boston University's Mugar Memorial Library, where she built