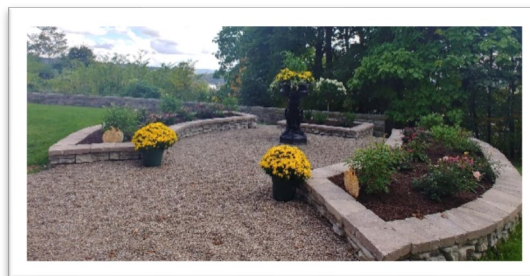


Greetings! I had the unique experience of having Dr. Gloria Payne as my mother and mentor throughout my life, and my professor and guidance counselor during my time at D&E. I was truly blessed.

I'm so proud of my mother and the impact she had on her students; an impact that continued well past their graduation date. How tirelessly she would work not just on campus but late nights at home. She always put students' needs ahead of her own. Daily I witnessed her joy and excitement when a student accomplished a goal, passed a test or graduated.



Dr. Gloria Marquette Payne Memorial Garden

Her honest appreciation and love for her students amazed me. I always would think, "Where does she get all this energy and determination?" Having her example in front of me 24/7 was an inspiration and a motivating factor for my successes in life. As I look back on my time with her at home and school, I can honestly say my mother impressed me. She set a standard I am challenged with every day to try and follow in my life.

The Dr. Gloria Marquette Payne Memorial Garden was dedicated on October 3, 2021, what a wonderful tribute to my mother. Our goal now it to keep Gloria's garden growing and continue her legacy at Davis & Elkins College. Just as she gave all she could to all of you, the College and I are hopeful you will assist in the ongoing maintenance of this beautiful tribute to my mother with your support. If you prefer to make a gift in her memory to student scholarships or another fund of your choice, that would be appreciated as well.

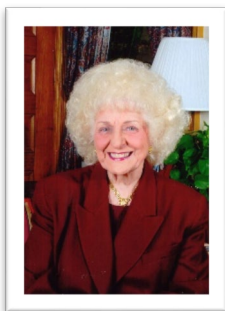
Again, I want to tell all of my mother's students how much she loved her time with each one of you and I promise she is watching over all of us as our lives continue to grow just as her flowers are in her garden.

Thank you,



Debbie Payne Fragale '81

P.S. Please read some special memories of my mother from some of her students.



Dr. Gloria Payne will always be remembered as a teacher who saw the gifts each of her students possessed and helped them realize the potential those gifts offered. Her legacy lives on through her family and her students who were forever impacted by her wisdom, support and guidance over the 70-plus years she devoted to Davis & Elkins College. Dr. Payne's 100th birthday is December 23 and while she is no longer with us, we celebrate this gracious lady who meant so much to all whose lives she touched. Below are some personal reflections from her students, we hope this brings a little bit of Dr. Payne to each of you as we celebrate her life.

Dr. Gloria Payne was my aunt, my second mother, my professor and advisor. She was my mentor and boss and most of all, my best friend. When I graduated high school in 1976, I was "Done with school" until Dr. Payne talked me into attending D&E for "just one year" for a secretarial certificate! Well, one year led to two

years and an associate degree in fashion merchandising and then four years for a Bachelor of Science degree in fashion merchandising. I worked for her in the department where she amazed us all with her enthusiasm and creativity, making learning fun and exciting. We had guest speakers and traveled to New York City, had fashion shows, banquets and endless fun all in the name of learning! Dr. Payne was the Master of Education! She loved her students and we loved her! Here's to celebrating the 100 years of Dr. Gloria Payne and her beloved Davis & Elkins College!

Jaime S. Cupp '82

My favorite memory of Dr. Payne and one that I always remember when I am speaking in front of a group is when I had to introduce my father when he was our Commencement speaker. The president at the time called me to his office to ask if I would make the introduction and I casually said, yes. I figured I would just "wing it," but Dr. Payne found out from someone that I was making the introduction and me "winging it" was not an option. She called me to her classroom and told me we were going to write the introduction and practice lots – and we did. I can't remember how many times we met, but it was numerous and I would stand in front of her classroom and she would move around the room giving me pointers. To this day, when I am in front of people leading a meeting or announcing something, I think of Dr. Payne and it's been 36 years.

Marcella McDonnell Stevens '85

First and foremost, let me say Happy Birthday to Dr. Gloria Payne on her 100th birthday. I want to tell her how much I love her and how much she meant to me and my family. I have so many great memories of this special woman. My very first day at Davis & Elkins College I didn't know anyone except Coach McFarland, head men's basketball coach. In my welcome package was a note from my advisor, Dr. Payne. It was a handwritten note asking me to meet in her office the next day. I was nervous but I showed up and walked through her door that was always open. The first thought in my mind was, "What the heck is with her hair?" At first, I thought it was a wig because it was so perfectly done, but it was all hers. She made me feel so special in that first minute, she told me she always had a soft-spot for basketball players because her husband, Carl, was a superstar basketball player in Elkins and with D&E. She told me she would take special care of me in my four years, and she did. She introduced me to her beautiful daughter, Debbie, and we became like brother and sister, they always made me feel like family. She was my "College Mom" as I used to call her.

Randy Hill '78