December In memoriam

Dr. William Pennington (Professor Emeritus), of Cleveland, on November 29.

Melissa S. Childress (Friend), of New Albany, of Leland on October 26.

William L. Cox, ‘51, of Las Vegas, NV, on October 26.

Lillie Flickner Whitchner, ’39, of Tuscola, IL, on Nov 28.

Thelma McKnight (attended), of Biloxi, on October 25.

Robert Dan Overly,’72, of Jackson, Mississippi passed away on October 18, 2010. He graduated from Northern Ohio University with degrees in biology and art in 1967.. In 1970, he came to Greenwood, Mississippi where he served as a special assistant to the superintendent of schools, coordinating the arts. Dan earned his master's degree from Delta State University in Art Administration. He also had a studio where he painted, sculpted, and dabbled in stained glass. In 1972, at the request of Gov. Bill Waller, Dan formed the Mississippi Crafts Guild and served as the Executive Director for 15 years. He was appointed by the Carter administration to serve on the crafts panel for the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C. Dan was the founder of the Schools of Craft and Design at Millsaps College in Jackson. He retired from the Guild in 1987 due to health issues. In 1996, First Lady Pat Fordice presented him the Governor's Award for Art Partnership. Dan was also an avid gardener who combined his biology background with his artistic talent. His garden, on 25 acres off Old Agency road, was featured in a 1994 book, "Secret Gardens Revealed by Their Owners" by Rosemary Verey, an adviser to the British Royal Family. After 27 years building the secret garden, Dan was forced to leave his home and gardens for a city apartment complex. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Barbara. He is survived by his brother-in-law, Kent Kimmel; his niece, Heather Kimmel (husband, David) of Atlanta; and their two children.
Overly