

Maurice Stroud worked at the Valdosta State College Library from 1973-1976, for almost 4 years. She was Maurice Richardson at that time, and she was the first African American woman to do staff-level professional library work. She was employed in the cataloging department, working with individual book records to make our library's books findable. She and her family are very proud of her groundbreaking time here at VSU. Valdosta State was lucky to have such an employee so devoted to education. The family remembers her, her impact, her work at VSU, and her strength as a woman of her time.

My grandmother's name was Maurice Stroud.

She was born in 1944 in southern Georgia. My grandmother was a very proud and loving woman. My fondest memories of her were simple occasions. She could make the most mundane tasks seem so elegant. She had the softest voice and was a stickler for perfect grammar. My grandmother passed away when I was young, so I do not have many memories of her, yet, there are things that I do everyday that remind me of her. She taught me how to tie my shoes, how to sit up straight, and I do have somewhat of a shopping addiction that I do warrant her being responsible for as she would never be caught not fully put together. My family said that my grandmother really enjoyed teaching kids how to properly research. She was big on education and loves working with the students to inform them how to conduct research for topics in school. She also enjoyed how VSU was ahead of their times in integration and would marvel at all kids being able to get proper education together.

My grandmother did everything for everyone and was so giving. She would give you the clothes off of her back (minus her church hat). During a time period when Black women had to fight to be seen and heard, she would command a room without saying a word. She made every person she came across seem like the most important person in the world no matter what brief moment she spent with you. She was a velvet hammer and I miss her everyday.

