

## **R.L. Graves Jr.**

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design mourns the loss of one of its founding faculty members. For nearly 40 years his teaching and community service inspired his fellow faculty and students. A great instructor and beloved mentor, R.L. Graves Jr. was a leader whose presence will be greatly missed.

Courtesy of the Tribune, San Luis Obispo, CA:

R.L. Graves Jr., 83, of San Luis Obispo passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 11, 2006.

R.L. was born on May 12, 1923, in Baltimore, Md., to R.L. Graves Sr. and Ruby Graves. At age 17, R.L. enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Construction Battalion (Seabee's) during World War II in the South Pacific.

R.L. then attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he met and married his wife, Dorothy, and received his Bachelor of Architecture degree. He continued his education earning a Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills, MI, where he studied under Eliel Saarinen. R.L. taught in the architecture departments at Washington State University in Pullman; Auburn University in Auburn, AL; and the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was also in private practice in Kansas City, MO.

Dorothy and R.L. moved to San Luis Obispo in 1951, and he became one of the original instructors at the Cal Poly School of Architecture; he taught there from 1951 to 1990. During those early years, R.L. served as the National President and Historian of Scarab National Honorary Architectural Fraternity.

In 1961, R.L. was elected to the San Luis Obispo City Council where he served for four years. During this time on the council he was instrumental in initiating the Downtown Tree Program, which provided the city with the trees that currently exist throughout the downtown core. Also, he garnered early planning and community support for the closure of Monterey Street in front of the Mission, leading to the creation of the Mission Plaza.

R.L. enjoyed his Colorado mountain cabin and nearby trout fishing. He was an avid golfer and also participated in the San Luis Mardi Gras celebrations; he was one of the original krewe members. He was also active in the local Retired Active Men's (RAMS) Club.

R.L. was preceded in death by his son Clay and brother Bill. He is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons, Kirk and his wife Susan and Jon Graves, all of San Luis Obispo; daughter Susan Carlson and husband Dana of Seattle; 12 grandchildren, Tarrah and Jon D. of San Luis Obispo, and the Carlson children, Sarah, Esther, Joseph, Johan, Anna, Mary, Lisa, Laurel, Edith and Derek of Seattle. R.L. will be greatly missed by all who knew him; he was admired for his intelligence, kindness and sense of humor.

A Memorial Celebration of his life will be held on **Saturday, September 16, 2006, from 2 to 4 p.m.** at the Madonna Inn Garden Room.

In lieu of flowers, the family has established a student scholarship in R.L.'s honor. Those wishing to join the family in contributing to this fund may do so by sending donations to the "R.L. Graves Jr. Architecture Scholarship Endowment," c/o The College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Cal Poly, One Grand Avenue, Bldg. 5, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0280.

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