

Biography

Doctor Hobart Sidney Jarrett, a survivor of the infamous Tulsa race riot, departed this life on May 8, 2005 after an extended illness.

After a distinguished career as a Professor of English at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (CUNY) he was named Professor Emeritus. Serving faithfully 1961 to 1986 at Brooklyn College, he was the first African American to achieve top rank in the department. During his tenure at Brooklyn College, this Shakespeare and humanities scholar received presidential medals from three presidents and a special citation with monetary award from CUNY for excellence in teaching. Dr. Jarrett chaired the Equal Educational Opportunity Committee that doubled the number of minority students (to 400) in one year prior to "open admissions."

Dr. Jarrett served as professor and Chair of Humanities Division at Bennett College from 1949-1961. Always a teacher and an activist, one Bennett College graduate declared that "Professor and Mrs. Jarrett were surrogate parents to many students and role models to countless others. Young couples eyed their style and sought to emulate them." Dr. Jarrett was ombudsman for student demonstrators and chief negotiator for opening the eating facilities that the Sit-ins had won in Greensboro, North Carolina. While in Greensboro, he was a member and later president of the Greensboro Citizens Association, a black community political organization dedicated to addressing civil and human rights issues.

Professor Jarrett's teaching experience began at Langston University where he served as instructor, associate professor and later chair of Modern Languages Department and Dean of Personnel (1937-1949).

Hobart S. Jarrett was always a serious scholar. He received a four-year scholarship at Wiley College; a Rockefeller Award from the General Education Board for study at Harvard University and a Humanities Fellow Award at Syracuse University where he earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Humanities.

In fraternal circles Hobart S. Jarrett made impressive contributions. He served as Sire Archon of Alpha Sigma Boule, Grapter of the Northeast Region and Book Review editor of *The Boule Journal*. Unquestionably, his last accomplishment as Historian of Volume II, *The History of Sigma Pi Phi* has been his "labor of love." Active in Alpha Phi Alpha for more than 70 years, he served as President of Gamma Iota Lambda Chapter, Brooklyn-Long Island and was voted **Alpha Man of the Year** at the National Convention in 1978. He received the **Alpha Award of Merit** at the 1994 National Convention. Dr. Jarrett was also an active member of the Comus Club of Brooklyn and 100 Black Men of New York City.

Hobart and Glad Jarrett were avid travelers who moved about often and easily throughout most European countries, the United States and Canada, Asia, the Caribbean, Africa, Australia and the South Pacific. They were married for 65 happy years after having their vows read by The Reverend George Shippen Stark of Siloam Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, New York.