

# Jim R. Cothran, FASLA, adjunct professor, and author passes away



January 31, 2012



## College of Environment + Design UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

James Cothran, Vice President, Robert & Co., and adjunct professor at the UGA College of Environment and Design (CED) passed away after a brief battle with lung cancer on Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. A much-respected landscape architect, horticulturalist and historic gardens preservationist, Jim will be greatly missed by the faculty, staff and student body of the UGA CED. Please click the “for more information” button below to read more about Jim’s life and how you can honor his memory.

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“Jim was serving currently on the dean’s advisory council here at the College of Environment and Design and had just finished teaching his popular class in Southern Garden History this past fall semester. His passing has been a shock to all of us and we will be recognizing in depth his contributions to the disciplines of landscape architecture and garden history in the coming weeks,” said CED Dean Dan Nadenicek on Monday, January 30.

The funeral service was held at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Jim’s memory to the [UGA Foundation: Founders Memorial Garden Endowment](#).\*

In addition to serving on the dean’s council and teaching, Jim Cothran was the author of three books and numerous articles. His books include *Gardens of Historic Charleston* (1995) and *Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South* (2003). His book, *Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs*, was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2010.

Jim graduated with a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from UGA in 1968, and was awarded the CED Alumni Association's Medal of Honor in 2006. He held a Bachelor of Ornamental Horticulture degree from Clemson University, as well as a Master of City Planning degree from Georgia Tech. With over thirty years' experience in all aspects of urban and regional planning, landscape architecture, site planning and historic preservation for clients throughout the Southeast, Jim was both a design professional and a scholar.

Jim served as a Member of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, the Atlanta Tree Preservation Review Board, the Atlanta Tree Commission and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. He was a board member of the Cherokee Garden Library and the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation at the time of his death. Recently, he served as President of the Southern Garden History Society. Jim was also a founding member of Trees Atlanta and a member of its Board of Directors since its inception in 1980.

In addition, Jim was instrumental in establishing the Garden Club of Georgia's Historic House and Garden Pilgrimage/Grant Program, which has awarded over 40 grants for various landscape preservation projects since 1996. He was serving as the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) liaison for the Georgia Chapter ASLA and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Jim served as Vice President of the Planning and Landscape Architecture Division of Robert and Company, an architectural, engineering and planning firm in Atlanta, since 1981. Other teaching duties included serving as a professional instructor in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Landscape Design Study Program since 1970.

A native of South Carolina, Jim is survived by his wife, Lynn, their daughter Caroline, and her family. Read the family-placed obituary in the Atlanta Journal Constitution [HERE](#).

The College will be hosting a Dusk Memorial & Reception in Jim's honor in the Founders Memorial Garden on February 17, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Stephanie Crockatt using the form below.

\*If you wish to **mail** your donation please **make checks out to UGAF** and send it to:

UGAF: Founders Memorial Garden Endowment  
c/o Stephanie Crockatt  
603 Caldwell Hall  
College of Environment & Design  
The University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-1845