

# IMPORTANT NAMES IN THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS AT HOOD COLLEGE

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Hood College, founded in 1893, has grown substantially over the past 120 years. Specifically, Hood College's mathematics department has slowly evolved into its own subject and major here at the college. Over the years, there have been awards and honors created in honor of people who had great influences on the math department at Hood College. Some were created by alumni who, after receiving a degree from Hood, give back to the community. But there are also people who have influenced Hood in other ways, such as trust funds and even by visiting the college. These people have recognition labeled throughout the Hodson Science and Technology Center.



Figure 1: Grace N. Brown

Grace Brown was a student who graduated from Hood College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics in 1927. After receiving her degree

she worked for Hood College's Registrar Office from 1930 to 1967. She has a mathematical award named after her for students showing great insight interest, and achievement during the introductory calculus courses.



Figure 2: Julia Carhart

Julia Holzapfel Carhart was born in Hagerstown on July 19, 1910. She began attending Hood College at the age of 16 years old. She graduated with a degree in mathematics in 1930, at the age of 19, being the youngest math major to receive a degree ever. After graduating from Hood College, she went to Columbia University to achieve a Master's Degree in Library Science. After graduating with a masters, she drove the first motorized Bookmobile around Washington County. Julia Carhart met her husband,

Homer W. Carhart, at the University of Maryland. After having 2 children, she traveled with Homer Carhart until her death in the summer of 2009, where she and her husband were getting ready to celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary. Both she and her husband were advocates in education, and because of Julia Carhart, Homer Carhart became interested in Hood College, and giving back to the Hood community. Homer Carhart created the award named after Julia Carhart, given to juniors majoring in or displaying a strong interest in mathematics.



Figure 3: Leah Allen

Leah Allen was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1884. She studied at Brown University and then received a job opportunity to study astronomy out in Mount Hamilton, California at Lick Observatory in 1908. She then earned her M.A. from Wellesley College in 1912. Her mother and her sister were advocates for women's suffrage. Leah Allen was inspired to join the action after reading a speech that her sister wrote, called "Why Women Should Be Given the Vote." After that she joined her family as a big advocate for women's rights, and played a role in earning women the right to vote in Rhode Island, but was already working at Hood College when it was passed. But she was able to witness the national achievement in 1920. Leah Allen also loved mathematics and the unknown universe of astronomy. She began teaching astronomy at Hood College in 1928, and retired from teaching at Hood in 1955, after about 28 years.

Lillian Olive Brown was born in 1868. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dickinson College in 1908. Then she moved on to graduate work at Columbia University. Lillian Brown began teaching at Hood, and after 45 years, retired from being the Head of the Math, Physics, and Astronomy Department. In the year 1958, an award was given to a freshman math student for having the highest record of achievement in the introductory courses. But this award only lasted 30 years. In 1988 the final award was given named after Lillian Olive Brown.

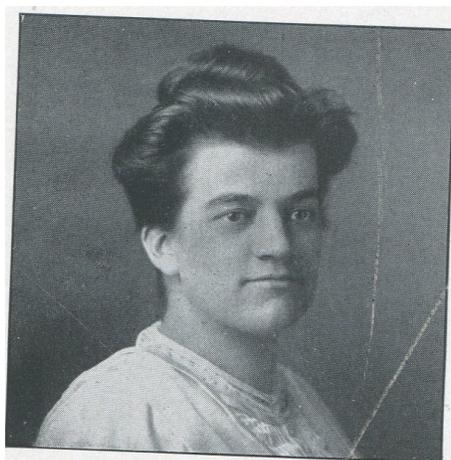


Figure 4: Lillian Olive Brown

Lillian Brown, or Lillian Brown Hodson, was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Lillian Brown graduated from Agnes Scott College and Mt. Vernon Seminary. Lillian Brown became involved with Hood College after becoming Colonel Clarence Hodson's second wife in 1901. Colonel Hodson settled the Hodson Trust in 1920, after Colonel Hodson had already been the director of more than 40 banks, trust and mortgage companies, insurance companies, and public utilities. The couple became very interested in Hood College after they visited the college on a trip through Maryland in the 1920s. But in 1928, Colonel Hodson died, and Lillian Hodson carried



Figure 5: Lillian Brown

on the relationship with Hood College along with her step daughter, Lelia Hodson Hynson. Lillian Hodson was appointed to the Hood College Board of Trustees in 1955, where she served on it until her death in 1963. The original Hodson Science Center was constructed in 1957 and was named in her honor. The Hodson Trust has given more than \$33 million to Hood College since 1936.

Grace Murray Hopper was born on December 9, 1906 in New York, New York. Hopper had interests in mathematics, and pursued it at Vassar College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa at the age of 22. From there she attended Yale University, where she received an MA degree in mathematics



Figure 6: Grace Murray Hopper

and physics in 1930 and received a Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale University in 1934. Since Hopper grew up in a family with much history being involved with the military, she joined the Navy Waves (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) in 1943. From here she worked under Howard H. Aiken at Harvard's Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project. Here she inspired the term "computer bug" when she found a moth causing a malfunction in one of the computers. This is not how the term received its name, but it is a convenient play on words. But Hopper continued to create a name for herself as she helped develop the Flow-matic, the first programming language to use English words. Because of her achievements in the computer science field, she was the first winner of the Data Processing Management

Association's Man of the year award in 1969. By the end of Hopper's career, she was given the rank of rear admiral when she retired for the third time in 1986. Grace Hopper received an Honorary Doctorate of Science degree from Hood College in 1984. She also gave a commencement speech at Hood College in 1984. During her time at Hood College, she carried around with her wires that represented "nanoseconds", which she would constantly show to people during her lectures. After she finally retired for the third time in 1986. She died on January 1, 1992 in Arlington, Virginia.

Hood College has been able to build the foundation of its mathematics department through its students and faculty. The Hodson Trust Fund has been able to give students more opportunity with its scholarships, and new and updated facilities. There are also many influences and inspirations from people such as Grace Hopper and Julia Carhart, and Lillian O. Brown, who were able to teach students through lectures as well as speeches. These people have made a difference in the lives of people linked to the mathematics department of Hood College.

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