



**From Chanda Prescod Weinstein:**

"For me, Beth was the one who kept things real and kept them light-hearted, even when I was stressed out. I remember being really wound up about something, and she somehow managed to get me to laugh it off. But to me Beth was more than the extraordinary woman we all knew. She was a beacon of hope and a vision of the future. As another Black woman doing theoretical work on gravity, I expected to follow in her footsteps as a researcher, mentor and advocate for our community. Now I look at the winding road ahead and realize what a task was before her and the kind of bravery required to smile at it so persistently. I can only hope to do the same, with her as my reminder that it is always possible."



**From Caroline Cox:** (Beth in 4m blank)  
 "We (University of Michigan astro grad students) had a tradition of taking pictures of people sitting in the 4-meter blank the first time they observed at MDM, but Beth was the only one who looked good sitting there."



*Dr. Beth Brown* 1969-2008

**From Jarita Holbrook:**

"Everyone remembers Beth's smile! She was always genuinely happy to see you and would not even consider hiding her pleasure. It hit you like the big hug that was to follow."

"I had the pleasure of long conversations with Beth as she was mapping her career moves. She felt a loyalty to Historically Black Universities, yet knew that majority institutions needed to have a solid minority presence. NASA gave her the job of her dreams in order to keep her: it was the balance that she sought of contributing to society through both astronomy research and outreach to underserved communities. May we all be so lucky as to be offered the job of our dreams."



**From Keivan Stassun:**

"Beth liked to say that words have power and these words in particular—"For to whom much is given, much is required"—which she recited often to me, were among her favorites. Beth believed that her life had been richly blessed—with family and friends, with vocation and calling, with opportunity after opportunity—and she believed that these blessings in turn compelled her to give back to the communities to which she belonged. Beth will be missed."

**From Patricia Knezek:**

"What I thought was Beth's most outstanding quality was that she was Beth. That probably sounds strange, but as someone who has lived where I stood out like a sore thumb, I know it is all too easy to be not so much a person as a persona. While we overlapped in Michigan, and later whenever we met up again, she was Beth. She was never "Beth, the first African American woman who obtained a PhD in astronomy at Michigan," or "Dr. Beth Brown, Trailblazer." Even though that was all part of her and her path, it never defined her. Her smile, her genuine interest in people, her love of science, her deep spirituality, her commitment to helping others achieve their goals, that was what defined Beth."

