

Music

Laraine Brown

Submitted by Nathan Kreitzer

Mrs. Brown joined my vocal techniques course this semester at the age of 94, never having sung in front of an audience before. In her introduction to the class she told a bit of her life story which included being a Freedom Rider in the 50's and how she was beaten, hosed, and jailed for her activism. She is a cancer survivor, and even became homeless as a result of medical bills. She routinely is asked to speak in Washington DC as an advocate for homeless and women's rights. She has done extremely well in the class, and has become someone the students admire and look up to. I asked her to be the opening speaker at my Faculty Lecture on Friday and to say she 'hit it out of the park' is an understatement. Her opening words should be required viewing for all our students. She is a testament to overcoming obstacles and personal will in the face of adversity. She represents all this college stands for.