Melvin Boozer, Ph.D., came to College from Washington, D.C. After majoring in Sociology, Mel spent three years in Brazil with the Peace Corps before completing graduate studies at Oberlin College and Yale University. He earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from Yale. Mel subsequently served as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland and as public information officer for the D.C. Association for Retarded Citizens. At the 1980 Democratic Convention, Mel gave a moving address on the effects of discrimination when his name was placed in nomination for vice resident. He was a national leader of groups seeking to guarantee the civil rights of blacks and homosexuals, having served as Washington director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and on the 1984 steering committee for Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign. In February Washington Mayor Marion Barry and members of the City Council honored Mel for his many contributions to his native city. Those of us who knew Mel at Dartmouth admired his quiet dignity. Those who followed his political career could only respect the integrity and eloquence with which he spoke. As a freshman Mel often talked of the meaning to him of "Vox Clamantis in Deserto." He went on to develop a voice that will not be easily forgotten. Mel died in Washington D.C. March 3, 1987 of acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Reference: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mel_Boozer>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/03/11/obituaries/melvin-boozer.html>