

## RUTH COOKE



*Each and every female student-athlete at Louisburg College owes a debt of gratitude to Ruth Cooke — one of the pioneers in women's athletics at the school. Cooke arrived on the LC campus in 1949 and remained there until her retirement in 1988. She initially served as the Women's Athletic Director and also coached the women's basketball team. Cooke was also in charge of LC's annual May Day festivities, in addition to teaching Health and Physical Education courses, including softball, basketball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, pool, square dancing and fitness. She was a chairperson for the LC Health and Physical Education Department.*

*Ms. Cooke recalls that her years of coaching were very rewarding, and she still remembers the young ladies who played under her. She indicated that most of them were excellent students and campus leaders.*

*After graduating from Aulander High School in Bertie County in 1943, Cooke attended and received a Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Following two years as a physical education teacher at a high school in Lexington, Va., Cooke accepted a position at Louisburg College.*

*While she was teaching young people, Cooke also continued her own education process, taking part in a summer session at the University of Colorado in 1954 before earning a Master's Degree from Columbia University in 1958.*

*"I am honored to be one of the inductees into the Louisburg College Sports Hall of Fame," Cooke said. "I am grateful to those who thought me worthy of this honor.*

*"Since I retired 22 years ago, I have often said "When I was teaching, as I left for school each morning, I never felt I was going to work, I was going to do what I loved."*

*Ms. Cooke still resides in Louisburg. The Ruth Cooke Gardens are located in front of the main entrance to Holton Gymnasium on LC campus. The picturesque garden area, which was a gift to the college from Cooke's family in 2007, features a fountain and various plants, including rose bushes.*