

LOUISBURG COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HIGHLY ESTEEMED FACULTY EMERITUS PASSES AWAY

Louisburg, NC — The College is sad to report that Mr. Arnold (Al) Wright, highly esteemed Louisburg College faculty emeritus, passed away on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at the age of 79.

Al was born in the small town of Weaverville, NC, in 1932. At the age of 16, he lost his sight in an accident. He finished high school at the North Carolina State School for the Blind in Raleigh, and then went on to attend UNC-Chapel Hill, where he majored in sociology.



Al Wright, 1967

His first job was as a caseworker with the NC State Commission for the Blind. He worked there for over two years before deciding to return to UNC to complete his master's degree in English. In 1967, after teaching English part-time at UNC for two years, Al applied for a full-time position at Louisburg, where he taught English until his retirement in 1997. In 1995, Al was the dual recipient of the *Naomi Dickens Shaw Award for Faculty Teaching Excellence* and the *Chaplain's Service Award*. He continued to teach at the College part-time until the spring of 2000.

Robert Strickland, the College's night librarian and webmaster, was assigned to assist and read to Al in the early 1980's through the College's Work Study Program. The two became good friends, and Robert was with him when he passed away. "Al was the most remarkable person I've ever known," shares Robert. "His erudition, wisdom, and good-heartedness could not fail to leave an impact on anyone who encountered him. That he was able to accomplish his achievements in the face of obstacles most of us can't even imagine should be an inspiration for all of us."

Memorial and funeral service arrangements are unknown at this time, but we will post them when they become available.

Related by faith to The United Methodist Church, Louisburg College is committed to offering a supportive community in which young men and women mature intellectually, culturally, socially, and spiritually. As a two-year residential institution, we provide a bridge for students to make a successful transition from high school to senior colleges and universities.

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