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University community loses three longtime professors

Furman was shaken this winter by the deaths of three professors who had combined to serve the university for more than 90 years.

Roy E. Lindahl (1932-2002), professor emeritus of classical languages, died February 3. Holder of a doctorate from Tulane University, he taught at Furman from 1968 to 1995. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister, a member of the Greenville Chorale and the Westminster Presbyterian Church choir, and an active community volunteer.

Richard R. Maag (1934-2002), professor of music since 1964, died February 26. He held a Ph.D. from the University of Texas and had

served as principal cellist in the Greenville, Colorado Springs, Austin and San Antonio symphonies. A member of the South Carolina Music Educators Hall of Fame, he introduced Suzuki Talent Education to South Carolina.

*William E. Leverette, Jr. (1925-2002), professor emeritus of history, died March 11. He earned a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University and taught at Furman from 1960 until 1988, focusing on U.S. intellectual history and the study of science and nature in the American experience. After he retired he published a novel, *Shooting the Limit*.*

Roy E. Lindahl

Roy Lindahl may have officially retired from Furman in 1995 after 27 years as a professor of classical languages, but even after his departure from full-time teaching, he remained active in the life of the university.

Until his sudden death in February, Roy spent many hours sharing his passion for classical studies as an instructor in the Furman University Learning in Retirement (FULIR) program, part of Furman's Division of Continuing Education. He offered courses in Greek drama, the dialogues of Plato, and Greek art and architecture, and was planning to offer a full year of Latin in an upcoming session.

Roy was also a major force in another Furman initiative, Bridges to a Brighter Future, an academic enrichment program for outstanding Greenville County high school students from families with financial need. He participated in the recruitment and interview process for the Bridges program's summer counselors, helped plan worship services and accompanied the group on field trips. He also was the founding benefactor for "Chrysalis," a program for eighth-grade girls and academic mentors that serves as a preliminary step to the Bridges program.

Judith Babb Chandler '66, director of Bridges to a Brighter Future, says, "I think Roy's family recognized his love for the program in their choice of Bridges as a beneficiary of gifts in his memory. The program was enriched by his presence, and we are grateful that we could bring so much joy into his life."

The children and counselors in the program knew Roy as "Mr. Preacher Man." Says Chandler, "What was especially wonderful about his relationship with Bridges was that the kids loved him for who he was. They probably had no idea that he was a scholar and master teacher. They just knew that he loved them, encouraged them and supported them in every way he could. They didn't know that he was a classics professor, and they really didn't care what his 'work' was. They just knew that he was one of the people in their lives who could be counted on to accept them as they are and support them in their dreams."

The Bridges students might have been surprised to learn that "Mr. Preacher Man" did hold a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Tulane. A native of Owosso, Mich., he taught everything from beginning Greek to advanced Latin and Byzantine civilization, and from 1973-78 served as chair of the classical studies department.

Roy also had a special interest in archaeology. After spending several summers studying and working at archaeological sites in Greece and Israel, he created a popular course in Greek archaeology.

He was active in the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, an organization of university, college, secondary and elementary teachers of Latin, Greek and all other studies which focus on the world of classical antiquity. He served the group as secretary-treasurer from 1981-90, and he had served as CAMWS state vice president from 1971-81. In 1990 the organization awarded him an *ovatio* for his contributions. For 16 years he served as a trustee of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics honor society, and advised the Beta Beta chapter at Furman.

Roy was a dedicated volunteer for a variety of programs in the Greenville community and was a leading presence in his church, Westminster Presbyterian, where in addition to singing in the choir and serving as assistant pastor he wrote frequent and often controversial columns for the church bulletin that drew as much on his classical training as his deep faith. J. Stephen Freeman '77, a Greek student of Roy's, once commented that to Roy, "faith and knowledge seemed easy companions."

He is survived by a daughter, two sons, a sister and six grandchildren.

— Anne Leen

Professor and Chair of Classics

Memorials: Bridges to a Brighter Future Program at Furman, 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or Westminster Presbyterian Church Library, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville, S.C. 29605.

Richard R. Maag

The following is excerpted from remarks delivered March 4 during a memorial service at Furman.

I had the pleasure of knowing Dick Maag for nearly 26 years, and what I admired most in him was his honesty. Whether critiquing a performance, assessing a student's talent or offering his opinion of the latest political topic, Dick was candid and to the point. Yet at the same time he framed his opinions in such a way that he never smothered opposing ideas. That's why you could talk endlessly with him — about anything.

I'll never forget once when the two of us were wrapped in conversation while sharing a ride to a performance in Anderson, just down I-85. After

what seemed to be only a short time, we realized our driving had taken a backseat to our dialogue. We had missed the Anderson exit and were crossing Lake Hartwell into Georgia. Time could stand still when you were with Dick.

One quality that really drew people to Dick was his honesty about himself. How many of us have the courage to admit our faults and weaknesses the way he did? Because he was so honest about himself, it revealed a humanity that made us believe he accepted all of our faults and weaknesses.

Dick was a master teacher, in large part because he was mindful of all the nuances that influence a student's education. While most of us in the department concentrate on teaching students to play the right notes at the right time, Dick was more interested in knowing *how* we