



Dr. Forrest Conklin

April 3, 2011

Dr. Forrest Conklin, age 83, of Farragut, passed away on Sunday, April 3, 2011, with his family by his side. He was a member of West Hills Baptist Church of Knoxville. Preceded in death by his parents: Royal Forrest and Monte Lee Sneed Conklin, sister: Monte Joyce Middleton, father-in-law and mother-in-law: Lester and Gladys Bowman. Dr. Conklin was ordained as a minister on September 7, 1947 at the First Baptist Church of Monahans, TX, he received his Bachelor of arts at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, TX, Master of Arts- in Speech for the Baylor University on August 17, 1950, Doctor of Philosophy from the Ohio University on August 26, 1967. He served the Junior Chamber of Commerce as Secretary- Treasurer for Tennessee in 1962. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy Air Corps. from 1945-1947. He obtained his Eagle Scout and inducted into the Order of the Arrow. Dr. Conklin was active in genealogy, traced and certified by East Tennessee Historical Society as a member of the "First Families of Tennessee. Dr. Conklin served as a instructor for the Clarke Memorial College from 1950-1954, Carson Newman College, Asst. professor & Intercollegiate Debate Coach, from 1954-1968, (Note: Coach, 1965 National Collegiate Debate Champions), University of Northern Iowa, Director of Forensics, 1968-1978; Asso. Professor, 1968-1974; Professor, 1974-1997. At which time Dr. Conklin retired in 1997. Dr. Conklin enjoyed growing orchids. He also volunteered at the East Tennessee Historical Society form 2000-2009. Survivors include wife of 52 years: Phyllis Bowman Conklin, of Farragut, son: Chris Conklin, of

Cedar Falls, IA, sister: Doris McCain, of Oxnard, CA. Countless nieces, nephews, students, and special friends. The family will receive friends on Thursday April 7, 2011 at Kyker Funeral Home, Sweetwater, from 4:00P.M. until 7:00P.M. Funeral services will be conducted on Friday afternoon at 1:00P.M. in Kyker's Chapel with Rev. Jack Pennington officiating. Interment to follow in the Sweetwater Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Tribute Wall

RH

“ *These are very late condolences because I missed reading the UNI newsletter until now. "Dr. Conklin," as I will always remember my relationship with him as my thesis advisor, dramatically influenced my life. I studied organizational communication but it was Forrest's influence (as I heard about his work with John Deere and others) that led me to explore and begin a long career as a communication consultant. He will be missed and he and the family are in my prayers.*

Ruth Hunt - November 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Dear Phyllis and Chris,
Seeing Forrest's picture in the Waterloo Courier so startled me. My memories immediately flew back to those years at UNI when Forrest so graciously 'lent' his parliamentary expertise not only to faculty governance but to me, personally, when I wrestled with nuances in preparation for various other organizational challenges. The Conklins as a family were also a wonderful memory for me. It was my good fortune to know you all.*

Judy Harrington - April 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VS

“Dedicated To Forest Conklin, Ph.D by Vapordeal Sanders, Ph.D

Dr. Forest Conklin used the expression “when I am long gone”. It has only been a few days since he has been gone from this earth and already I am moved to journal this note.

When I was first assigned to Forest Conklin in advisor-advisee relationship he was unhesitant in building a relationship that conveyed caring, clarity and command-performance. Dr. Conklin was known as a mature white southerner that still carried some proportion of his accent and was fairly demanding of students. I was known as a young black northerner (although born in the south to some people’s surprise) who was rough around the edges and capable of being academically smoothed to success.

Dr. Conklin’s caring was conveyed in requiring that I check-in regularly and let him know how I was doing in my higher-academics. I never missed a check-in and he checked-in on me during and outside of the regularly scheduled times. I was invited to be a member of the Forensic Team’s Individual Events. He made the extra effort to convey that he cared about my well-being and with great clarity.

Dr. Conklin’s clarity was preceded with phrases such as “now let me explain”, “wait a minute let me make sure I understand,” “so you’re telling me”, “okay, I’m depending on you!” He made sure we were on the same page when speech communicating about my higher-academics and expected a command performance.

Dr. Conklin simply believed that with a well-planned higher academic approach my success was guaranteed. I was required to plan my total four years of completing my bachelors degree at the very beginning of our advisor-advisee relationship.

If I planned to take a course and it was not offered that semester I would simply shuffle around my options to a workable and acceptable approach to us. This was really strategic planning that

delivered a command performance. The command performance result is that I completed my Bachelors Degree in three years, magna cum laude.

I will miss him and will hold on to the motivation that came from his soul and spirit to me. I did not know that he had minister credentials at the early part of his career. I added minister certificates at the mid-point of my career. I am glad that I followed Dr. Conklin's leadership influence in various areas.

Vapordeal Sanders - April 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FM

“ *Phyllis & Chris*

I am sorry to hear about Forrest We spent many hours together driving to scouting activities. Forrest would monitor many discussions with the Scouts. After Forrest moved to the Knoxville area we brought some Arrowmen down to a National Conference and Forrest spent the afternoon with us. Forrest touched the lives of many of us, I will always cherish knowing Forest.

Forrest God bless you

Francis McElroy

Francis McElroy - April 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *I was also familiar with Forrest from my days of Scouting and the Order of the Arrow. My deepest condolences for the family. He will be missed by many.*

Chad Hagarty - April 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FC

“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I will be praying for you and your family.*

Frank "Jr" Camp - April 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Forrest was quite special as a coach and mentor--even to members of other squads. We had many conversations when I debated and later assisted at Iowa. Forrest was a friend who will be missed.

Stephen Koch - April 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ I worked with Forrest as my position of Order of The Arrow, lodge advisor with the Winnebago Council, Waterloo, Iowa. The boys Scouts in the Order respected and like him very much. He was missed when he moved from Cedar Falls. I pray his last days were in comfort. Thanks Forrest for all you time and work with the youth.

Robert Hagarty - April 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Chris, I'm sorry to hear about your Dad. I will be praying for you and your family!

Scott Behrends - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Chris, I'm very sorry to have heard about your father. Like Scott, I'll be praying for your family!

Ben Arnold - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Forrest's passing. He left a great legacy in the UNI Communication Studies Department. And, he always had the capacity to surprise: the sharp debater had a soft side in his deep interest in growing beautiful orchids. He will be deeply missed.

Christopher Martin - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Always had great discussions when Forrest was up visiting Chris in Cedar Falls. My thoughts and prayers to all who knew and loved Forrest Conklin.

Eric Lukens - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ So sorry to hear of my good friend and mentor's passing. Forrest was a fine influence on many of us as his students and debaters. He even talked me into serving as a disk jockey (debateable) on the campus radio station WCNC. Because of his influence, I had the opportunity to travel to every county in the State of Tennessee with his friend Bill Farris of Memphis, who was making a run for Governor in 1961. After he and Phyllis retired to Knoxville, I enjoyed serving on the sound committee @ West Hills Baptist with Forrest serving as chairman. We shall to continue to keep Chris and Phyllis in our thoughts and payers.

Eb & Libby Willson - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am very sorry to hear of Forrest's passing. He was someone I enjoyed meeting after coming to UNI. His stories of coaching days are ones I will not forget.

John Fritch - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Phyllis and Chris,
I wish I had words to express all that passed through my mind when I read that Forrest had passed. As you know, he was a huge help to me that winter when I broke my leg, carrying me to and from UNI three days a week, in ice and snow, and always making sure I made it up to the second floor of my duplex before leaving me for the evening. My own parents couldn't have taken better care of me. You both are in my thoughts and prayers, and Forrest, well, he has a special place in my heart. He always will.
much love,
Karen*

Karen Mitchell - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Phyllis and Chris,
I am so sorry to hear of Forrest's passing. I so enjoyed him at UNI. Although he loved a good debate, there was indeed a softer side to him and I loved it when he would let it slip. A great smile! He will be missed and well remembered!
Marilyn*

Marilyn Shaw - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *I've been at Eastern Tennessee State University the past week and thinking I was in the home territory of Forrest and Phyllis, then I read my email last night. I'll always remember Forrest's wit and those sparkling blue eyes. My thoughts are with you, Phyllis and Chris.
Melissa*

Melissa Beall - April 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM