

Obituary

David A. Breil

Dr. David A. Breil, Professor of Biology at Longwood College, passed away suddenly on March 3, 1997. He was doing what he liked to do on that day, he was teaching his morning class at the college. A memorial service was held at Farmville United Methodist Church on March 6, which was attended by students, colleagues from the Natural Sciences Department and throughout the college, and many friends. Dave is survived by his wife, Phyllis S. Breil, and six children.

Dave was born in Massachusetts, received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Massachusetts, and earned his Ph.D. in Botany from Florida State University. He had been on the Longwood faculty since 1968, serving as advisor to many biology majors over the years, Delegate to the Longwood Council, Chairman of the Landscape Planning Committee, and President of the Longwood/Hampden-Sydney Sigma Xi Club. He was a member of the American Bryological and Lichenological Association, the Virginia Academy of Science, the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, and Sigma Xi. He taught in the Environmental Science graduate program at Longwood, he taught at Mountain Lake Biological Station, and he directed wildflower walks at Wintergreen on occasion. He is cited in a popular botany text for his research on mosses used as nest building materials by native birds in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. He most recently published "Liverworts and hornworts of the Virginia Piedmont" in *Banisteria* (1996, number 8).

Dave was a member of the Virginia Natural History Society, with a gift membership. I gave him the gift or rather Hampden-Sydney did, as a thank you because he came to my botany class last spring to teach our students about mosses and liverworts. Dave had made this trip of seven miles to my college from Longwood in Farmville every other year for the past eight. It was on these days that I too learned more about these small plants and watched my students be inspired to go collecting and identifying the bryophytes introduced to them by Dave. I am grateful for his talents as a teacher, his scholarship, and his friendship. I will remember him every time I teach about the cellular detail of sphagnum and the "leaf" arrangements of mosses and liverworts.

Anne Lund
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