

# Ferguson, former president of Grinnell College, dead at 60

Pamela A. Ferguson, the 11th president of Grinnell College and more recently a professor in the school's mathematics and computer science department, died early Saturday morning, April 24, in Des Moines after a long battle with cancer and other related health problems.

She was 60 years old.

Funeral services for Pamela Ferguson will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28, at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, located at 511 Des Moines St. in Des Moines.

A visitation will be held at Dunn's Funeral Home at 2121 Grand Ave. in Des Moines on Tuesday, April 27, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Ferguson was appointed president of Grinnell College in 1991 and served in that capacity until 1997. After stepping down from the presidency, she continued to teach. In 2003, she was appointed the Bried-McFarland professor of Science.

"Pam Ferguson was a great academic leader, a person of strong convictions, a confident funny colleague, a fine teacher, a wonderful daughter, wife, mother and grandmother, and to many, a friend," said Russell K. Osgood, president of Grinnell College.

## Ferguson —

*continued from page 1*

"She came to Grinnell as president and her leadership and wisdom changed the campus and the college for the better. We have all admired her tenacity and spirit as she contended with and we believe triumphed over the physical problems of late. We will miss her, and remember her, and in due time honor her greatly. Our thoughts are with her family and particularly her beloved husband, Roger."

Born in Berwyn, Ill., she lived in Indianapolis, Chicago and Miami before moving to Iowa.

Ferguson earned her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1965 and her M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Chicago in 1969. From 1970 to 1991, she was a professor of mathematics, associate provost of the University of Miami and Dean of the University of Miami Graduate School.

In 1991, she succeeded George Drake as the president of Grinnell College, the institution's first woman president.

During her tenure as president of the college, Ferguson presided over an \$89 million capital campaign which made possible three major building projects. The first was the renovation of Goodnow Hall, the oldest building on campus, during the college's sesquicentennial year. The second was the initial phase of the Robert N. Noyce Science Center, which was completed in 1997. The third, the \$22 million construction and renovation of the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts, was completed in 1999.

She also oversaw the school's sesquicentennial celebration, which drew together Grinnellians, on and off campus, as well as community members, in a recognition of the college's heritage and history.

She was a member of the Capitol Hill Lutheran Church, the National Science Board (1997-2004), the University of Chicago Division of Physical Sciences Visiting Committee and Phi Beta Kappa. She published over 40 articles and traveled extensively, reaching all seven continents and even standing at the South Pole.

She is survived by her husband, D. Roger Ferguson of Des Moines; her daughter, Amanda Wilson of Atlanta, Ga.; her son, Keith Anderson Ferguson of San Diego, Calif.; her parents, Clarence and Ruth Anderson of Carmel, Ind.; a sister, Kathleen Anderson Hull of Monrovia, Ind.; a grandson; and the balance of her extended family.

Memorials may be sent to Capitol Hill Lutheran Church Outreach Ministries care of the church at 511 Des Moines St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

HR  
APRIL 26, 2004

FERGUSON



Pamela Ferguson