

CSCA - In Memoriam

CSCA Past President Wilmer A. Linkugel 1929 - 2012

Memorial services for Dr. Wil Linkugel, 83, Lawrence, KS, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence, KS. Burial will follow at Pioneer Cemetery. He died on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at his home.

Wil was born on January 12, 1929 in Bremen, KS the son of Otto and Louise (Knabe) Linkugel.

He received his B.A. in 1953 and M.A. in 1954 from the University of Nebraska, and his Ph.D. in 1960 from the University of Wisconsin.

He taught for four years in a one-room country schoolhouse, two years from 1954-1956 at North Platte High School, in North Platte, NE, and then for 42 years he was a member of the faculty at the University of Kansas, from 1956 to 1999. While at Kansas he directed the KU debate program, directed the public speaking program, Chaired the Department of Speech and Drama from 1966 to 1970, and again from 1975 to 1981.

Dr. Linkugel served as President of the Central States Communication Association in 1969-70; and in 2004, along with Ernest Bormann, Linkugel was an inaugural inductee of the CSCA Hall of Fame.

Longtime KU colleague and friend Donn W. Parson said of Wil, "Students of his seminars remember a gentle soul, a quick wit, and a story teller. He was always a friend to students, even as an administrator, and a leading scholar in American public address. He developed some of the first courses in the nation in the rhetoric of black America and the rhetoric of women's rights. His knowledge of baseball was encyclopedic, as anyone who tried to stump him found out. On Tuesday, May 15 at 2 pm take a few moments out to remember Wil Linkugel and some experiences you had with him during his 42 years as a Jayhawk. The Communication Studies Department has lost one of its giants."