

Memorial to Wallace C. Fallaw

1936–1995

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Wally Fallaw was born in Durham, North Carolina, on April 15, 1936. He died at his home in Greenville, South Carolina, on March 17, 1995, seven months after a sudden diagnosis of lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sallie, and two sons, Ben and James.

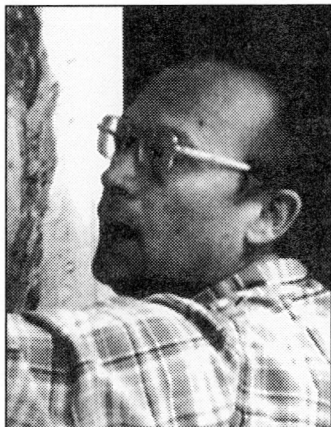
As a Phi Beta Kappa student at Duke University, Fallaw began his research career in 1957 as Duncan Heron's undergraduate field assistant, studying the Late Cretaceous Coastal Plain section of North Carolina. After earning his B.S. in geology in 1958, Fallaw attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where his M.S. and Ph.D. research was directed by Walt Wheeler. At Chapel Hill, Fallaw was a National Science Foundation Fellow in geology, and he received his Ph.D. in 1965.

From 1965 until 1970, Fallaw was a development and exploration geologist with Chevron Oil Company in Lafayette, Louisiana. He was well known as an oil finder, and was justifiably proud of his career as a petroleum geologist. Proof of his reputation was the fact that after he had left the company, he was hired as a consultant by Chevron for summer work to do pioneer research on new Pliocene and Pleistocene stratigraphic plays offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, far beyond the known productive limits of Miocene oil and gas.

In 1970, Fallaw joined the Department of Geology at Furman University, where he was employed until 1995. He was chairman of the department from 1975 until 1982, but what he loved most was teaching and research. In recognition of his outstanding teaching career, Furman University honored him posthumously with the Furman University Meritorious Teaching Award.

Working as part-time visiting professor of geology at Clemson University from 1991 until 1995, Fallaw, together with Sally Benson and Dave Snipes, helped develop and teach the Clemson University Hydrogeology Field Camp. In addition, he taught a graduate course in advanced stratigraphy at Clemson, and until his death was the principal investigator on a substantial South Carolina Universities Research and Education contract, as well as co-investigator on another project. Clemson University graduate students and faculty continue to utilize the results of the research work of Fallaw and Van Price on the stratigraphy of the Savannah River site and elsewhere in the updip Coastal Plain.

Despite his illness, Fallaw taught and worked on research projects until shortly before his death. His friends and colleagues from Duke, Chapel Hill, Furman, Clemson, and five professional societies will sorely miss him. Most of all, his family and students will miss him.



These lines from Chaucer's prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, written in 1380, about a scholar from Oxford, have been quoted countless times, but no one is more deserving of this great poet's tribute to a professor than Fallaw:

A Clerk there was of Oxenford also,
That unto logyk hadde he longe ygo



Of studie took he moost cure and moost heede.
Nought o word spak he more than was neede,
And that was seyde in forme and reverence,
And short and quyk and ful of hy sentence;
Sownynge in moral vertu was his speche,
And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche.

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Acknowledgments

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