

In Memoriam

Wallace Denton, Ph.D.



Dr. Wallace Denton, 88, passed away Saturday, December 24, 2016. Wallace was the founding director of the marriage and family doctoral program at [Purdue University](#) and served as head of what is now the department of Human Development and Family Studies. He trained many PhD students who went on to become faculty at other universities and assume other positions of leadership. His professional contributions to the profession of family therapy were recognized with multiple awards and honors. He was the author of six books with three being book club selections. After 30 years at Purdue he eventually retired to Athens, GA. In 2011 he published his memoirs, *The Long, Long Winding Road*. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Juanita Holt Denton; son Wayne (Pam) Denton; daughter, Susan (Jim Beall) Staley; grandchildren, Owen, Sam, Amanda and Aaron; great-grandchildren, Sydney, Fred, Emma and Noah. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 14 at 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens. Donations in memoriam can be made at Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, P.O. Box 48857, Athens, GA 30604. Online condolences may be offered at www.bernsteinfuneralhome.com.

Bernstein Funeral Home and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

“I can’t overemphasize Wallace Denton’s contributions to the field of family therapy. At Purdue, he helped create a culture of both caring and achievement that was contagious. A family tree of Wallace’s mentees would be impressive indeed. His influence came largely from his generosity of spirit. He saw the best in us and made each of us feel special. What a gift Wallace Denton was to the field and all those who knew him.”

- Fred Piercy, Former Colleague

“Wallace Denton was more than just a fine professional colleague. He was a role model for a life well lived. All of us, I believe, live our lives in a tension between a false self dominated by a striving ego and craving whatever our culture encourages us to grasp; as well as a true self, rooted in values like "relationships matter," being centered, tapping into inner wisdom, and radiating love and compassion. Wallace's life was a striking example of someone whose true self was highly developed. When I, his other colleagues, students., and clients were in his presence, we felt uplifted; our own true selves were drawn more to the foreground and our false selves retreated. As I myself have aged and hopefully grown much wiser, I thank Wallace for exemplifying what really matters. The footprints of his journey have left indelible impressions in the minds and hearts of more people than Wallace would have ever known--since he had little craving for recognition or credit. I thank you, Wallace, for being both a remarkable sage and a guide.”

- Doug Sprenkle, Former Colleague

- See more at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/jconline/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=183480352#sthash.iVSB29b8.dpuf>