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### **GWU Community Remembers Former Professor's Enthusiasm for Teaching Scripture**

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# GWU Community Remembers Former Professor's Enthusiasm for Teaching Scripture


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Office of University  
Communications

November 8, 2018

*Dr. R. Logan Carson, 86, Passes Away Nov. 3, 2018, in Wake Forest, N.C.*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb University community is remembering the life of a former professor of religion. Dr. R. Logan Carson, 86, who taught at GWU from 1973 to 1994, passed away Nov. 3, 2018, in Wake Forest, N.C. He taught Old Testament studies and was the University's first African-American professor. In 1994, he became the first full-time African-American professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, where he taught until 2009.



Dr. R. Logan Carson, who was a professor of religion at Gardner-Webb University from 1973 to 1994, passed away Nov. 3, 2018. (Photo courtesy of SEBTS)

Dr. Robert Lamb, professor and dean emeritus of GWU School of Divinity, remembered Carson's boisterous personality and sense of humor. Blind from birth, Carson wasn't hindered by his handicap. "He insisted on being the secretary in our department meetings," Lamb offered. "He would get out his stylus and thick paper and you could hear him clicking away. He could keep marvelous braille records as fast as the meeting went."

At one point, Lamb's office was next to Carson's. "With his booming voice, I could hear everything he said," Lamb reflected. "He was a good teacher and would mispronounce biblical names so his students would remember. He was over the top in everything and helped his students to think and look at things differently—like a good teacher does."

Dr. Alice Cullinan, professor emerita of religion, who taught at Gardner-Webb from 1974 to 2004, said Carson's students loved his enthusiasm for the scripture. "He would get so excited when he taught, sometimes he would just spin around in circles," she described. "Students would often ask me if he could really see, since nothing in the classroom escaped his notice, even when they tried to sneak into class late or to read a newspaper. He was concerned that students do their best while *being* their best."



During his time at SEBTS, Carson also served as pastor of Green-Bethel Baptist Church in Boiling Springs, N.C. His other ministry positions included pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church in Wake Forest, N.C.; associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Jeffersontown, Ky.; pastor of Webb First Baptist Church in Ellenboro, N.C.; and pastor of Christ Community Baptist Church in Gastonia, N.C.

Carson was born in McDowell County in July 1932 and suffered from blindness at birth due to malformed retinas. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Bible and social science from Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., in 1957. In 1960, he received his Bachelor of Divinity from Hartford Seminary Foundation in Connecticut. In 1980, Carson received his Doctor of Philosophy from Drew University in Madison, N.J. He maintained a 4.0 grade point average during his doctoral studies, while also being rewarded with multiple fellowships. At SEBTS, Carson was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2003 and was honored with the title of emeritus professor of Christian theology.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Nov. 11, at 5 p.m. at Olive Branch Baptist Church. Visitation will be from 3 to 5 p.m. The funeral will be held Monday, Nov. 12, at 1 p.m. at Southeastern's Binkley Chapel. Interment will follow the service in the SEBTS cemetery.

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