



Keith Spalding

Keith Spalding, 87, President Emeritus of Franklin & Marshall College (F&M) died May 28 at Willow Valley Retirement Community in Willow Street, PA, after a relatively brief illness. Mr. Spalding served as the eleventh president of F&M from 1963 to 1983. During his tenure, the College's student body doubled; the size of the campus tripled; and the institution's endowment grew four-fold. Under Mr. Spalding's leadership the College entered into various inter-institutional agreements that resulted in the creation of the Central Pennsylvania Consortium. He also presided over the advent in 1969 of coeducation at F&M. Mr. Spalding was a firm believer in the value of a broad-based education. He lamented the trend toward highly specialized fields of study. In his view, the kind of liberal arts graduates Franklin & Marshall produced were better prepared for life outside

college walls.

Current Franklin & Marshall President John Fry lauded President Spalding for his many contributions to the college.

"Franklin & Marshall is the institution it is today because of the visionary leadership and the hard work of President Keith Spalding," Fry said. "Through his efforts, Franklin & Marshall grew from a fine regional school into a nationally respected liberal arts college. It is a privilege to serve the institution he built."

President Emeritus Richard Kneedler, an alumnus of the Class of 1965 who led the college from 1988 through 2002, served under Spalding in a variety of roles in the 1970's and 1980's. "He was a serious man, a very bright man, a private man," Kneedler said. "But he almost always had a twinkle in his eye."

Prior to assuming the F&M presidency Mr. Spalding was Secretary of the University at Johns Hopkins University (1959-1963), where he was the assistant to President Milton Eisenhower, under whom he also served at Penn State University. Spalding was a Marine Corps fighter pilot in the Pacific during World War II, after which he joined the staff of the New York Herald Tribune as an editorial assistant and rose to the position of Assistant News Editor of the Tribune's news service.

A native of Kansas, Mr. Spalding graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in psychology (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1942. He completed graduate work at the University of Wichita and at the University of Iowa in both journalism and political science. Highly regarded as a leader in American higher education, Mr. Spalding received honorary doctoral degrees from nine colleges and universities. He was active in the world of higher education associations as well, serving on the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education, the American Association of Higher Education, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and chairing the Board of the Association of American Colleges. Mr. Spalding was also a panel/committee member at the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities, and the Pennsylvania State Board of Higher Education. His service to the Lancaster community included terms on numerous boards, among them the Board of Directors of Lancaster General Hospital, the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, the YWCA of Lancaster, and the Urban League of Lancaster.

A life-long avid outdoorsman, Mr. Spalding was married to the former Dorothy (Dot) Lint (deceased 1984) with whom he had five children, Drew, Kathleen, Eric, Clay and Sarah. He is survived by four of his children and five grandchildren. A memorial service will be held October 2, 2008, (At a time to be announced), at Franklin & Marshall College. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Mr. Spalding's memory consider making a donation to the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, 223 N. Lime St., Lancaster, PA 17602 or to Hospice of Lancaster County, 685 Good Dr., P.O. Box 4125, Lancaster, PA, 17604-4125. Fred F. Groff Inc.

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