

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Luther College Recognizes Allan & Barbara Christiansen and Roland Miller

November 16, 2017 – Three worthy people were honored with a Distinguished Service Award at Luther College’s annual Founders’ Day celebrations on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at Luther College High School. Dr. Roland Miller received the distinction for his leadership and dedication to Luther College at the University of Regina and Barbara and the late Allan Christiansen were recognized for their leadership and dedication to Luther College High School.

Roland Miller

In his seventeen years at Luther College at the University of Regina, Rev. Dr. Roland Miller helped strengthen the College academically, establish a robust affiliation with the University of Regina (UofR), and build a foundation for Luther’s relationship with the Muslim community of Saskatchewan. Luther grew as a centre for academic creativity and leadership on campus as a result of Roland’s vision and initiative. Together with Father Isidore Gorski, he initiated and developed the Religious Studies program for the (UofR) and its federated colleges, established a summer centre for international languages, and was instrumental in the founding of the Luther Lecture.

Dr. Miller built bridges between the UofR and its federated Colleges, helped increase the size of Luther’s faculty and student body, and created global awareness among students through his personal experiences in different countries. He was known by so many students as a wonderful academic counsellor and friend in difficult times. Miller also formed close and respectful relationships with the Muslim community in Regina through his research in Islamic Studies and his work between Muslim communities and between those communities and the UofR. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Miller, Luther found its place as an important and well-respected federated College at the University of Regina and friend of the Muslim community, two relationships that remain strong today.

Barbara and the late Allan Christiansen

For over 30 years, Allan and Barbara Christiansen served the students of Luther College. They were both beloved members of the faculty and staff, admired by students and colleagues alike.

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In 1964, Allan began his career at Luther as the Dean of Men, and a teacher of English and Christian Ethics. Newly married, Barbara lived in the dorm as well, caring for many students away from home for the first time and those who had come from overseas. Allan went on to become the Director of Student Services and Vice-Principal before becoming Principal from 1991 to 1994. As chapel speaker, trusted guidance counsellor and hockey coach, "Pastor C", as he was affectionately known, touched the lives of thousands of students. A pastor by nature, the name by which he was known could not have been a more appropriate description of the role he played in the lives of so many people. Allan retired in 1995 and passed away in July 1998.

Barbara served Luther College as treasurer from 1985 to 1998. Her office door was always open and welcoming. She mentored some of the younger faculty in money management, a favour that many remember well. She supported students by attending extra-curricular activities and kept in touch with many after graduation. Pastor and Mrs. C were especially supportive of the international students – at that time, mostly from Hong Kong.

Pastor and Mrs. C were the heart of Luther College for decades where they developed relationships and connections to thousands of students, many of those relationships continuing to this day.

Founders' Day

Each year, Luther College hosts a Founders' Day event to recognize the contributions of its valued donors, past and present, who have participated in the establishment and growth of the College. This year, Luther College honoured 21 new members into the Founders' Society, for various lifetime giving levels ranging from \$10,000 to \$1,000,000. There are now 230 families, individuals and organizations who are members in the Founders' Society.

"Luther College would not exist without the donations to our High School and University campuses", says President Bryan Hillis. "Our donors support our academic initiatives, help us upgrade our facilities, fund scholarships and more importantly, give of their time and service to meet the needs of our students. They are all a big part of our 'quality education in a Christian context'."

Donations are accepted in person, at 306-787-7399 or online at www.luthercollege.edu.

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