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## Former FSU dean of students leaves far-reaching legacy

Jan 3, 2017

## Elaine Blaisdell



Alice R. Manicur



FROSTBURG — Alice Manicur, who worked 47 years at Frostburg State University and was the school's first dean of students, died Monday, and those who knew her best said her legacy reaches far beyond the local community.

"What I would like people to know is how well known she was and how highly regarded she was throughout the country. It was the impact she had on the student affairs profession," said Tom Bowling, vice president for student affairs, who worked alongside Manicur for 30 years.

Since Manicur's death, Bowling said he's received emails from all over the country from people talking about her legacy.

Manicur was hired in 1960 after earning a doctorate in higher education administration from Indiana University and became Frostburg's vice president for Student and Educational Services, according to a statement issued by FSU President Ron Nowaczyk on the university's Facebook page.

Bowling said what he admired about Manicur most was her discipline, focus, work ethic and her "unquestionable integrity."

"Humble, understated, decisive, straightforward and principled" were some of the words that Colleen Peterson, the university's former vice president for advancement and alumni programs used to describe her.

"She was understated and humble in death as she was in life," said Peterson, who worked with Manicur for more than 20 years. "She was the most knowledgeable person and most experienced woman I have ever known. She was a great support, mentor and real true friend."

Manicur retired as dean of students in 2007 and was granted administrator emerita status.

"She didn't use a lot of words but you knew exactly what she meant," said Peterson. "She was the most decisive administrator I have ever met."

In her personal life, Manicur was a world traveler, visiting every continent. Bowling said one of his fondest memories of her was hearing about her travels and, in particular, a trip she took to Antarctica.

"She was the only individual I know that had been to all seven continents. She took delight in traveling and sharing her stories about traveling," he said.

"She was grateful and joyous. She lived a full life and had few material things. Things didn't mean much to her unless they were indicative of where she had been," said Peterson. "Character was important to Alice."

Manicur had a host of honors and recognitions. In 2000, the multi-use room in the Lane University Center was named in her honor. In 2012, she was inducted to the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

She also served on the university's board of trustees.

She was the first female president of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and was honored by that organization with the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a dean, the Pillar of the Profession Award, the John L. Blackburn Distinguished Pillar Award and the annual conference for women aspiring for leadership in student affairs was named after her as the Alice Manicur Symposium.

Per Manicur's wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral. She will be interred in Temple Hill Memorial Park, Castlewood, Virginia.

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