

Memorial to be held for prof

Dr. Davenport dies at the age of 71 at daughter's home

By ADRIENNE BALLARE
The Battalion

Memorial services for Texas A&M philosophy and humanities professor Dr. Manuel Mason Davenport, who died Aug. 31 in his daughter's Houston home at the age of 71, will be Sunday at All Faiths Chapel on campus.

"A&M has lost a great professor," said Dr. Charles Self, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Students will particularly feel the loss. The people who took his class will miss him the greatest."

Born in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1929, Davenport served in the Army until he was honorably discharged in 1952.

Davenport received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Southern Nazarene University in 1950, a master's degree in philosophy and religion from Colorado College in 1954 and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Illinois in 1957.

"Manuel was a very fine person and had a keen intellect," Self said. "He was very good at helping people see the truth in matter. He was the voice of reason."

Davenport started his tenure at A&M in 1967 when he founded the Philosophy and Humanities Department and served as department head from 1967 to 1976. Davenport was director of the philosophy graduate

program from 1990 to 1994 and was a distinguished visiting professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1980-'81 and 1994-'95.

The faculty, staff and students of the department of philosophy viewed Davenport as an extraordinary teacher.

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Davenport was noted for his expertise in military ethics, the history of philosophy and applied ethics, and he authored numerous articles and essays in these topics.

Honored for his outstanding teaching by the Association of Former Students, Davenport received the University Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in 1978 and

1989. He received the College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Teaching Award in 1982.

Davenport was a member of various University and college committees, was active in his community, belonged to many professional organizations and served as an adviser to student organizations. He was listed in the Directory of American Scholars, International Scholars Director, Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Education. He was also a member of the Student Publications Board from 1983 to 1996.

When it came to the student media, Self said, Davenport was a defender of the First Amendment.

"He understood the need for free expression," he said. "He was opposed to censorship and was an advocate for freedom of speech. He felt that through argument was the only way to combat ignorance."

Some of Davenport's students started a society in his honor — Manuel Mason Davenport Society — last year.

Ed Harris, associate professor of philosophy, said Davenport was a caring individual and was very supportive of his faculty when he was department head.

"He had a good sense of humor and was a very strong person," Harris said. "We will all miss his presence and sense of humor a great deal."

DROUGHT

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isolated thunderstorms, which may bring brief relief to the area. The area needs a long period of sustained moisture to satisfy immediate needs, Wilkerson said. Prolonged, slow rainfall is necessary to permeate the soil.

A misconception is that the cure to the drought problem is a tropical storm. However, when too much water comes down at once, the soil does not have a chance to absorb it, and the rain runs off.

"The soil is bone dry," Wilkerson said. "There are cracks 3 to 4 feet deep because the soil is so dry."

Wilkerson said plants that are currently stressed will go into the winter season extremely stressed.

"If we have a normal or below normal winter, we might end up with additional plant loss," he said.

The drought has had an impact on outdoor recreation in Brazos County.

"Lake Bryan is down 3 feet," said Linda Griffen, Lake Bryan supervisor. "The fishermen aren't out as much."

Although the fishermen are taking a break, residents have continued to cool off in the lake during the evenings, Griffen said. The boat ramps are currently in operation.

As for the surrounding area, Griffen said, the trees are having a difficult time.

"Our crape myrtles are struggling and we are having to irrigate more than before," she said.

Students and residents have reason to set the insect spray aside, at least until the first rainstorm.

"Mosquitoes are having a hard time because they need standing water to survive," said Roger Gold, an entomology professor.

Keep a lookout for rainy weather, however, because with just a little rain, the mosquitoes will swarm back, Gold said. "A little rain will im-

pact the mosquitoes a lot," he said.

Household bugs are extremely prevalent now because of this harsh weather.

"Right now, household insects are bad because they are attempting to move inside where it is cooler and where there is more moisture," Gold said.

Gold recommends that students and residents keep their windows and doors closed or open with a screen that fits securely on the window or door.

"Don't wait until you're overrun with insects," Gold said. "Take care of them as soon as you can."

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