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Marvin Edwin Camburn 1938-2009

Marvin Edwin Camburn 1938-2009: Former Benedictine University dean and professor

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By Joan Giangrassie Kates | Special to the Tribune
January 12, 2009

Marvin Edwin Camburn, who as dean of faculty and instruction at Benedictine University helped more than triple the number of graduate programs, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease Saturday, Jan. 3, at his home in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Dr. Camburn, 70, a former resident of Lisle, also was a popular professor at Benedictine.

"He was a quietly competent and dedicated professor who always put the needs of students first," said former colleague [Ralph Meeker](#), dean of the university's School of Science. "As a college administrator, he possessed a clear vision and guided the university through a period of great change."

Dr. Camburn began his career at Illinois Benedictine College, now Benedictine University, in 1978 after several years of teaching mathematics at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.

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He initially served as the dean of faculty and instruction, during which time he helped establish new graduate programs in several fields, including public health and counseling psychology.

"When Marv first came to the college, we had only one master's degree program in business administration," Meeker said. "He added five new ones, all strong, well-staffed graduate programs that are, in fact, still around today."

During that time, Dr. Camburn earned a master's degree in business administration from Benedictine.

"From the start, he had a tremendous impact on students and faculty alike," said former colleague David Striker, the university registrar. "He had a welcoming spirit and stressed the importance of community at the

college."

In 1988, Dr. Camburn stepped down from his job as dean and became a full-time professor in the MBA program.

"One of the things he did very effectively was relate to his students, most of whom were working adults trying to balance careers with studies," Meeker said.

Born in Stockbridge, Mich., Dr. Camburn earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Albion College. He went on to receive a master's degree in mathematics from the University of [Detroit](#) and a doctorate degree in mathematics from [Michigan State University](#).

Dr. Camburn retired from Benedictine University in 2003 and was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease a year later. In 2005, he moved to [Arizona](#), where he completed more than 20 paintings of Arizona landscapes.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Joyce; two sons, Eric and Stephen; two brothers,

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William and Robert; a sister, Patricia Camburn Behnke; and five grandchildren.

A memorial celebration is planned for June.

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