

In Memoriam



Lowell J. Bethel
March 4, 1937 – January 3, 2009

At the time of his death, Lowell J. Bethel was Emeritus Professor, Science Education, in the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin. He was a member of The University of Texas faculty since 1974, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. While at Texas, he was the recipient of several science and teacher education research grants from the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Education, the US Department of Energy, the Texas Education Agency, and the University Research Institute.

Lowell was a 1991 recipient of the NSTA Distinguished Service to Science Education Award. This award honors NSTA members who, through active leadership and scholarly endeavor over a significant period of time, have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of education in the sciences and science teaching.

Lowell served as a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation for several years. In addition, he also served as Assistant Dean, Office of Field Experiences, in The College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin.

Lowell was co-author of Houghton Mifflin Science Discovery Works, an elementary school science textbook series. He also wrote and developed elementary science lessons for BSCS and the DC Heath Publishing Co.

Lowell's research interests included: teaching science in urban schools, concept development in urban children, the development of attitudes toward science, science in-service education, teacher education, and middle school in-service development.

Lowell was a member of and presented research papers at meetings of the American Education Research Association, School Science and Mathematics Association, National Association for Research in Science Teaching, National Science Teachers Association, the Association for Science Teacher Education, the Texas Science Academy, the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching, and the Southwest Educational Research Association.

During his years in Texas, Lowell served as a consultant to many school systems, publishing companies, education service centers, and educational research laboratories. He was active in the public schools by teaching science demonstration lessons, judging science fairs, and conducting science in-service workshops.

Lowell was educated in the Philadelphia Public Schools. He received both bachelor and master's degrees from Temple University. He earned a second master's degree and his Doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Lowell taught mathematics and science courses including biology, chemistry and physical science at both the elementary and secondary levels in the Philadelphia Public Schools for several years.

Lowell was preceded in death by his parents, Lealia M. Bethel and Jesse M. Bethel. He is survived by wife, Valerie; sister, Nancy; brothers-in-law, Paul, Perry, Walter, and Kevin; sisters-in-law, Corinna, Bennie, and Pat; mothers-in-law, Velma Turner and Mary Milton; nephews, Paul Jr. and

Darryl Wims, and Jeff Milton; nieces, Denise Pretty, Carolyn Ramage and Carolyn Milton; and a host of grand-nieces and nephews, great-great-grand-nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends.

Those wishing to memorialize Lowell may send a donation to the National Kidney Foundation at 4106 Marathon #C, Austin, TX 78756 or www.austin.kidney.org.