



## Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr.

May 6, 1937 - April 12, 2022

Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr. (84) passed away on Tuesday April 12, 2022 at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital.

Art was born May 6, 1937 in Columbia, PA and was the son of the late Arthur Lewis Ford, Sr. and Nellie Logan Ford. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Monte Dale Ford. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Keiser Ford; a sister-in-law, June Ford; three daughters, Penny Nechanicky, spouse of Jeff, Peggy Neiswender, spouse of Daryl, and Jean Gress, spouse of Michael, six grandchildren, Meegan Schuckers, Lauren Sirriannia, spouse of Joey, Ryan Neiswender, spouse of Lauren, Michael Gress, Jr., Aaron Gress, and Samantha Gress.

A graduate of Columbia High School, Art received his B.A. degree from Lebanon Valley College and his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. He taught in the English Department at Heidelberg College in Ohio for four years before returning to LVC in 1965 where he taught in the English Department and served as Dean of International Programs until his retirement in 2001.

Art, his wife, and children, lived in Cambridge England during the 1972-73 year where he was a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge. He and Mary Ellen then lived in Damascus, Syria during the 1984-85 year where he was a Fulbright lecturer and then at the University of Nanjing, China, where he taught, also in the Fulbright program. During the first semester of the 2000-01 year he and Mary Ellen served as directors of LVC's study abroad program in

London, England.

Among Art's publications are three academic books and numerous articles. He also wrote Cinderella and the Seven Dwarfs, the story of LVC's 1952-53 basketball team as it went to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen, the smallest school to advance that far. After his retirement he wrote two novels, Shunned, and The Offer, a fictionalized account of his and his wife's travels and time living abroad.

Art was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Columbia High School and received an Alumnus Citation Award from Lebanon Valley College. He was also made an Honorary Fellow at Cambridge Ruskin University in England. An avid Philadelphia Phillies fan Art enjoyed spending March at the Phillies Spring Training center in Clearwater Florida. He also enjoyed playing softball throughout his life, joining LVC faculty and students in Friday afternoon basketball games, and shooting pool with the Annville Billiards Club. His greatest enjoyment, however, was following the various activities over the years of his children and then his grandchildren.

In accordance with Art's wishes, and because of his beliefs with teaching and education, he has chosen to donate his body to science for the education and benefit of others. A service celebrating his life will be held on Friday, April 15, 2022 at 11AM from Kreamer Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., 618 E. Main Street, Annville. There will be a visitation with the family from 10AM until 11AM at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers send memorial contributions to Lebanon Valley College.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc  
618 E. Main Street  
Annville, PA 17003  
(717) 867-4811

## Celebration of Life

APR 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc  
618 E. Main Street  
Annville, PA 17003  
(717) 867-4811

# Tribute Wall

“ Few people have had a bigger impact on my life--all of it positive-- than Arthur Ford. He is the reason I came with my family to Annville in 1971 to teach at Lebanon Valley College, and he has been my mentor in the English Department for my career here. He and Mary Ellen have been the anchor for the department and indeed for the whole bunch of us who came to the college in the early 70s. Most of us thought of LVC as a mere way station on our ways, no doubt (and we had no doubts then!), to bigger and better things elsewhere. But it was the quiet solidity of Art and Mary Ellen that made us gradually realize that this was a good college at which to spend our careers and a good town in which to put down our roots and raise our families, as they were doing.

Normally one would expect that someone who had married his high school sweetheart and had returned to his alma mater would be a conservative force, part of the old guard, maybe even a stick in the mud. Not so Art or Mary Ellen. When word processors, i.e., typewriters connected to a computer--imagine that!, came along, it was Art who pushed me to set aside whacking at my manual typewriter with carbon paper copies and to learn how to handle this new fangled gizmo. It was Art who realized that English Departments could not continue to thrive teaching literature alone and who persuaded us to branch out into Communications, Secondary Ed., and Literature concentrations. He even persuaded me to develop some expertise in technical communications, something I never would have done on my own. Later Art persuaded us to enrich our pedagogy by scheduling regular conferences with our students to preview their papers, i.e., to actually listen to our students, imagine that!

Even as he was so effectively changing the English Department, he and Mary Ellen were widening their own horizons with his Fulbright trips to Cambridge, England, to Damascus, Syria, and to Nanjing, China. As the first director of Studies Abroad for the college, he became a model for Phil Billings, Gary Grieve-Carlson, and myself to lead our own groups of students to Crete, New Zealand, and London. When I had my own three-year stint as chair of the English Department, it was Art I held as my model.

*Another horizon that Art erased was the silly borderline that too often separates faculty and administration. His deep friendship, respect, and collaboration with Dean Bill McGill and President John Synodinos, both in the Study Abroad program and in Art's plays that he wrote for them, was an inspiration. Art made me realize that an institution like Lebanon Valley College depends on all its contributors. And when, occasionally, one of those contributors turns out to be a harmful actor, as happened once with a dean, Art courageously and generously protected the rest of us from him. Art Ford has been a landmark in my life, a mentor and a friend, and I will always be grateful to him for that.*

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**John Kearney** - April 17, 2022 at 11:46 AM

DN

“ *You will be greatly missed, Art. Thank you for your guidance when you supervised our work in La Vie, and your collegiality, counsel, (and rides) while serving on the Presidential Search Committee at LVC in the 80's. You were a man of competence, commitment, creativity, and an enthusiasm for life.*

*Douglas L. Nyce LVC '89*

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**Douglas Nyce** - April 15, 2022 at 03:33 AM

BL

“ *Dear Maryellen and family,  
Remembering you in your time of grief. I enjoyed knowing Art .I saw him last here in Sarasota,Fl..  
much love to you all.  
Barbara Longenecker, Sarasota, Fl.*

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**Barbara Longenecker** - April 14, 2022 at 03:03 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



April 14, 2022 at 01:35 PM



“ *Lebanon Valley College purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



**Lebanon Valley College** - April 14, 2022 at 11:37 AM



“ *Love, Becca Talaia purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



**Love, Becca Talaia** - April 14, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



April 13, 2022 at 10:04 PM

RF

“ *Dr Ford was one of the legend professors at that was teaching in the late 60's and 70's. He was very well respected by the students at that time.*

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**Ralph Fetrow** - April 13, 2022 at 07:41 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



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April 13, 2022 at 07:32 PM

MM

“ *Pat & I send our condolences to Mary Ellen and the entire Ford clan. Art was a kindred spirit; lover of all of the arts, traveling, exploring, with a remarkable devotion to students, teaching and learning. To say that he was beloved at "dear old LVC" would be an understatement. In sympathy,--Mark & Pat Mecham*

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**Mark Mecham** - April 13, 2022 at 04:15 PM

MB

“ *One of my favorite classes while I was at LVC was my senior seminar with Dr. Ford... where I learned to love romantic poetry and Wordsworth. Thanks for that, Dr. Ford!*

*MJ Bishop '84*

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**MJ Bishop** - April 13, 2022 at 02:49 PM

CM

“ *My condolences to the Ford family.  
As an LVC English major at LVC, I have fond memories of Dr. Ford.*  
*Cynthia Melman '69*

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**Cynthia Melman** - April 13, 2022 at 02:36 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Arthur Lewis Ford, Jr..*



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April 13, 2022 at 01:48 PM



“ *I always enjoyed hearing Art's stories while hanging out at the  
Feathers' pool and on the Swatari Safari.*

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**Galen Kreiser** - April 13, 2022 at 11:48 AM

PD

“ *Art Ford was truly "a scholar and a gentleman." He will be greatly  
missed.*

*Phylis Dryden, former English professor, LVC*

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**Phylis Dryden** - April 13, 2022 at 09:50 AM

JF

*I have so many wonderful memories of Art but one of my favorites was when we visited them in Syria Mary Ellen's brother and wife were there too and we decided to visit the Euphrates Dam, not exactly a popular tourist attraction. We were walking around looking at the dam when two young men with big guns came up to us and told us to follow them. We didn't argue. They took our passports and took us into a room where an official looking man sat behind a desk. He was very polite and asked us what we were doing there and what our jobs were. Phil said he was a lawyer which didn't impress him at all, but when Art said he was an English professor his eyes lit up and he pulled a piece of paper out and said, "This is a poem written by our great leader, would you like to read it." Art took the poem and pulled out his pen and said, "Would you like me to correct it?" The five of us shot him a look and tried to kick him under the table. He finally got the message and said, "This is very good." They then released us and we went on our way.*

*Judy Feather*

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**Judy Feather** - April 13, 2022 at 01:38 PM

GK

*What to say about Dr. Ford? Certainly nothing sad. He wouldn't have wanted that. I encountered Art in a Contemporary Literature course in 1967 where I first experienced his amazing talents for communication and incomparable dry wit. Some years later, out of the blue, he visited me in New York and my long-term relationship with Art and LVC was kindled. I set up a program in our company to hire international students whom Art had recruited, mentored and nourished. Many of these students stayed connected with Art and Mary Ellen in the years to follow.*

*We often communicated by email and I saved nearly all of them, numbering now 600 in my folders. They are a treasure trove which reflect his genuine feelings about his family, colleagues and many others. They particularly reveal his self-effacing wittiness and whimsical writing style. Emotions would only let me read a few of them today, but I am happy to possess this remembrance of such a unique and important influence on my life. With our love always for Art and Mary Ellen.*

*Might I add that in the college days, we discovered a mutual interest in flying kites? That's the kind of guy Dr. Ford was.*

*George King '68 and Eileen King*

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**George King** - April 13, 2022 at 05:12 PM

RT

*My condolences to Mrs. Ford and the entire Ford family.*

*Such a beloved friend and mentor. Because of Dr. Ford I had the opportunity to study abroad and get a deeper understanding of the world we live in. After college the Fords invited me to stay with them until I started my first job in Philadelphia, they were always generous and looking out for others. Even after college, whenever I visited PA, I was always given a warm welcome. Dr. and Mrs. Ford made me feel like family. When I called, both would pick up a receiver so we could all be part of the conversation. Those conversations were filled with the two proudly telling me about their children, grandchildren and of course their latest adventures.*

*I will miss Dr. Ford's quick wit, kind heart and meaningful conversations. He holds a special place in my heart.*

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**Rebecca Talaia** - April 14, 2022 at 11:04 AM

BT

*Penny and Jeff: I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your father and father-in-law. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time.*

*Beth Taylor*

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**beth taylor** - April 14, 2022 at 02:34 PM

GJ

*With deepest sympathy to Mrs. Ford and the entire Ford family, including my Sister-in-law Jean, Mike, Samantha, Aaron and Michael*

*Uncle George Gress Jr.*

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**George Gress Jr.** - April 14, 2022 at 09:09 PM