

WELLESLEY COLLEGE  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

H. Kim Bottomly

To: The Wellesley College Community  
From: H. Kim Bottomly  
Subject: In Memoriam: Philip Finkelpearl  
Date: December 10, 2014

I am saddened to inform you that Phil Finkelpearl, the Anne Pierce Rogers Professor Emeritus of English, passed away on November 30 at the age of 89. He taught at the College from 1980 until his retirement in 1996.

Professor Finkelpearl came to Wellesley having already established himself as a prominent scholar of 17<sup>th</sup> Century dramatic literature. On campus, he quickly became a beloved member of the faculty and the go-to person for all things Shakespearean. Colleagues and former students described him as an effective teacher not only because he knew and loved Shakespeare so well, but because he knew and loved his students, too. He made rigorous demands of them, inspiring them to bring to their study of Shakespeare and all his subjects an enthusiasm that matched his own. He also served as an unofficial advisor to the Shakespeare Society, and was involved in many of its productions.

Just five years after arriving at Wellesley, Professor Finkelpearl won the coveted Pinanski Prize for Teaching. His award citation said, “He notices and is concerned if even one student is missing in a lecture class of 60.” And, his “respect and solicitude for his students is legendary.” In 1986, he was named the holder of the first Anne Pierce Rogers Professorship.

Professor Finkelpearl was the author of two important and influential books—*Court and Country Politics in the Plays of Beaumont and Fletcher* (1990), and *John Marston of the Middle Temple: An Elizabethan Dramatist in His Social Setting* (1969).

He earned a bachelor’s degree from Princeton University and master’s and PhD degrees from Harvard University. Prior to Wellesley, he taught at Brandeis University, Vassar College, Lehman College (CUNY), and UMass Boston. But at Wellesley, he found his academic home.

I extend my condolences to Professor Finkelpearl’s family, friends, and colleagues at this time.

