



**Florida State University**  
**ARF News Special Feature**  
February 2023



*29th President of ARF (2007-08)*  
**Fred Standley**

**Dr. Fred L Standley 1932-2014**

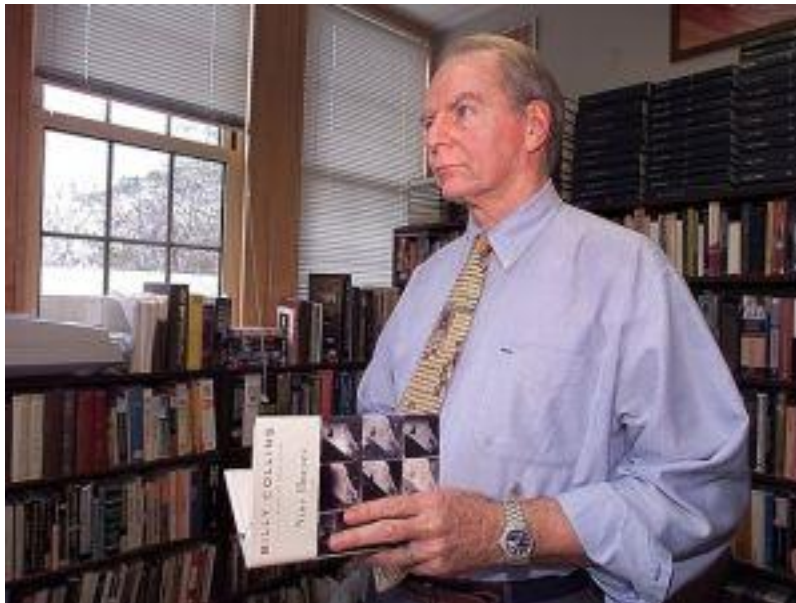


Photo courtesy of the Tallahassee Democrat files.

It is with a heavy heart that we learn about the passing of FSU Professor Emeritus Dr. Fred Standley. Dr. Standley, the Daisy Flory Parker

Professor Emeritus in English, taught at FSU for 50 years until his retirement in 2013. His academic pursuits specialized in both British literature and works of African-American writers, and taught a popular course on banned books that was originally developed for FSU's London program. His banned books course led to the tradition of the annual banned books read-out, where students and faculty members read aloud passages from previously banned books at Strozier Library.

Fred Standley's involvement at FSU extended beyond the classroom. Dr. Standley served as chair of the English department from 1973 to 1982, and again from 1997 to 1999. He is credited with ushering the program into the modern era, and connected faculty members with opportunities for book contracts and conference presentations. He also served as the president of FSU's Faculty Senate for two terms, chaired the search committee in 1976 (which led to the hire of Bernie Sliger), president of the friends of the Library (1989-1995; 2006-2008), and director of land acquisition from 1989-1994.

Dr. Standley's accomplishments and contributions didn't go unacknowledged. The Distinguished Service Professor Award (2003), the Friends of Strozier Library Distinguished Service Award (2006), and the FSU Torch Award (2013) are few among the many honors he received while at FSU. Awards have also been created in his honor, including the Fred L. Standley Award for Outstanding Teacher and the Friends of Strozier Library Fred L. Standley Award for the Academic Librarian of the Year. The Fred L. Standley Award "honors an outstanding faculty member within the University Libraries at the Florida State University for significant contributions to campus, state, national and/or international research librarianship and library development."

## **FRED STANDLEY OBITUARY**

Dr. Fred Lloyd Standley

Fred Lloyd Standley, PhD of Tallahassee, FL passed

away Sunday, December 22, 2014. Dr. Standley was a Professor Emeritus in the Department of English and President Emeritus of the Faculty Senate at Florida State University. He received his PhD from Northwestern University in 1963, his Masters of Divinity from Garrett Theological School in 1958, and his Bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1954. Having begun his teaching career at FSU in 1963, it culminated in 2013 with his final course taught at FSU's London Study Centre on his favorite topic of "Banned Books". During his illustrious career he directed the course of study of 58 Doctoral Dissertations, 9 Masters Theses, and 6 Undergraduate Honors Theses. He published four books and 57 scholarly articles related to his advocacy for minority rights and multicultural voice and experiences expressed through literature. His teaching touched the lives of tens of thousands of students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His service and dedication to FSU epitomized his belief in faculty involvement in university governance and assuring the equal treatment for women in academic issues at all levels. Dr. Standley served as the Chair of the Department of English, President of the Faculty Senate, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee for the selection of Dr. Bernie Sliger, the Director of Land Acquisitions 1989-1994, on the Athletic Committee, and he represented FSU in the College English Association.

Dr. Standley's commitment to academic freedom and integrity was honored with several major recognitions of distinction at FSU including: the

Daisy Parker Flory named Professorship (1985), the Distinguished Service Professor Award (2003), the Friends of Strozier Library Distinguished Service Award (2006), and the FSU Torch Award (2013). Two awards at Florida State have been created and named in his honor including the Fred L. Standley Award for Outstanding Teacher (1982) and the Friends of Strozier Library Fred L. Standley Award for the Academic Librarian of the Year (2012). He was an ardent supporter of the Faculty of Florida State University and its students, Seminole Football, and the bread pudding at the University Club.

Dr. Standley is survived by his loving wife of 31 years and fellow FSU Faculty colleague Jayne M. Standley, PhD . He was a loving father and grandfather who once said "sleep is a waste of time" and that is how he lived, never wasting a single day in his 82 years. He is survived by a daughter, Laurel Standley, PhD (Andrew Peffer) of Huntsville, AL, and a son, Paul Standley (Nicole Moss) of Tallahassee, FL , and his four grandchildren Gage Fredrick Peffer, Nolan Craig Peffer, Rosalie Fox Standley, Bryden Lee Arthur Standley. Fred Standley was the smartest, kindest, most dedicated man his family and friends have ever known.

A celebration of Fred Standley's life will be held at Florida State University on a later date.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Friends of the Library at Florida State University. Donations to Florida State University Libraries will be

used to support the Fred L. Standley Prize. This prize honors an outstanding faculty member within the libraries for a significant contribution to research librarianship and library development.

## Fred Standley, 82, was a guiding light at FSU for 50 years

Doug Blackburn

Democrat correspondent

Fred Standley, a highly regarded scholar who specialized in both British literature and the works of African-American writers, spent 50 years teaching English at Florida State University until his retirement last year.

Many associate Standley with a popular class he taught on banned books, a course he originally developed for FSU's London program that led to a tradition of faculty members and students spending one day each school year reading aloud from previously banned books outside Strozier Library.

But Standley may be best remembered as a champion of faculty members and the critical role they play in the life and governance of a university.

A two-time president of FSU's Faculty Senate, Standley died Monday morning at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare following a massive stroke. He had undergone coronary bypass surgery Dec. 17 and never awoke from the anesthesia, his wife Jayne Standley said. He was 82.

It is only fitting that the Standleys, who were married for 31 years, met while they were both serving on a Faculty Senate committee. Jayne Standley is a decorated professor and entrepreneur in FSU's College of Music, and also served as Faculty Senate president.

"Fred always was a role model for me after I met him. It was an interesting confluence of interests when we met," she said. "We also both loved Florida State so much."

Fred Standley served as chair of FSU's English department from 1973 to 1982, and filled in again as head of the department from 1997 to 1999. Longtime faculty member David Kirby credits Standley for ushering FSU's program into the modern era.

"Fred Standley was the first of the new chairs in English. He was not a true child of the '60s, but when he became chair in 1973, he brought an openness to new ideas that brought our department in line with the times," Kirby said. "During his years as chair, he encouraged every faculty member in every area of the department, hiring people for their accomplishments as much as the degrees they held. He pointed out opportunities for book contracts and conference presentations; that mentoring on his part influenced the way the rest of us operate, which is why our students today do so well when they leave FSU."

Eric Walker, the current English department chair, joined FSU in 1983, shortly after Standley returned to a full-time teaching position. He said he was well aware of Standley's standing in the academy when he came to FSU.

"The headline for Fred for many of us throughout the entire university was his passion for faculty governance, his dedication to the fact that faculty are the absolute heart and soul of the university and the ones in charge of the welfare of the institution," Walker said. "He was on every committee you could possibly imagine many, many times. You name it, he did it."

Standley chaired the search committee that led to the hire of FSU President Bernie Sliger in 1976, and was director of land acquisition at FSU from 1989-1994. He was also an unabashed fan of FSU sports teams and served on the university-wide Athletics Committee for many years.

Fred Lloyd Standley was born on Dec. 3, 1932 and was raised in West Virginia. He originally wanted to attend the seminary, and after receiving a bachelor's degree from West Virginia College in 1954, he earned a Master's of Divinity from Garrett Theological School in 1958. Standley's love of literature began to eclipse his interest in religion while he worked on a doctorate at Northwestern University, which he received in 1963, the same year he joined the faculty at FSU.

Greg Beaumont, associate dean of undergraduate studies at FSU, said it was a privilege for a graduate student to have Standley as a mentor.

"If you were a graduate student of Fred Standley's, that had a cache at this university. He was a well-recognized giant in his field," Beaumont said. "He was so intimately familiar with the work of Robert Browning and Charles Dickens that you felt like he must have known them personally; you felt like you were sitting at the feet of a master."

Among the many honors Standley received while at FSU, he was recognized with the Distinguished Service Professor Award (2003), the Friends of Strozier Library Distinguished Service Award (2006), and the FSU Torch Award (2013). Standley was a professor emeritus for 10 years.

Several awards at FSU have been created and named in his honor, including the Fred L. Standley Award for Outstanding Teacher (1982) and the Friends of Strozier Library Fred L. Standley Award for the Academic Librarian of the Year (2012).

Diane Roberts, an acclaimed member of the English faculty who also attended FSU, said one of her most prized honors is an Undergraduate Achievement Award in the English Department that is named after Standley.

"I'm so proud of having won it (in 1980), I list it even on CVs to this day -- a bit old, this award, but a big deal to me. He was a terrific Victorian scholar and a hell of a university operator who supported his faculty and student no matter what."

In addition to Jayne Standley, he is survived by a daughter, Laurel Standley, (Andrew Peffer) of Huntsville, Ala., and a son, Paul Standley (Nicole Moss) of Tallahassee, and four grandchildren. A celebration of Standley's life will be held at Florida State University on a later date. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to the Friends of the Library at Florida State University.