

Career Retrospective: Anne Lund

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Dr. Lund standing next to her panel commemorating the history of STEM at Hampden-Sydney in the Pauley Science Center

In the Dr. Anne Lund taught at Hampden-Sydney College for 34 years as both a biology professor specializing in the study of microbiology, but also as an inspiring advisor to dozens of students who passed through the college. In addition to being a venerable and well-respected researcher within the field of biology, she was also the first female doctorate to teach within the Hampden-Sydney STEM program. In her long tenure at the school, she worked to build up the biology department, bringing in new staff and adding to the growing catalog of biology classes that are still taught today.

Before she became Professor Anne Lund, she was born as a native Virginian in the city of Portsmouth. In high school she found she had an affinity for mathematics, but an inspiring biology teacher and lifelong love of the outdoors kept her interested in biology as well. When it came to selecting a college for her higher education, she quickly decided to apply to Longwood College as several of her family members were alumni of the college and she had family in the area. Her application was quickly accepted by the admissions office due to her

outstanding performance in high school and she entered Longwood college in 1963.

At Longwood College Lund would experiment with pursuing mathematics but would find herself drawn back to biology by the time she became an upperclassman. Her biology professor, Dr. Carolyn Wells, would teach the young Lund the nuances of genetics which would instill in her a deep passion for the subject which she would pursue later in life. In addition to her growing interest in genetics she would also find herself dabbling in other areas of biology such as working in the college greenhouse and taking diversifying courses such as invertebrate zoology.

By 1967 she would walk out of Longwood college with a biology bachelor's degree. Her journey in education would not stop here; however, as she was inspired by Dr. Carolyn Wells to continue her education. With her professors help she would make her way to the Emory University of Atlanta Georgia working under Dr. Well's old mentor, Dr. Charles Ray. In Dr. Ray's lab she would research the chromosome structure and mechanics of reproduction for a species of protozoa for her master's degree. After finishing her master's with Dr. Ray and the protozoa lab, she would finally pursue her PhD in the plant systematics lab of Dr. William Murdy at the same university. In this lab she would research a very different question from her last pursuit, looking specifically at growth patterns of vascular plants and how physiology impacts environmental survivability. After seven years in 1974 she would finally earn her PhD in biology, earning herself the title of Dr. Anne Lund.

The now Dr. Anne Lund would start her career as a professor teaching at Emory University becoming the first woman on the university's biology faculty. She would oversee several graduate students during her time with the university, but she would leave after only a year to take up a much more fitting position. Dr. Lund's husband, an English professor, was searching for employment as well and would find it at Longwood college. In a fortuitous twist of fate Hampden-Sydney would find itself with a vacant biology professor spot in need of filling only a few months after her husband's hiring at Longwood. Quickly snapped up by Hampden-Sydney Dr. Lund would begin her time teaching in the Spring of 1975, marking the start of her 34 years with the college.

Much like the University of Emory, Dr. Lund would become the first female on the Hampden-Sydney STEM faculty with a PhD. While at Hampden-

Sydney she would go on to teach a myriad of biology courses including the basics such as Bio 101 and some more specialty courses such as cytology, which is the study of potentially disease-causing cells. Her specialty courses would continue to live on to this day such as microbiology, immunology and cytology being rolled into molecular and cellular biology. Dr. Lund's experience wasn't just in genetics and cell biology, but she would also teach a score of ecology classes including botany.

Dr. Lund also engaged in research at the college, most prominently in the area of her PhD program in working with plants. Many of her Summers were dedicated to her research and she would eventually present her findings at the flora of Appomattox National Historical Park conference. In addition to her own work, she would also oversee dozens of student's projects over the Summer and during the school year. Many of her advisees did work in the field of cellular biology and thanks to her wide coverage of skills she was able to offer the ambitious students' guidance during their scientific pursuits.

A young Kristian Hargadon was one such student of Dr. Lund who would go on to get his PhD thanks to her inspiration and guidance which put him on track for graduate school at University of Virginia. He would end up taking Dr. Lund's microbiology and immunology courses and soon after fell in love with both subjects. Thanks to Dr. Lunds' support and contacts he was able to do an ambitious summer immunological research project working at both the University of Virginia and Hampden-Sydney. After graduating from Hampden-Sydney as the first prestigious Goldwater Scholar from the college he would attend the University of Virginia for six years and attain his PhD. Soon after he would return to Hampden-Sydney to teach the exact same courses that Dr. Lund taught which inspired him to pursue his current career and research interests at the college.

Dr. Lund would retire in 2009, bringing a close to her over three decades with the college. Her long years with the college let her see how the college has both stayed the same yet changed for the better. Of particular note she would speak to the positive impact of the rhetoric program at the college which saw a marked improvement in the quality of submitted papers. As for the biology program she explains how over the years the program has shifted to a more hands-on investigative approach of learning over an older and more by the books rote learning course. Even long into retirement she continues to watch over Hampden-Sydney, paying the occasional visit and

continuing to watch the college evolve to ever greater heights.