

STEM FACULTY OF THE YEAR

DR. WALLACE MARYLAND JR.

Dr. Wallace Maryland Jr.'s nickname should be "the motivator" because motivate is what he does. Dr. Maryland, 73, has worked at Alabama State University for 43 years, dedicating himself to mentoring students and inspiring them to excel in their future careers and obtain doctoral degrees. Dr. Maryland was chosen to be the first recipient of the STEM Faculty of the Year Award.

He began his career at ASU in 1963 as an assistant professor of mathematics, and he has been chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science for more than 20 years. He strives to increase minority participation in the fields of science and math. He is constantly seeking out students with the desire to excel in those fields and encouraging them to go as far as they can in their field. "It has been my goal to get as many Black graduates to go on and get a doctorate in mathematics and science," Dr. Maryland said.

He is the principal investigator for Alabama State University's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP) and Louis Stokes Minority Graduate Education Program (LSMGE). These programs increase the quantity and quality of minority students pursuing degrees and careers in STEM programs. He also works with LSAMP's supplementary program, "Bridge to the Doctorate," which eases the transition from undergraduate study to the next level,

both financially and mentally.

Dr. Maryland's inspiration comes from Thelma Austin Rice, who taught several of his math classes while he was a student at ASU. Rice taught Dr. Maryland how to set goals and accomplish them. Rice also taught him how to motivate others. Dr. Maryland still visits Rice, who is now in her late 80s and still lives in Montgomery,



Ala. "She was a great motivator," he said. "She was important in teaching students about abstract thinking."

Dr. Maryland is proud of his 8 students who went on to receive doctorate degrees through the Alabama LSAMP/AGEP Program. Dr. Tracy Tullie, a student he mentored, was one of his first success stories. Tullie, a 1995 ASU graduate, received his doctorate degree in mathematics from North Carolina State University in August 2002. He is now an assistant professor at North Carolina A&T University.

Dr. Raynetta Prevo is also one of Dr. Maryland's success stories. An assistant professor at ASU, she received her doctorate degree in applied mathematics from the University of Alabama in 2002. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from ASU and a master's degree in applied mathematics from the University of Alabama. Dr. Maryland was the one who encouraged Prevo to pursue mathematics. "He was always very supportive to make sure students have what they needed."

When Prevo was pursuing her graduate degree, Dr. Maryland helped her locate funding to complete her program. She describes Dr. Maryland as a compassionate man. "I know he's been an asset of the University," Dr. Prevo said. "I feel he is one of the people considered to be the backbone of ASU."

Dr. Maryland has been the University Marshal for 10 years, leading processions into special events such as graduation and Founders' Day ceremonies. He was awarded the 2005 Minority Access Faculty Mentor Role Model Award for his mentoring and many accomplishments at ASU. He received his bachelor's degree from ASU in 1958, his master's degree at Atlanta University in 1961, and his doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in 1978. Dr. Maryland leaves this advice to students pursuing any career: "It's possible to do things if you believe you can do them."