

Jan Haluska

Jan Haluska served at Georgia-Cumberland Academy from 1974 to 1981, when he left to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Tennessee. In 1983 Southern Adventist University offered him a position in the English department. Dr. Haluska finished his PhD in 1987 and continued his work at Southern where he taught various literature courses, as well as creative writing, and “about 3,000 freshmen writing students.”

In 2007 Dr. Haluska became chair of the English department at SAU. Four times during his years at Southern he has been the recipient of various excellence in teaching awards.

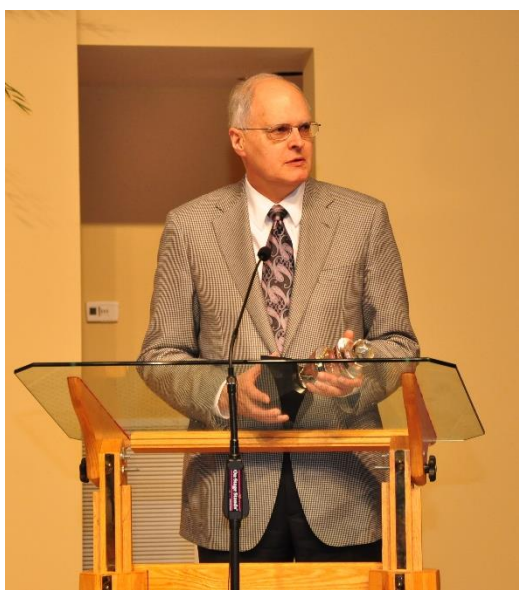
“At age 71,” Haluska recently reflected, “I am eligible to retire, but the life of a teacher is just too much fun. God willing I will continue in the classroom for at least four more years, and perhaps more.”

Dr. Haluska passed away in the fall of 2015. He left behind his wife, Marcia, and two sons.

The following tribute was presented by Rhondda Robinson Thomas on behalf of the class of 1978:

*And now the pitcher holds the ball and now he lets it go
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.*

Jan Haluska was at the podium in the chapel, pouring all of his energies into pumping up some very nervous English students, encouraging us to perform a range of short speeches in front of our peers.



"Again," he urged, his voice gradually growing into a crescendo. By the time we had finished yelling the above lyrical cadence, we were prepped to present the speech of a lifetime again and again.

English classes taught by Jan Haluska during my Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years were among my favorite classes at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. When I stepped inside his classroom, I knew I would be challenged, enlightened, and inspired. Mr. Haluska began each class with a short devotional, constantly reminding us of his connection to God and our need to develop a connection with our Heavenly Father, too. Impeccably dressed, perfectly prepared, incredibly attentive, he created an environment in which I learned to love texts from Beowulf to Paradise Lost, memorize poems such as "To A Waterfowl," understand and appreciate the proper use of grammar, improve and increase my vocabulary, and craft



provocative stories about my life and the world. Jan Haluska taught me how to think, to reason from cause to effect. He encouraged and affirmed my yearnings toward excellence.

I loved Jan Haluska's English classes during the school week so much that I took every opportunity to sit in his Sabbath School class, too, where he spoke about God with such reverence and awe that I longed to know God as intimately as my beloved teacher Jan Haluska.

One of the main reasons why I decided to become an English professor is my incredibly enriching experiences in English classes with Jan Haluska at GCA. He was and remains both an inspiring teacher and a faithful witness.