

In Memory of Former Northrop Principal Arthur Lachlan Reed

Arthur Lachlan Reed, Northrop Collegiate School principal from 1951–1953, passed away at his home on November 8 after a brief illness. He was 90 years old. His wife of 63 years, Martha Sweatt Reed '39, preceded him in death in 2005. He is survived by their six children, Bill Reed '63, Lach Reed '64, Mark Reed '68, Aida Reed Luce '71, Hal Reed '75 and Ian Reed '78, and their families.

Reed was appointed as Northrop's first and only male principal in 1951, following the one-year acting principal leadership of former Northrop math teacher Ethel Pease. In Blake's centennial history book, "Expecting Good Things of All," it reports that Northrop's board felt that Reed's selection as principal to an all-girls' school was "reflecting traditional 1950s gender values." The Minneapolis Star Tribune announced his appointment as, "Northrop Girls' School Gets 'Head-mistress.'" During his tenure at the school, Reed worked to establish close relationships with the students. To this end, he invited small groups of seniors to his Lake Minnetonka home to discuss the classics and in the fall of 1952 he and his wife, hosted the senior class at their summer home in northern Minnesota. In 1953, Reed left Northrop to work in the Eisenhower administration as special assistant to the Executive Branch.

Prior to and following his time at Northrop, Reed had a lengthy career as a business entrepreneur, educator and philanthropist. He documented his life experiences in a recently completed autobiography entitled, "Lucky Lach."

A graduate of Andover and Yale, Reed earned distinction as Yale's Mellon Fellow to Clare College, Cambridge, England. A short time later he served for six years in the U.S. Navy as Lt. Commander. Following the war, Reed worked for Honeywell, taught English at Andover and then served as Northrop's principal. His interest in education became part of a family legacy. In 1891, his grandfather founded the International College in Turkey and Reed co-founded three schools: Minnesota's Outward Bound School, London's Victoria College and Dynamy, Inc. in Worcester, Mass. He cited co-founding InnerCity Tennis (formerly named Northwestern Tennis Patrons) — an organization that helps youth build character, competence and commitment for personal and community improvement — as perhaps his most satisfying accomplishment.