

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jerry H. Robbins

I was born in De Queen, Arkansas in 1939, where I attended elementary school through the Fifth Grade. My grandparents, with whom I was very close, had only elementary school educations, but my father was a high school science teacher and principal, ending his career as Associate Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Education Association. My mother and I were in college at the same time, as she prepared to become an elementary/middle school teacher. My younger brothers, twins, became high school teachers, earning a number of academic degrees between them along the way.

In 1949, my family moved to Conway, Arkansas, where I attended junior high school (grades 6-8), high school (graduating with honors), and Hendrix College. I graduated from Hendrix in 1960 (in the top 10% of my class), with a B.A. in mathematics and all the course work necessary to be certified in Arkansas not only in mathematics but in instrumental music, choral music, and “public school music.”

My first full-time job was in 1960-1961 in Clinton, Arkansas, where I was the director of a small, young, but good band; organized and conducted a 40-voice high school choir; and taught two sections of 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics. During the year, and in the summer following, I acquired 18 hours of graduate work toward an M.Ed. in educational administration.

I then became (1961) the principal and mathematics teacher at Adrian High School in Adrian, Missouri. During the 1961-62 year and in the summer of 1962, I completed the requirements for the M.Ed. in educational administration at the University of Arkansas—Fayetteville. The degree was awarded in January 1963.

From 1963 to 1965 I was in full-time residence at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, working toward the Ed.D. in educational administration. My assistantship was with the Arkansas School Study Council. My dissertation was “Trends in Student Activity Offerings in the Public Secondary Schools of Arkansas.” I completed all requirements in the summer of 1965 and the degree was conferred in January 1966. My interest, at the time, was to become principal of a large secondary school.

However, in 1965, I was offered a position on the faculty of the School of Education at the University of Mississippi, which I accepted. At the outset, I was teaching a mix of undergraduate professional education courses, supervising student teachers, and teaching graduate courses in educational administration. I rose through the academic ranks quickly and, by 1970, I was a full professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations of Education. My teaching responsibilities evolved to only graduate courses in educational administration, along with directing 23 doctoral dissertations.

In 1974, I became the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. During the five years I was there, I made a point of teaching an Education course at

each of the lower division, upper division, student teaching, and graduate levels. We initiated graduate work in Education, against considerable opposition, during my time at UALR. For 1977-1978, I was selected as an American Council on Education Fellow, and I spent the academic year, at the request of my supervisors, at George State University in Atlanta, getting experience with every aspect of administration of a large urban university.

Georgia State University (GSU) created the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1979. I applied for, and received this position, in which I served until 1984. However, during those years, I also was the supervisor of the Research Office in 1979-1980, was in 1980-1982 the Interim Director of the Division of Continuing Education, was in 1982-83 the Interim Dean of Admissions, and in 1983-1984 the Interim Dean of the College of Education. In 1984, I was named as the Dean of the large, comprehensive, doctoral-level College of Education, a position I held until 1990. We set new all-time quantitative records during the time that I held each of these responsibilities.

A new president of GSU “dismissed” some 35 administrators and senior faculty members, including me, from administrative and influential positions because he apparently “wanted his own people” in those slots. As a tenured, full professor, in 1990-1991 I taught graduate courses in educational administration, attended the Harvard Management Development Program, and went job-hunting.

In 1991, I became Dean of the College of Education at Eastern Michigan University, then the nation’s largest producer of educational personnel, a position I held until 2004. During 2004-2005, I was on the EMU payroll as a Special Assistant to the Provost, but with no full-time responsibilities. Later, during the time that Shawn Quilter was (the very effective) Interim Dean of the EMU COE, I was hired by the then-Provost as a consultant, with responsibilities of advising Shawn on matters of budget, promotion and tenure, hiring, and other major policy matters.

In the years shortly after retiring from EMU, I served as a consultant to several institutions, primarily concerning accreditation/program approval matters. Later, I served as a volunteer with students at the Washtenaw Technical Middle College.

### Other Professional Activities

I have been a member of numerous professional organizations, including president of Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education; president of the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities; president of the Southern Regional Consortium of Colleges of Education; president of the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration; president of the state affiliates of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in Arkansas, Georgia, and Michigan (three non-consecutive terms); vice-chair of The Renaissance Group; and chair of the Michigan [Education] Dean’s Council for several terms. I have also been an officer of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; the Arkansas Education Association; the Mississippi Education Association; the Georgia Education Forum; the Mid-South Educational Research Association; and the Mississippi Association for Higher Education, among various others.

Honors that I have received include the William C. Bagley Award for Leadership Excellence from Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, in 2015. I was also named as one of 100 members of the Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of KDP for service to the Society and to Education in 2015. In 2014, the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions named me the Outstanding Alumnus in Education. I received the first-ever Volunteer Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education in 2005.

My books include:

Robbins, Jerry and Walter S. Carter III (Compilers). *Mississippi Children's Code 1973 Annotated*, Jackson, Mississippi: Governor's Office of Education and Training, 1973.

\_\_\_\_\_. *School Laws of Mississippi*. Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi School Boards Association, 1973.

Robbins, Jerry and Stirling B. Williams, Jr. *Administrator's Manual of School Plant Administration*. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970.

\_\_\_\_\_. *School Custodian's Handbook*. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Student Activities in the Innovative School*. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Company, 1969.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Administrator's Manual of School Plant Administration*. Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Department of Education, 1968.

\_\_\_\_\_. *School Custodian's Handbook*. Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi Department of Education, 1968.

I am also the author or senior author of seven book chapters or the equivalent, and author or co-author of more than 50 articles in a variety of journals, 16 book reviews, around a hundred papers/presentations, and 26 papers in the ERIC system. In addition, I've held several editorial positions and prepared dozens of reports in connection with accreditation and consultative work. I've written/held/administered several million dollars in grants.

### Avocational Activities

After leaving the teaching of music early in my career, music continued as a serious hobby. I've served as the choir director for United Methodist Churches (UMC) in Conway, Arkansas; Adrian, Missouri; Fayetteville, Arkansas; Oxford, Mississippi; and Little Rock, Arkansas. In the case of the latter, it was Pulaski Heights UMC, the largest United Methodist Church in the state.

During my time in Missouri, I played trombone semi-professionally with the Independence (Missouri) Symphony and sang with the Independence Messiah Choir. During my time in Fayetteville, Arkansas, I played trombone in summer university bands and, during 1963-1965,

was first trombone in the top concert band and bass trombone in the university orchestra. During my time in Mississippi, I was involved with an early music group and with a group of madrigal singers. In Little Rock, I played trombone semi-professionally with the “Stylemasters” big band.

In Georgia, I played trombone and several other instruments with the North Fulton Community Band (now the Atlanta Wind Symphony). I served as the assistant conductor and frequent acting conductor of this group. In Michigan, I joined the Ypsilanti Community Band (now the Washtenaw Community Concert Band--WCCB) and played various instruments. I soon became the assistant conductor and I conducted this group from 1998 to 2011.

I continue to be active in a very good hand bell choir of the Ann Arbor First United Methodist Church, and I play trombone with the WCCB, the Dexter Community Band (DCB), and the Ann Arbor Civic Band (AACB). I am historian of the DCB and a member of the Board of the AACB. I am the founder and conductor of the WCCB’s vintage ensemble, the “Town Band.”

My intellectual activities in recent years have focused on aspects of music and researching and writing on historical topics, including family history.

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