

Mary Lou Aylor

Mary Lou Aylor joined the Foundations of Education Society in 1982 when it was then a part of the Southwest Philosophy of Education Society. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Oklahoma College for Women, now the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. She has a master's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Ph.D. in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina. While working toward these degrees she also worked with Title I children at Myrtle Beach Primary School and taught at the University of South Carolina's Coastal Carolina campus. In 1982 she became the Director of Early Childhood Education at East Central Oklahoma University where she developed both the undergraduate and graduate programs in this area. She also taught a variety of courses in early childhood education, early literacy, and foundations of education.

This is Dr. Aylor's twenty-second year at Central Michigan University where she directs the master's program in Early Childhood Education and teaches Foundations of Education at the undergraduate level. She has taken four groups of students to Western Australia to complete their final eight weeks of student teaching and has served as advisor to the Student Michigan Education Association and to Golden Key Honor Society. She was named as the first Towle Professor of Education at CMU and was the recipient of the Michigan Association of Governing Boards' Distinguished Faculty award. She has served several terms as a member of the Academic Senate and has served as president of the CMU Faculty Association, the oldest faculty in the country.

Dr. Aylor's research interests are primarily in the areas of influence of the radical religious right on curricula and methodologies used in public schools, censorship, and the impact of public policy on public schools. Her work has been published in *The Reading teacher*, *The Oklahoma Reader*, *The Journal of the Oklahoma ASCD*, *Review Journal of Philosophy and Social Sciences*, *Education Issues*, *Teacher Education and Special Education*, and *Journal of Philosophy and History of Education*. She has also made eighty presentations at the annual meetings of regional, national, and international professional associations and has published teacher guides for thirty-six children's books. Inspired by participation in a summer formation workshop with Parker Palmer and a sabbatical spent exploring the concept of community as it relates to schools, Dr. Aylor works to integrate Palmer's notion of the courage to teach into the classes she teaches while trying to transform these classes into true communities of learners.

She was married for nearly forty-six years to the late John Robert Aylor and has three children, six grandchildren, and two great granddaughters. At the present she enjoys being a "union thug" and, when time permits, travel, scrapbooking, and needlework.