

*Bruce Rogers* – FACULTY



Bruce Rogers came to Northside High School in the fall of 1975 as a Speech teacher and Debate Coach. He was familiar with the Northside Debate Program having competed against Northside teams while representing Mary Persons High School. He also had found friends at Northside, including Coach John Hatfield, who had built Northside into one of Georgia's top debate programs. Bruce was excited by the opportunity to take over the program! He coached from 1975 until the Spring of 2006.

While at Northside, Bruce found himself as a teacher of subjects that included Speech, Debate, Economics, World Geography, and History. He was named Star Teacher three times in three different decades: 1979, 1989, and 1998. He was the 1985 Houston County Teacher of the Year as well.

Under his guidance, Northside won nine State Championships during this period and numerous national awards. Northside also won more than twenty Region Championships and more than 2,000 individual Speech and Debate awards. Bruce's students won the National Forensic League Award for Excellence; were recognized in the Octo-Finals at the National Bicentennial Tournament in 1979; and were one of the Top Fourteen Teams at the NFL National Debate Tournament in 1996. So many of his outstanding students contributed to winning numerous Region and State titles.

Accolades also went to Bruce as he was recognized as the Young Educator of the Year in 1977, and the Georgia Debate Coach of the Year in 1985. Emory University also recognized Bruce as the Barkley Forum Key Coach for Life. Bruce is in the Hall of Fame for Georgia Debate Coaches and was honored as a Burford Forum Time-Honored Coach in 1995. Because of his hard work and dedication to working with students in speech and debate, Bruce was elected President to the Georgia Debate Coaches in 1985 and served until 1995. He also represented Georgia as member of the National Speech and Debate Committee from 1998 – 2001.

Northside High School clearly was so privileged to have a teacher and colleague like Bruce Rogers on the staff. He was always so available and helpful to both students and staff.

Bruce and his wife, Susan, have been married 39 years and have raised three children and have five grandchildren (two in Long Beach, California and three in Villa Rica, Georgia).

*What does Northside High School mean to you?*

Bruce considers his time at Northside as a wonderful career experience, with a legacy of many friendships. Bruce says that “my history at Northside truly blends with the history of many wonderful students who have become my adult friends. I had a lot of support from three principals and a lot of faculty friends. I was extremely fortunate to have spent three decades at such a great school.” Bruce Rogers will always be a true-blue Northside Eagle!