

Professor establishes scholarship in honor of mentor

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How do you honor a mentor who has touched your life and shaped your career? When your mentor is Cornell University Professor Emeritus Richard Ripple, the answer is clear: help students.

SUNY Broome Professor Bill Altman chose to honor his mentor by establishing the Richard E. Ripple Scholarship, which provides a \$500 award to a full- or part-time continuing student in the Liberal Arts Division who needs financial support and demonstrates academic commitment.

Professor Ripple, who died in 2010 at the age of 79, had worked at Cornell University for nearly 50 years. He had multiple areas of expertise, ranging from the education of gifted students, creative thinking and problem solving, to the psychological bases of curriculum design and human learning.

But above all, Richard Ripple was committed to honoring humanity – by supporting and inspiring his students, no matter where they were in their educational careers. He believed that students benefit greatly by established bonds of friendship with their teachers.

“Dr. Ripple was very much about interacting with others on a human level,” remembered Dr. Altman, a professor in the Department of Psychology & Human Services. “He would talk to anyone about anything.”

While Dr. Ripple’s career led him across the world – he was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Exeter in England, and served as visiting scholar at universities in China, Australia, South Africa and many other places – he had his origins in Milwaukee. Drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he went to college thanks to the G.I. Bill. He taught sixth grade while completing his master’s and Ph.D. in educational psychology at the University of Wisconsin, playing clarinet on the weekends to support his family.

As professor emeritus, Dr. Ripple continued to make valuable contributions as a researcher, teacher and mentor. During his career, he authored numerous articles and several books on educational psychology and human development. Most important, throughout his life, Professor Ripple deeply touched the lives of his countless graduate and undergraduate students, inspiring them to learn, to share information and ideas, and to help others.

If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the Broome Community College Foundation, Inc., PO Box 1017 Binghamton, NY 13902, designating the donation to the Richard E. Ripple Scholarship fund. You can also donate online at www.broomeccfoundation.org.



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