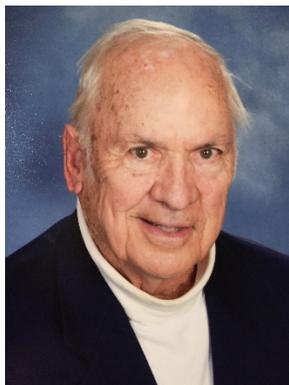


In Memoriam: Bernard J. Rice



Ben Rice passed away on December 6, 2017 at the Hospice of Dayton after battling cancer for a number of years. Ben earned a B.S. in mathematics from St. Louis University in 1955 and an M.S. in mathematics from The Ohio State University in 1961. He joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Dayton in 1960. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1972, to Professor in 1979, and he was awarded the rank of Emeritus Professor upon his retirement in 1998.

Ben was an author of many mathematics textbooks. He also forged a prolific partnership with his colleague Jerry Strange (UD Department of Engineering Technology, later Department of Mathematics). Starting in the late 1960s, Ben and Jerry collaborated on a number of textbooks over the span of several decades, a collaboration that later also included colleague Carrol Schleppe, who also taught first in the Department of Engineering technology and then in the department of Mathematics. In all, Ben wrote thirteen books, most co-authored with Jerry Strange, including books on differential equations, calculus, trigonometry and college algebra. The authors also produced many editions of their various textbooks, as well as solutions manuals for several of them.

In recognition of their prolific publishing careers, Ben and Jerry Strange jointly won the 1978 University of Dayton Alumni Outstanding Professor Award (this was the forerunner of the current Faculty Award in Scholarship).

Ben was an enthusiastic and committed teacher. His interest in writing textbooks stemmed from his belief that he had a better way of presenting the material and making it accessible to the students. Upon hearing of Ben's passing, Jim McCutcheon (PHY 1973) said, "I had Professor Rice for calculus at 8 o'clock in the morning, and I can tell you he made it fun."

Aparna Higgins remembers Ben as a supportive colleague when she was a junior faculty member. He matched her interests and strengths with professional opportunities at UD and encouraged her to pursue these opportunities. He was always ready to give candid advice. Aparna says, "I could always count on Ben for giving me an honest answer, not an answer that he thought I would want to hear. He had a great laugh, and he used it frequently. The laugh made clear that any disagreements were only professional and not personal."

Ben was deeply involved in university governance. He was a member of the Faculty Forum, which preceded the Faculty Senate. In the 1970s, Ben was a member of the committee charged with writing the constitution for the Faculty Senate. He subsequently served as an elected member of the Senate for many years. He served on the Faculty Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure and was an active member of AAUP.

Ben was a runner and a bicyclist; he participated marathons and long-distance biking events. He continued his enthusiasm for these activities until his recent decline in health.

Ben was a lifelong movie enthusiast. He became a moderator for the University of Dayton Osher Lifelong Learning Institute beginning in 2003. He moderated 15 seminars between 2003 and 2013, specializing in moderating film seminars, including *Sports and Cinema*, *Woody Allen*

and (some of) His Movies, Martin Scorsese and His Movies, The Moral Tales of Eric Rohmer, Scientists on Video, and Priest Movies. His commitment to the institute earned him Distinguished Moderator status. Julie, Mitchell, Executive Director of Special Programs and Continuing Education, writes, “Ben was such a dear person and I do not think I ever saw him without a smile on his face.”

Ben was an enthusiastic teacher, a versatile mathematician and a great colleague. His long-time friend Jerry Strange sums it up: “The University of Dayton is a better place today because of the thirty-eight years Ben was on the faculty.”