

A tribute to Stan Ring, my friend

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THIS ARTICLE will be different from ones in the past. It is about my friend, Stan Ring, who died suddenly on September 14. Readers of this newsletter know him as the helpful LTAP library coordinator.



In addition to helping people at the LTAP library, Stan (above, center, and at right) attended many conferences and workshops each year to let people know about CTRE's outreach programs.

Stan Ring scholarship fund

A scholarship fund has been set up in Stan's name for the Civil and Construction Engineering Department at Iowa State University. To donate, contact the ISU Foundation, Alumni Suite, Memorial Union, 2229 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014.

I first met Stan in 1965 when I came to the Ames central office of the Iowa State Highway Commission from the Red Oak construction residency. Stan was an urban design engineer and I worked nearby in a rural highway design squad. Stan was immediately friendly and helpful and I respected him from the very beginning. Stan seemed to have a gift of teaching even at that stage of his career and enjoyed helping others find their answers.

I kept in contact with Stan after graduating from Iowa State University (ISU) in 1970 with my bachelor's degree. I was reunited with Stan when I returned for my master's degree in 1978. Stan was then one of my professors. He had completed his Ph.D. and was an ISU faculty member. He was very successful in developing courses, advising students, teaching, and conducting research. He was a member of many professional organizations and held offices in many of them.

Ten years later Stan had retired as professor emeritus and was working part time managing library services at the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) when I returned to ISU to work at CTRE. We were working together again. He was a tremendous role model and mentor.



I watched Stan to see how he approached his work assignments, how he cared for his family, how he interacted with his friends and co-workers. I saw the respect that Stan commanded from everyone he interacted with. I always said that it would be a sad day for me and for the CTRE staff when Stan decided to retire completely. I always envisioned he wouldn't come to work anymore, but assumed he would be around so I could see him and talk to him. I thought about the legacy that Stan would leave behind and I thought of a word, service.

A recent example comes to mind. Stan had arranged a meeting in Independence with maintenance managers from institutions around the state to share about our outreach program. This was a new group for CTRE outreach and Stan was responding to their request for information. When I had to call and share the news about Stan's passing, there was a genuine feeling of loss even though they had not yet met Stan.

Stan genuinely touched Jeff Milk, the person he had been communicating with. Jeff told me, "I never met Stan face to face, but in talking to him over the phone, I knew that he was going to help us. I'm sad that I will never get to meet him."

Stan served us and didn't expect anything in return. Many times Stan put himself last when he elected to serve others. We saw this in Stan's family, in his circle of friends, in his professional associations, and

in his relationships around the office and the university. Stan was the role model in how to serve others. I know many of you reading this message have had the same experience: Stan serving and helping you with whatever was important to you.

I am sure that my story of Stan Ring is not much different from many of yours. We will miss Stan as a colleague but mostly as a friend. •