IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Taher Razik

Taher A. Razik, professor emeritus from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy, died February 21, 2010. He was 85.

Razik, who joined the UB faculty in 1963, authored numerous books and articles and was a frequent presenter at international conferences. His text *Fundamental Concepts of Educational Leadership and Management* (with Austin Swanson), now in its third edition, is considered a classic in its field.

He also had extensive experience as an international consultant on his own and through UNESCO, in Oman, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, and other countries in the region. Razik, who was born in Egypt, provided advice to education officials, evaluated the educational systems in those countries, and helped in the establishment and design of new universities.

Razik held the Order of Sultan Qaboos, the highest civilian honor issued to non-Omanis for distinguished service to that country. He received the IIAS Award from the International Institute for Advanced Studies in Systems Research and Cybernetics of Baden-Baden, Germany. In his spare time, Razik was an accomplished artist and a painter.

Although Razik retired from UB in 1995, he continued to work with many of the graduate students from around the world whom he mentored. He and his wife, Myra, visited them and hosted a picnic each summer at their home, which typically attracted 60–80 former students.

In 2003, Razik donated a gift to the Graduate School of Education to create the Taher Razik Lounge (463 Baldy Hall). Students use the lounge, which features two Internet connections and a collection of professional publications, for studying and scholarly discussions.

In 2007, a second gift was donated to establish the Taher A. and Myra S. Razik International Fellowship to help raise awareness about the global community. The fellowship provides three years of study toward a doctoral degree in educational administration for a junior faculty member from Egypt.

Portions of this article were excerpted from The Buffalo News obituary dated February 24, 2010.

A Eulogy for Dr. Taher Razik

BY BRUCE HILYARD (Ph.D. ’88, Educational Research and Evaluation)

I recently spoke with several graduates from Dr. Razik’s program and our reminiscences fell into three broad categories: what it was like to be in the program, what it was like after completing the degree work, and the broader connections that grew out of our experience.

IN PROGRAM

Dr. Razik drew students from places around the globe. This lent the program a particular flavor that was not commonly available. He was a man who bridged worlds and cultures. He provided neutral space for some to meet and work together who could have been in conflict elsewhere.

To participate in one of Dr. Razik’s courses was to be challenged, to have to read and think and write in ways that earlier educational experiences may not have called for. The courses provided both practical applications and the broad theory that lay behind those applications. That theoretical base allowed students to move on to a much wider variety of roles than a program that was simply application-based could have.

Dr. Razik pushed students to achieve their maximum. That maximum was often greater than the students themselves believed. He would assist, and he would push when he felt it was necessary.

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