



City of Cambridge

22.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 15, 1997

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
 VICE MAYOR BORN
 COUNCILLOR DAVIS
 COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
 COUNCILLOR REEVES
 MAYOR RUSSELL
 COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
 COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
 COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of **Dr. Richard Ruopp** on December 2, 1997 after a long struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease; and
- WHEREAS: Richard was born in Boston and graduated summa cum laude from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1954, earned an M.S. in Theology at Boston University and a Ph.D at Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1972; and
- WHEREAS: Early in his career Richard served as a Congregational minister in New Hampshire, where he taught at the newly founded Franconia College, of which he became dean of faculty in 1964, and the following year, at age 32, president, a post he held until 1968; and
- WHEREAS: After some time at Abt Associates, where he co-authored several educational reports and studies, Richard was named president of Bank Street College of Education, a world-renowned graduate institution and demonstration elementary school, where he developed models of developmental learning and interactive technologies that are now widely used in modern education; and
- WHEREAS: In 1980, Richard began consulting for Technical Education Research Centers of Cambridge; most recently he was an editor and writer of "Labnet: Toward a community of Practice" (Earlbaum, 1993); and
- WHEREAS: In the 1990's, after his illness was diagnosed, Richard lost his ability to speak but not his will to communicate his thoughts on learning technologies; he then began to address groups using a laptop computer equipped with speech-output software and a speech synthesizer; and

WHEREAS: Richard's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of his surviving friends and family, his wife Patricia Epworth Ruopp; his daughters Wendy, Kathy and Heather; his stepdaughters Angela Greene and Priscilla Green; his brother Phillip and his three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS: Richard will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **Dr. Richard Ruopp** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Ruopp family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council December 15, 1997.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

FD

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INSERT

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Whereas: In the 1990's, after his illness was diagnosed Richard lost his ability to speak but not his will to communicate his thoughts on learning technologies; he then began to address groups using a ~~new~~ laptop computer equipped with a speech-output software and a speech synthesizer; and

Richard Ruopp, 65; Led Bank Street College

By WOLFGANG SAXON

Richard R. Ruopp, a president emeritus of Bank Street College who adapted up-to-date technologies for the classroom, died on Tuesday at his home in Cambridge, Mass. He was 65.

The cause was amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, his family said.

Dr. Ruopp was the fourth president of Bank Street College of Education, from 1979 to 1988, and oversaw the creation of its Center for Children and Technology. The college, founded in 1916 and now located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, combines a leading graduate institution with a demonstration school for children through the eighth grade

that helps train teachers.

It also conducts extensive research in child development and policy issues, and devises models for social and educational programs.

A specialist in early childhood education and day care, Dr. Ruopp was responsible for developing models that were published by the college and are used widely in school systems today. He helped expand Bank Street's pioneering role in using interactive technologies like microcomputers and videodisks.

In 1980, he began consulting for Technical Education Research Centers of Cambridge, which developed the National Geographic Kids Network, Star Schools, and similar microcomputer and telecommunications projects to enhance science curriculums. He was the interim head there in 1989.

Until four years ago he was the chief investigator for the centers' Labnet Project in telecommunications, which links science teachers at all levels coast to coast. Most recently he was an editor and writer of "Labnet: Toward a Community of Practice" (Erlbaum, 1993).

In the 1990's, after his illness was diagnosed, Dr. Ruopp lost his ability to speak but not his will to communicate his thoughts on learning technology. He then began to address groups using a miniaturized laptop computer equipped with a speech-output software package and a speech synthesizer.

With this device, the audience heard a computer voicing the words he typed into it. Not only did he convey his ideas to the audience that way, he continued to field questions

afterward.

At Bank Street, Dr. Ruopp's legacy included "Bank Street Writer" and "The Voyage of the Mimi I & II." The former, developed in 1983, was the first commercially available word-processing computer program designed especially for children. It became a best seller.

"Mimi," an interactive video program, was a 1984 television series for intermediate grades broadcast on PBS, where it is still shown occasionally. Its hero was a humpback whale who gave life to an integrated science-math curriculum, and it came to be used in classrooms nationwide.

Richard Ruopp was born in Boston and graduated summa cum laude in literature and history from Iowa Wesleyan College in 1954. He earned an M.S. degree in theology at Boston University in 1957 and a Ph.D. at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in 1972, after two years of postgraduate research in the philosophy and psychology of religion at Mansfield College, Oxford University.

Early in his career he served as a Congregational minister in England, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where he taught at the newly founded Franconia College. He became its dean of faculty in 1964 and the following year, at age 32, Franconia's president, a post he held through 1968.

Before taking the helm at Bank Street, he worked for Abt Associates in Cambridge, a private social science research firm.

He worked on numerous study reports and was co-author of "Day Care Guide for Administrators, Teachers and Parents" (M.I.T.,



Bank Street College, 1973

Richard R. Ruopp

12/3
1973), and "Children at the Center: Final Report of the National Day Care Study" (Abt, 1979). He also contributed "Death in a Small College," about his experience at Franconia, to "Five Experimental Colleges," published by Harper & Row in 1973.

Dr. Ruopp is survived by his wife Patricia Epworth Ruopp, a former Bank Street vice president for finance and administration; three daughters from a previous marriage, Wendy, of Milton, Vt., Kathy of Brooklyn, and Heather, of Watertown, Mass.; two stepdaughters, Angela Greene of Irvington, N.Y., and Priscilla Greene of Manhattan; brother, Phillips, of Green Valley, Ariz., and three grandchildren. His earlier marriage to Miriam Ruopp of Belmont, Mass., ended in divorce.

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R-1544
Consent Order #22

Councillor Duehay and entire membership
re: Resolution on the death of Dr.
Richard Ruopp.

In City Council December 15, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED