



Dr. Richard H. Merritt

Dr. Richard H. Merritt 78, passed away October 31, 2011 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. Dr. Merritt was born in Jersey City, raised in Bergenfield before moving to Bridgewater in 1962. Richard ("Dick") Merritt started at Rutgers in 1950 as a student at Rutgers College, and except for his service as a captain in the U.S. Air Force, never left & became an instructor at Rutgers in 1956 and had worked there ever since. He was elected a Loyal Son of Rutgers in 2007. A Professor of Plant Biology and Pathology, he served as Director and Dean of Resident Instruction for many years and was a leader in the creation of Rutgers University's Cook College (now School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, SEBS). He subsequently advised the Mayaguez campus of the University of Puerto Rico and was integral in internationalizing education, forming several partnerships between Rutgers and schools abroad, helping to create new institutions in Costa Rica, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and the Sultanate of Oman. He directed the precursor to the International Programs Office at SEBS and the Study of Food Systems Project under the Mid-Atlantic Consortium, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. His recent research focused on lily breeding and systems to enhance production of lily bulbs. Dick taught undergraduate courses Introduction to Horticulture and Tropical Agriculture Systems. He was an active and caring adviser to numerous students and strong supporter and advisor of the SEBS Helyar House (a cooperative living group). Dick Merritt was a valued and beloved colleague, teacher, advisor, mentor, friend, husband, brother and father and grandfather. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Dr. Bonnie McCay Merritt