

## A Tribute to the Late Raymond J. Prince

Harvey R. Levenson, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus Cal Poly

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

This was very difficult for me to write because, what many of you do not know, Ray Prince and I have been closely connected personally and professionally for 52 years. I called Ray "my brother."

We both went to RIT for our Bachelor's degree, and then we went onto South Dakota State University for our Master's degree; both degrees in Printing. We both met and married South Dakota women, and we both have two adopted interracial children. We both lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the same time where we worked for the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (GATF) and shared an office. We belonged to the same industry associations, and were mutually supportive in every way. Whenever Ray Prince visited Cal Poly, he would stay at my home. I lost my best industry friend, "my brother," my confidant. I will never get over it.

Ray Prince was one of the most visible people in the graphic communication industry, having consulted and advised thousands of industry professionals on best practices for business success. When the news about Ray's passing hit the graphic arts industry press, articles appeared in at least a dozen publications. I personally received 76 testimonials within a few days from some of the most prominent leaders in the field.

### ABOUT RAY PRINCE AND CALPOLY

Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department is the beneficiary of Ray's relationship with me and, eventually, with the department's faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Ray recognized all of our commitment to the growth and development of the graphic communication industry through the education of the industry's future leadership, and by the visibility and participation of our faculty and alumni in important industry events. This led to Ray bequeathing the largest gift ever to Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department. This resulted in Cal Poly receiving the largest graphic arts technical library in the world, and a generous bequest in funding for department development, for the library collection, for the Friends of Shakespeare Museum, plus two endowments, one honoring Professor Brian Lawler and another honoring Emeritus Professor, Gary Field. Professor Lawler is the long-time faculty advisor for Shakespeare Press Museum, and Professor Field has volunteered his time to organize and catalog the library collection, now known as the Raymond J. Prince Graphic Arts Collection (RJPGAC).

Ray Prince is among industry notables that told their stories in the new Ben Franklin Honor Society book entitled, BFHS Book of Wisdom, that I had the privilege to edit. Ray's story is entitled, "Lessons Learned and Advice Shared." The book is available from Printing Industries of America (now called PRINTING United Alliance). For more information about the book, contact June Crespo (jrcrespo@printing.org) or phone: 412-259-1778. ■

*Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department and the College of Liberal Arts is presently in the process of establishing a scholarship endowment in the name of Raymond J. Prince, to ensure that Ray's name and relationship with Cal Poly lives in perpetuity.*



Mr. Raymond J. Prince (1944-2020)

---

---

"Ray Prince was one of the most visible people in the graphic communication industry"

---

## The Cal Poly Tribute to Ray Prince

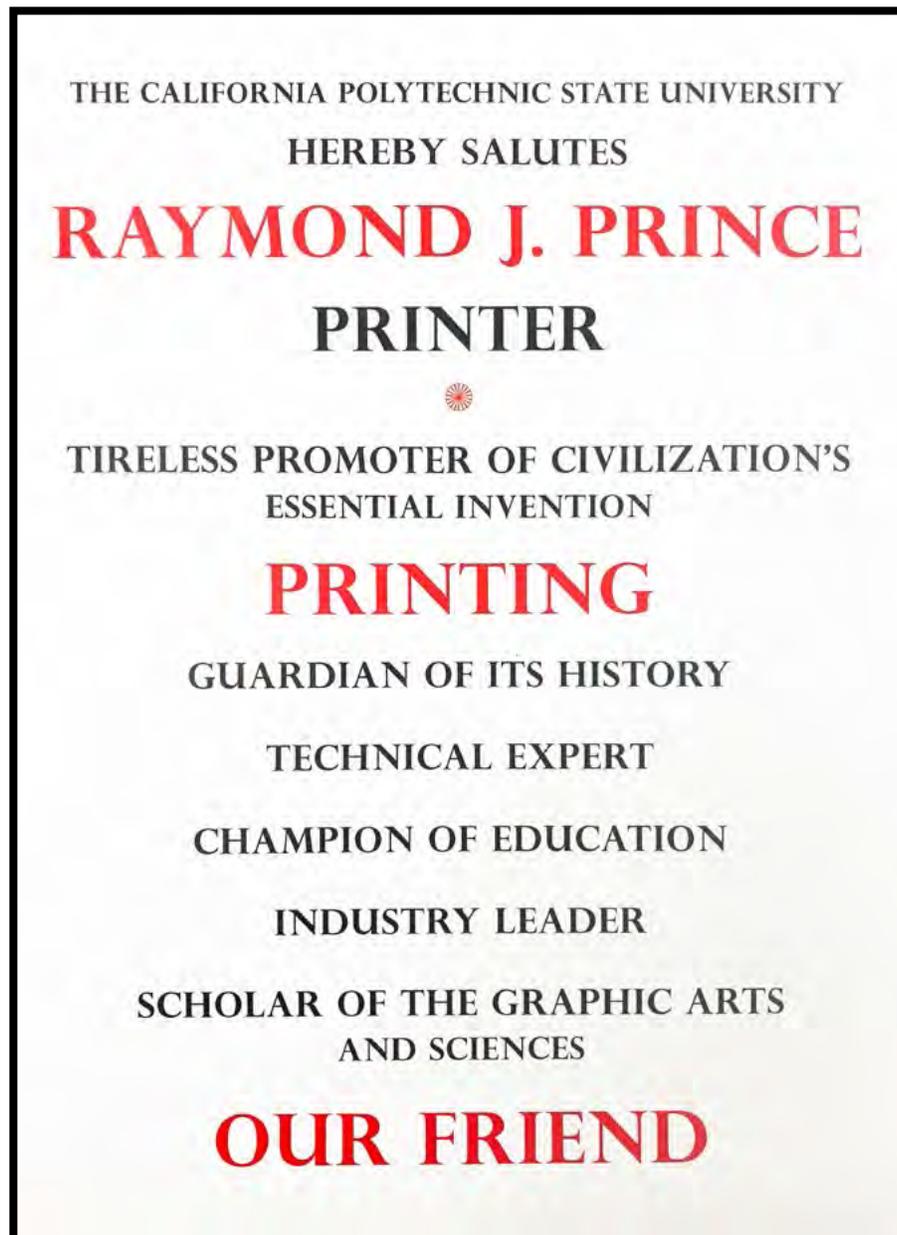
Cal Poly's tribute statement to Ray Prince, reproduced below, hangs in the room which serves as the central focus of the Raymond J. Prince Graphic Arts Collection. I wrote it to mimic the essence, brevity and cadence of Beatrice Warde's famous "This is a Printing Office" broadsheet. A copy

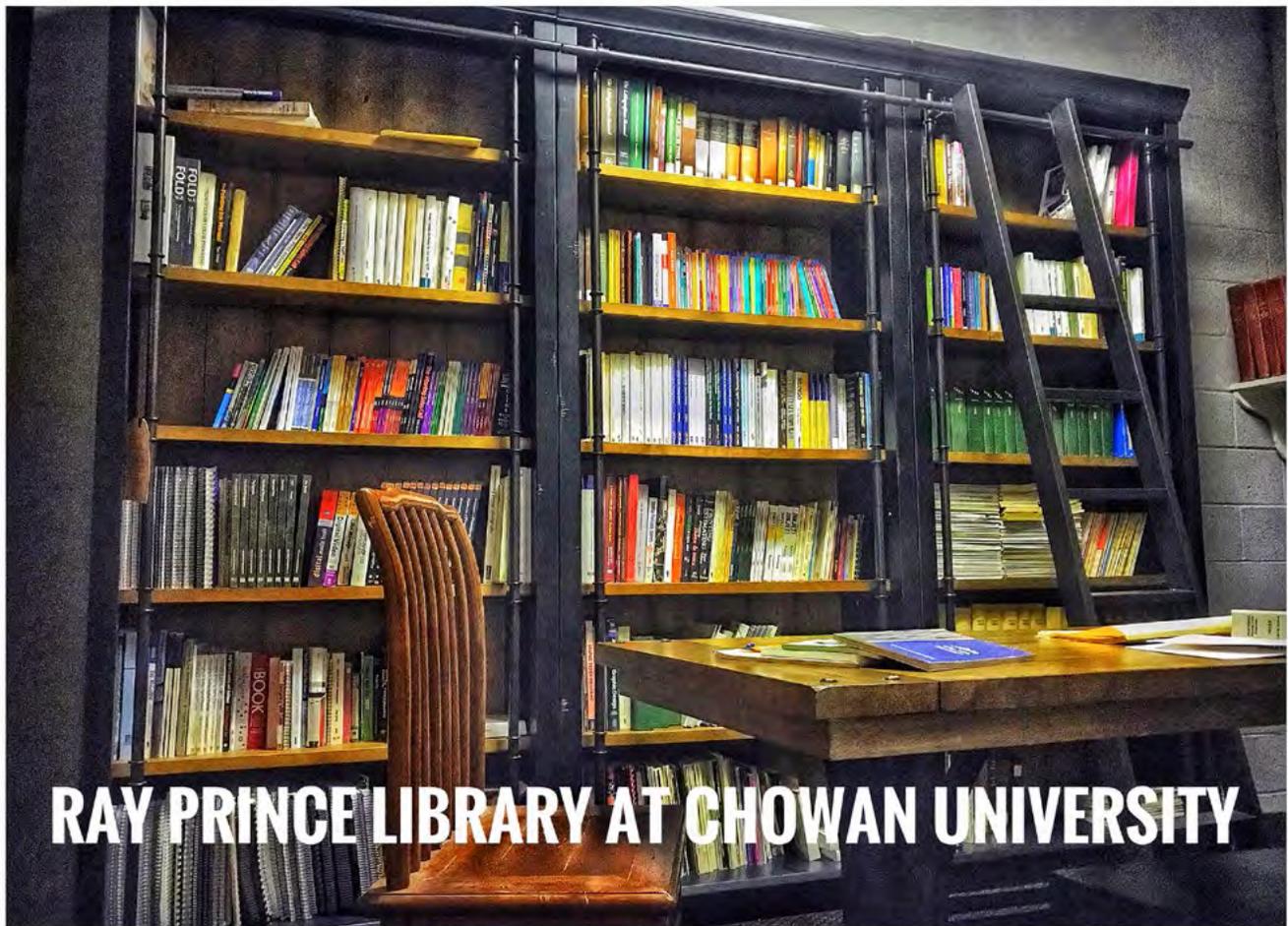
was presented to Ray during the 2016 Graphic Communication Week celebrations.

I first met Ray 50 years ago when we both worked at the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation. His friendship, professionalism, generosity and leadership have served as a constant

source of inspiration to me. He was a true gentleman in the finest sense of that word, and was a sterling role model for all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Ray will be greatly missed. ■

GARY G. FIELD





## News from RJPGAC EAST • Chowan University

*by Tom Brennan, Chair and Associate Professor, Communication Arts • Chowan University • Murfreesboro, North Carolina*

### The New Ray Prince Library

Last year at this time Ray Prince (through the urging of Sid Chadwick) offered to help us build up our existing graphic communications library resources. He graciously donated both physically and financially. Ray then used his extensive industry contacts to send letters on our behalf requesting donations of books and cash. Within days we were getting heavy boxes filled with books that covered the gamut from selling techniques to color management. Our first sets of books came from our colleagues at Cal Poly. Then several individuals parted with their personal libraries. We also received significant monetary donations that allowed us to convert an old darkroom space into a wonderful library space.

The passing of Ray Prince in early May of this year saddened all of us. He was a bigger than life character that I personally had interaction with for nearly thirty years. His thirst for knowledge was unbounded. His commitment to education is unparalleled. The resources Ray was able to gather for us in one short year will have an untold effect on hundreds of young people for years to come. Chowan is not a large university but we've been preparing young people to enter a dynamic and rewarding career in printing and publishing for sixty-seven years. As technology has evolved printing and publishing, more than any other manufacturing sector, has reinvented itself over and over again. Our new Ray Prince library tells that story, and we are grateful. It is through the generosity of people like Ray Prince that allow us to continue that mission. ■

*Tom Brennan • [brennt@chowan.edu](mailto:brennt@chowan.edu) • 252-398-6207 (O)*

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF CAL POLY GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

What a year this has been.

To begin with, I am extremely grateful that our department was graced with Ray and Bonnie Prince's visit in January of this year. Ray was able to use the Raymond J. Prince Graphic Arts Collection library for some consulting work, and he was able to visit the campus, meet the Dean, and spend some time with students as well.

In addition, we celebrated the 36th anniversary of International Graphic Communication Week, and the 50th anniversary of the Shakespeare Press Museum! Ray and Bonnie attended both, and had a wonderful time. From my perspective, it was lovely to see the interaction between Ray and our students; he enjoyed watching students present about their internships, and talking with them about the industry.

It was an incredibly sad day that we heard the passing of Ray on May 1, 2020. Ray was a huge supporter of Cal Poly students and curriculum, as you all know through his generous donation of the library. He also initiated and funded scholarships in the names of both Gary Field and Brian Lawler, both Cal Poly Professors Emeritus (Brian, an alum). Both scholarships have benefitted students in need and who excel in the industry of Graphic Communication. All thanks to Ray.

What I admired most about Ray was not only his revered reputation as a leader and innovator in our industry, an extremely generous person dedicated to the continued growth of our industry through scholarship and other activities for our students, his donations and interest in the Shakespeare Press Museum, but his complete adoration of his lovely wife, Bonnie. I never saw Ray visit campus without a huge smile, but when Bonnie was by his side at events such as the International Graphic Communication Week Banquet, his obvious love for her was palpable. What an amazing couple.

On June 12th we held a commencement virtually for all the graduating seniors. Students were asked to submit their favorite experiences during their career in GrC. I was amazed and humbled by the number of photos that were shown of the International Graphic Communication Week banquet, and, more specifically, photos of the students with Ray and Bonnie. It was a nice tribute to Ray.

We will miss Ray dearly, but are grateful that his legacy will live on in our department through the amazing books in his collection on the history of our industry, scholarships for student success, and donations to faculty professional development. Cal Poly has benefitted greatly from Ray's generosity. ■

*Colleen Twomey, Associate Professor and Chair • Graphic Communication Department, Cal Poly*



### Inquiries about potential donations

Please contact the Graphic Communication department before shipping any material. Department staff will then work with you to determine the most appropriate disposition of the material.

We will need an inventory of books to be donated in order to determine if duplicates exist.

Contact for potential collection donations:  
Colleen Twomey, GrC Department Chair • 805.756.1108  
ctwomey@calpoly.edu

To access previous RJPGAC Newsletters, go to:  
<http://www.grc.calpoly.edu/special-collections/rjpgac/newsletters>

### Transfer of ownership

To transfer ownership of the archival materials to Special Collections and Archives, donors must sign a deed of gift. The deed of gift includes a brief description of the material donated and can be customized to address the individual donor's needs. The donation becomes official once it is reviewed, approved, and counter-signed by the Director of Special Collections and Archives.

### RJPGAC donations

To contribute to the RJPGAC fund, please send checks payable to Raymond J. Prince Graphic Arts Collection to Colleen Twomey, Graphic Communication Department, One Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0381.