



Branimir "Branko" Rieger

January 24, 1943 - February 11, 2022

Branimir "Branko" Rieger passed away Friday, Feb. 11, 2022 at Life Care Center in Cape Girardeau.

Born January 24, 1943 in Zagreb, Croatia, to William and Karla Rieger, Branko lived in Greenwood, South Carolina, and was a professor at Lander University for over 30 years. He received his BA from Scranton University, MA from John Carroll University, and Ph.D. from University of Maryland, working at University of New Orleans before coming to Lander.

Branko was big supporter of education and the arts. His passion for teaching touched many students' lives, many of whom became life-long friends. His love of sports and music led to many friendships with people from around the world.

He is survived by his sons, Andrew Rieger of Athens, Georgia, and Christopher Rieger of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; his grandchildren, Jackson, Julie, and Willow Rieger.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Cape Girardeau.

Tribute Wall



“ *Branimir "Branko" Rieger*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *Sp lit a candle in memory of Branimir "Branko" Rieger*



sp - February 24, 2022 at 12:39 AM



“ *Carrie Koerber lit a candle in memory of Branimir "Branko" Rieger*



Carrie Koerber - February 16, 2022 at 02:00 PM



“ *He was a very special man, warm soul, awesome professor! I worked directly with him at Lander University, and am so thankful and honored to have known him. I pray for comfort, strength and peace for his family as they go through the days and weeks to come. Prayers for his children and grandchildren who he loved so much!*

Susan McIntyre - February 15, 2022 at 12:12 PM

SM

“ Susan McIntyre lit a candle in memory of
Branimir "Branko" Rieger



Susan McIntyre - February 15, 2022 at 12:09 PM

BS

“ Christopher, Andrew and Family we send our thoughts and prayers
during this time!! We have great memories of you both as well as
your Parents!!! Your Kindergarten Teachers at Lakeview School,
Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Sprouse.

Barbara M Sprouse - February 15, 2022 at 12:09 PM

SS

“ Sharon Singleton lit a candle in memory of
Branimir "Branko" Rieger



Sharon Singleton - February 15, 2022 at 10:04 AM

SS

“ Sharon Singleton lit a candle in memory of
Branimir "Branko" Rieger



Sharon Singleton - February 15, 2022 at 08:08 AM

TI

“ I have many fond memories of Branko that range from first meeting him while at Emerald Jr High and playing basketball with Chris, taking his classes at Lander, playing intramural basketball with him to hanging out and going to ballgames with him. Branko was a fun loving guy whom I respected as a teacher and have never met a kinder soul. It had been quite awhile since I had seen him but it was an honor to be his friend. My thoughts and prayers go with his family.

Tim - February 14, 2022 at 09:05 PM

CC

Branko and his family were an integral and joyful part of the families who came to Lander College in Greenwood SC in the seventies. We were all from somewhere else ... Alabama, Louisiana, Canada, India, New Hampshire, New York, Zimbabwe. We gathered at each other's houses, Clark's Hill for camping, Greenwood State Park and Lander basketball games. Thank you to all the Riegers for the golden memories and the skateboard ramp you shared. Wishing you peace and comfort.
Charlotte Cabri

Charlotte Cabri - February 15, 2022 at 10:34 AM

G(

I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Wishing you peace at this time.

Ginny Sears (Sanders) - February 16, 2022 at 10:15 AM

DR

I had Branko for English. I still remember some of his positive critique of some of my papers. He was a great professor. May he rest in peace.

Damon Riddle - February 16, 2022 at 01:40 PM



Dr. Rieger was one of my most favorite professors. Warm, wry and tremendously fun to talk to. I had so much fun running into him at shows in Athens after I graduated. Sending the Rieger family much love.

Stephanie Neal - February 16, 2022 at 04:42 PM

TR

My first year as a college professor was 1980-81 at Lander. Branko Rieger quickly signed me up as a "Buckaroo" and we had many fun times playing tennis, basketball, softball and other sports. He served as a mentor to me, showing me in no uncertain terms that it is fun to be a professor because we meet so many great people and we learn something new every day in the process. Thank you, Branko!
Dr. Tom Rutkowski

Tom Rutkowski - June 25, 2022 at 04:34 PM

RK

Branko's name came up in a conversation Friday so I decided to google him. I went to undergrad school(Scranton) with him and we organized a rec basketball team in MD when he was going to grad school and teaching there. He expanded my music/cultural universe with trips to the Cellar Door club(DC/Georgetown) for The Pozo Seco Singers(with future country star Don Williams), Chad Mitchell Trio, Ian and Sylvia, and Mort Sahl. Lost track of him when he moved to John Carroll. All the previous comments reflect the Branko that I came to know. Sports and life were to be enjoyed.

Ron Krupka

Ron Krupka - April 30, 2024 at 05:31 PM