

## KAREN MICHELE FORREST

Karen Forrest's life began as the granddaughter of Jewish Ukrainian immigrants in Long Island, New York. She did not know at the time that she would have a career as an applied speech scientist and would spend most of her life in the Midwest, much of that time in Bloomington, Indiana. Karen first served on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and then was tenured and promoted to professor at Indiana University. In the more than 30 years that Karen has worked for Indiana University, she has advanced research and clinical practice in the area of speech science; influenced the lives of thousands of students, particularly Ph.D. students; and served in a variety of leadership roles.

While Karen's career trajectory was somewhat circuitous (as research and academic paths often are), she spent the last 30 years working in the area of applied speech science. Her career path started while she was a senior at Washington University in St. Louis, where she studied psychology. At that time, she took a class in hearing science, which led her to write a thesis on the topic of auditory perception while she was conducting research at the Central Institute for the Deaf. After graduating, she returned to the East Coast and worked at Bell Labs in New Jersey, where she was encouraged to pursue a doctoral degree in auditory science. She took that advice and traveled back to the Midwest to study at the University of Iowa in the top-ranked communication sciences and disorders program. While there, Karen initiated a research program on the effects of auditory feedback on speech production. At this point, Karen had found her calling. At Iowa she also met her husband of over 30 years, Michael Johnson, and realized that the Midwest was now her home.

Throughout the last three decades, Karen's research has focused on motor speech disorders, which are pathologies of the ability to produce speech sounds. They are often caused by Parkinson's disease, developmental speech disorders, or other neurological impairments. Motor speech disorders can affect both children and adults, and Karen is notably one of the few speech scientists who has published on speech disorders across the life span. Her work has been influential in many ways: She has contributed to a better understanding of mechanisms responsible for motor speech disorders, evaluated the

efficacy of treatment tools, and developed improved methods for treatment of these clinical disorders. Consequently, her work has had clinical impact. Some of her most cited work translates directly into clinical practice. For example, she has developed diagnostic criteria for evaluating speech disorders in children and has not only shown that certain commonly used therapeutic techniques are ineffective but has provided better techniques that have evidence-based support of their efficacy.

Karen's research program was also highly attractive to federal funding agencies. Her first federal grant, awarded by the National Institute for Deafness and Communicative Disorders, was to evaluate the speech of individuals with Parkinson's disease. Yet throughout her time at IU, her work has had a broad focus. She has received funding to study speech perception and speech production in children, healthy older adults, and adults with neurogenic disorders. A Ph.D. student recently conducted work with Karen on the effects that age-related hearing loss has on the production of speech sounds.

Along with her contributions to the research community, Karen has contributed considerable time to both the teaching and service missions of the university. She has taught 20 different undergraduate and graduate courses while at IU, trained 12 Ph.D. students, and overseen 8 master's theses and 17 undergraduate honors theses. Many of these students have secured excellent positions at universities such as Marquette

University, the University of Georgia, and St. Louis University. Her students consistently speak highly of her and seek her out for advice. Her career-long outstanding teaching contributions were acknowledged when she received the Trustees' Teaching Award in 2018.

Her service to the university and community has also been profound. As examples, she served as director of graduate studies for eight years and then as chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences from 2005 to 2013. The department has clear effects from her leadership: she oversaw two clinical programs that are ranked #12 and #13 in the nation. She has been on countless university committees for tenure, promotion, and strategic plan development. Professionally, Karen has chaired grant review panels for the National Institutes of Health and served as an editor for the top peer-reviewed journal of her field.

Indiana University has been fortunate to have Karen as a faculty member. Her multifaceted strengths have impacted IU across its missions of research, teaching, and service. She will be greatly missed by the faculty for sure, but more importantly by the students. Now she is off to a new adventure. She and Michael are looking forward to moving to the Berkshires in Massachusetts, where her lifelong best friend lives. We wish them great joy in this new journey.

*Jennifer Lentz*

