

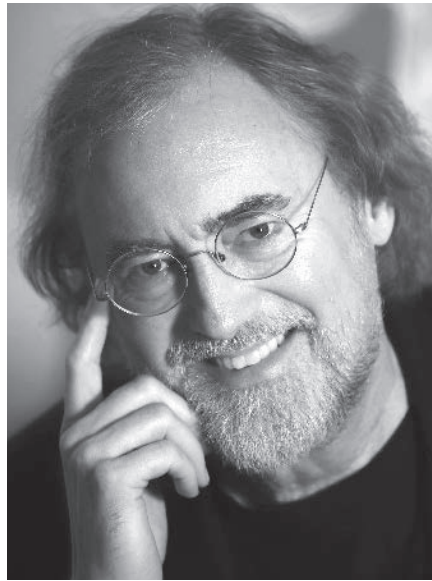
GLENN GASS

Glenn Gass has been an integral part of Indiana University and the Jacobs School of Music for more than 35 years. So integral, in fact, that Glenn was voted IU's Best Professor repeatedly in *Indiana Daily Student* polls and was given the Alumni Association Student Choice Award for many years. The *Bloomington Independent* and *Bloomington Voice* reader polls declared him Best Professor at IU every year from 1993 to 2001, at which point the category was renamed "Best Professor at IU except Glenn Gass."

Glenn has taught more than 60,000 IU students since developing his first rock history course in 1982. The courses he created were the first rock music histories to be offered through a music school and are now the longest-running courses of their kind in the world.

Glenn's rock history surveys and courses on the Beatles and Bob Dylan have taken on legendary status as some of Indiana University's most enduringly popular courses. Glenn is the only person to receive the Herman B Wells Lifetime Achievement Award twice (in 2000 and 2003) and had the bittersweet honor of receiving it from Herman B Wells himself in his last public appearance. He is also the recipient of IU's Sylvia Bowman Distinguished Teaching Award, the Trustees' Teaching Excellence Recognition Award, the Society of Professional Journalists Brown Derby Award, the Eli Lilly Fellowship, and many other teaching awards and honors, including an Ameritech Faculty Fellowship and several course development grants for the creation of his cutting-edge, multimedia classroom teaching resources. He was inducted into the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching in 1991, and in 2013 a generous donation from former Trustee P. A. Mack established the Glenn Gass Scholarship.

We are so grateful that Glenn returned to his roots. He was born in Greencastle, Indiana, where his father was a math professor at DePauw University. He attended Phillips Academy Andover and received his bachelor's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music. Following graduation, Glenn taught in a federal penitentiary in Wisconsin, which was a defining experience in his understanding of music's importance both in society and on the most deeply personal of levels. After an inmate, in tears, told him he was "not in prison" when he was in his



class, Glenn decided to follow in his father's teaching footsteps and returned to Indiana to begin work on his doctorate in composition in 1978. He composed many works and won several composition awards, but his rock courses were already well established at IU by the time he completed his degree in 1985. Glenn decided to remain in Bloomington after receiving, to his astonishment, a faculty appointment teaching rock and roll at the IU Jacobs School of Music. He attained the rank of associate professor in 1993 and professor in 2001. In 2011 he was awarded both the Rudy Professorship and the Provost's Professorship.

Glenn is the author of *A History of Rock Music: The Rock-and-Roll Era* and other publications, but teaching has long been his central mission. He has given countless presentations for IU's School of Continuing Studies and Lifelong Learning programs, the IU Women's Colloquium, the IU Foundation, IU and DePauw retirees groups and class reunions, regional IU campus organizations, and innumerable charity fundraisers in Bloomington, Indianapolis, Greencastle, and elsewhere. He has also offered several overseas studies courses on the Beatles in England, happily attended by his wife and sons Mathew and Julian, who were a toddler and an infant for the first offering, in 1998, and both enrolled as IU students for the last, in 2017.

Over the years, students have let Glenn know of his impact. They seem to intuitively understand his gifts and absorb his passion, as this note from a current

student shows: "Part of it is the power of the Beatles but even more is the power of Glenn Gass—your passion, your openness, your stories. YOU make people love them, and that is quite a gift to give!" Another sent a beautiful letter to Glenn many years after a class, saying:

I will carry the afternoon of 9/11/2001 with me to the edge of the cliff. That day is burned in my memory. There were 400 people packed into that hall who were looking for a voice to help guide them forward and you took that responsibility extremely seriously. It was a moment/hour of Kerouac without commas and punctuation. It was an hour of pure expression that provided relief for a generation that is soon to lead the country forward. Keep doing what you do best! Best! I am very proud to have taken your classes. Keep on jumping sir!

It is this personal investment that has set Glenn apart and created welcoming and unique classes. Another student wrote:

Thank you for the joy you have embodied and also for your tears that you shed so freely when playing "In My Life" or talking about losing John, and many other times. That made it ok for all of us to cry. My Dad passed away in 2014. He loved music and your class has been a way I get to be with him again.

Glenn has long been the public face of music in general studies throughout local and state communities. His genuine love for teaching and students comes through in every interaction and will be greatly missed. Perhaps the Beatles said it best: "And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."

Constance Cook Glen