

TERRENCE C. MASON

“Terry Mason has the soul of an artist, and the tact of a diplomat. You could put him in a boardroom on Wall Street, in a meeting with village elders in Chad, or in a jam session with jazz musicians in Rio, and he would right fit in.” This observation from long-time friend Tim Monich conveys some of the depth and richness of Terry’s character and personality and points to the range of his personal and professional talents. An accomplished scholar, he also has taken on important leadership roles, not only in campus administrative positions but as director of projects aimed at transforming education in some of the world’s most challenging settings. In all these duties, he has displayed unmatched enthusiasm, humor, and integrity, with a love of music never far from the surface.

Terry’s early life prefigured many of his varied passions, abilities, and perspectives. He grew up in Corona, California—a small town at the time, but on the edge of Los Angeles. His father was a school principal and assistant superintendent, but also a jazz pianist who could hold his own with the best performers in the area. Terry began his own musical career playing clarinet in the junior high band, but a decade later could be found busking in the streets of Paris with his Martin guitar. After earning a degree in history, he went on to become an elementary school teacher, later undertaking graduate study at the University of Liège before completing his dissertation, “Elementary School Students’ Achievement-Related Cognitions, Emotions, and Task Behavior,” at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Despite being “a real Pacific Ocean beach kid,” in Monich’s words, Terry left the West Coast, eventually landing in Bloomington along with his wife, Ginette Delandshere (also an IU professor), and their two sons, Ben and Julien. Terry’s service and scholarship while at IU have focused on improving education, particularly through teacher training, and are especially directed at enhancing the civic capacity of individuals and communities—locally, nationally, and internationally. For many years, as professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, he has guided preservice teachers on how to include social studies



in elementary classrooms and taught doctoral seminars on the nature of teacher education.

Terry also has directed several international exchange and development programs focused on civic and teacher education, and he has given dozens of presentations and workshops on these topics in countries around the world. His approach has been notable for focusing on local knowledge and culturally specific forms of education and civic participation. This perspective formed the basis for his 2012 edited book, *Ethics and International Curriculum Work: The Challenges of Culture and Context*. As Lew Allen, another long-time friend and colleague, notes, Terry “has a real heart for international work” and a deep commitment to working closely and collaboratively with people in a variety of settings.

Some of Terry’s most notable accomplishments have taken place through his leadership of IU’s former Center for Social Studies and International Education. In this role, he coordinated several large-scale programs sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, including projects aimed at improving primary education in Macedonia, reforming the higher education system in Afghanistan, and increasing gender equity in education in South Sudan. Arlene Benitez, former director of the same center, notes, “Terry genuinely believes in

the power of education to transform lives, and through his work he’s had a lasting impact on students and colleagues around the world.”

Terry has taken on a number of other administrative roles, including as associate dean of faculties, associate vice provost for research, associate dean for research, academic director of IU’s ASEAN Gateway, and most notably, interim dean and dean of the School of Education. Holding such positions requires a great deal of organizational ability, and Terry brings this same skill to all his endeavors. Allen, who has frequently been Terry’s musical partner, points out that playing together is not just a chance to strum a few songs, for Terry will bring along recording equipment and later mix the results into a sophisticated product. Even his reunions with old friends are carefully planned and organized, with an agenda guaranteed to maximize everyone’s fun and enjoyment—the same goal-directed leadership he brings to his university career.

Describing the extent, quality, and impact of Terry’s service and scholarship still fails to capture the qualities that make him such a unique member of the academic community—or perhaps it is these qualities that have made his achievements possible. He has broad intellectual interests and is an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction, as well as being a wide-ranging critic and consumer of movies, television, and music. He is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist, and a passionate cook and wine connoisseur. He brings youthful energy and enthusiasm to all his efforts, both personal and professional, and he has an irrepressible sense of humor. But perhaps his most often-noted quality is his deep loyalty and commitment to family, friends, and colleagues. As Liza Prendergast, another friend and collaborator, says, “Terry makes longstanding friendships with people of all different backgrounds, interests, ages, and cultures, and he really nurtures those friendships, even from great distances.” These friendships, and the work they are grounded in, are part of Terry Mason’s enduring legacy.

Keith Barton