

RAYMOND SMITH

Ray Smith graduated with a B.A., cum laude, in 1975 from the University of Virginia. He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in English Renaissance Literature in 1992 from the University of Missouri in Columbia. He came to Indiana in 1990 to establish the Campus Writing Program and in 1997 was appointed as assistant professor of language education. As IU Bloomington assistant dean in the Office of Academic Affairs (1993–97) and dean of faculties, and then as associate vice chancellor, Smith developed the Campus Writing Program and also created a world-class writing center, Writing Tutorial Services (WTS). Thousands of students benefited and continue to benefit from both programs as well as other teaching and learning initiatives that Smith helped to launch. Indeed, Professor Raymond Smith's knowledge and dedication have resulted in many of the most durable and noteworthy initiatives for students and faculty on the Bloomington campus.

The Campus Writing Program supports faculty as they frame assignments that will deepen their students' learning and improve their disciplinary writing. Writing Tutorial Services, one of the very few discipline-specific writing tutorial centers in the world, has held well over 50,000 tutorials and has supported the teaching of hundreds of instructors. The prominence of the Campus Writing Program has been acknowledged internationally and has been twice chosen as the site of the International Conference on Writing Across the Curriculum, while Writing Tutorial Services has hosted the International Writing Centers Association. In building these outstanding centers, Ray demonstrated that he cares deeply about the educational mission of the university.

In the 1990s, Ray Smith was also heavily involved in a Lilly Foundation grant dedicated to improving student retention by enhancing undergraduate learning on campus. In particular, Smith was charged with finding the funding and space for the Academic Support Centers for tutorial and advising services housed in

the halls of residence. In further support of undergraduate learning, and demonstrating his love for teaching, Smith participated in the development of the Freshman Learning Project (FLP). According to David Pace of the history department, the faculty leader of the FLP, "Ray Smith played a central role in the early meetings that created the Indiana University Freshman Learning Project, and his efforts to find support were absolutely crucial to the survival of a program. The Decoding the Disciplines process that emerged directly from the FLP is now being used in at least 14 countries and has been the basis for more than 150 books, articles, and papers."

As the Campus Writing Program matured, Professor Smith collaborated with the leadership of UITS in creating the Teaching and Learning Technologies Laboratory (TLTL), the precursor of the now much-expanded Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning. One of the signature productions of the TLTL was the creation of one of IU Bloomington's first online courses, Traditions and Cultures of Indiana University, for which Smith served as executive producer. He committed considerable skill and resources to the project because he realized that the course would serve as a model for future online courses; to date the course has enrolled almost 20,000 students.

Along with other faculty, and as a part of his leadership in the Office of Academic Affairs, Smith lent his experience and knowledge to establishment of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) at IU Bloomington. Under Smith's direction, instructional consultants assisted nearly one in five teaching faculty at IU Bloomington, faculty who brought the same rigor used in their own disciplinary research to the study of their students' learning. As a result, IU Bloomington became an international leader in SoTL. In 2003, IU Bloomington won the Hesburgh award, "which is presented each year to the college or university judged to have the most effective faculty development program [SoTL] that enhances undergraduate teaching and learning."

For two years prior to his return as clinical associate professor to his teaching duties in the Literacy, Culture, and Language Education program, Smith served as dean of University Division. Along with this work, however, he found the energy and time (and funding) to champion the Service-Learning Program on campus. Under his direction, service-learning grew from a part-time staff member to a thriving program that now collaborates with local and regional nonprofits throughout the state of Indiana.

Since his return to teaching at the School of Education in 2009, Ray Smith turned his hand to graduate education, with particular emphasis on recruiting and supporting international graduate students, who make up a considerable portion of the school's Ph.D. and master's programs. He chairs the admissions and fellowship committees and teaches two introductory Ph.D. courses. He was awarded a Trustees' Teaching Award and in 2019 the University Graduate School's Faculty Mentor Award. The announcement of the Graduate School award states, "The award is given to a faculty member who fosters long-term development of students. ... Smith's nominations from his students praised his openness, empathy, professional expertise, and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure student well-being."

In short, one would be hard pressed to name anyone on this campus who has worked more tirelessly than Ray Smith on developing initiatives to improve the quality of teaching and learning across the Bloomington campus. In commenting on his plans for retirement, Smith says his work with graduate students is the thing he will miss the most.

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