

Nicholas M. “Nick” Hipskind

The name “Nicholas” derives from the Greek *Nikolaos*, which roughly translates as “victory of the people.” This meaning seems especially appropriate for *this* Nicholas, for his life has signaled a “victory of the spirit” for all those he has taught, treated, befriended, and loved—a victory for his people. The defining character of Nick’s personal and professional life has been his dedication to the service and betterment of others. By the strength of his personality he has amassed a vast network of friends, colleagues, and associates, a group whose membership has grown over the span of 35 years he has been at IU. His network is so large that whenever someone in his personal network meets a new person in town or at the university, the conversation inevitably turns to whether one or the other knows Nick Hipskind. We network members have come to accept the fact that almost everybody we meet knows Nick and that he knows, or knows someone who knows, practically everyone, including those few poor souls who have not met him (yet).

Nick is one of those extraordinary people who are masters at the art of “networking,” a talent that emerged in him long before the term was coined and became popular. The warmth of his personality, the depth and authenticity of his concern for others, his detailed and boundless memory for names, personal histories, family and social connections of everyone he meets and adds to his network, have earned him a benevolent influence over the lives of the people who know and love him. It appears his penchant for unselfish service and network building is not without precedent in his family; several individuals from the previous generation were also well known for their many years of dedication to the service of others.

Over the two decades that we have known Nick, we have had the occasion to seek his opinion on many matters, both mundane (the best places to eat, get the car repaired, or seek healthcare) and significant (how best to approach a colleague, teach a course, evaluate a client, or assist a student). The fact that we have done so *repeatedly* offers a hint about how we judge the usefulness of his advice. Not only does his generous nature invite repeated requests for assistance, but his advice frequently has guided us in the right direction. He is seldom, if ever, wrong about matters within his social and professional realms of expertise, except perhaps with regard to his prognostications about college athletics, where his judgment is clouded by his unswerving loyalty to IU, his two alma maters (Ball State and Michigan State), and, irrationally, to Notre Dame football.

There is only one way to develop, maintain, and grow such a vast network of friends and colleagues and that is to be an active manager of the ties that bind his people together. Contacts must be constantly renewed and updated, people within the network must be encouraged to meet and help one another, and leadership positions must be taken to demonstrate and advocate for personal commitment to others. This leadership requirement has led Nick to take many service roles over the course of his career, each typically held for several years. A partial listing includes the following:

- *in the department*: faculty advisor to the student honorary society in speech and hearing sciences, departmental University Division advisor, director of audiology, and Hearing Clinic director;
- *on campus*: advisory committee member for the Developmental Training Center, member of Distinguished Scholarship Interview Program, IUSF official timer and scorer for the Little 500 bicycle race, University Division academic advisor for preregistration, associate dean of the University Division;
- *in the local community*: coordinator of hearing screening programs at local schools and preschools—including the development of the hearing screening program for Head Start Bloomington, the Noise Abatement Committee for the city of Bloomington, Advisory Committee for the UAF for Mental Retardation, consultant to Columbus Occupational Health Association, developer of hearing screening programs for the elderly in collaboration with Bloomington Hospital (“Seniority Plus” program) and the Meadowood Retirement Center, developer of the full-service IU hearing-aid dispensary, member and president of the IU Varsity Club;
- *in the state of Indiana*: member of the Indiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA) and its audiology program and nominating committees; member and chairperson of the ISHA membership committee and the Indiana Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology (IBESPA); and a consultant in audiology to several Indiana companies; and
- *in the United States*: member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and its program committee; site visitor and site-visit chair for numerous ASHA accreditation site visits at programs throughout the United States.

This list of service-related activities stretching over three decades is impressive not only in terms of the amount and length of service so generously contributed, but also in terms of the *quality* of his efforts. His record of outstanding service has been recognized as such by state and local organizations. In recognition of his work as a member of IBESPA for almost a decade, the governor of Indiana presented Nick with the state's highest honor in 1988, the Sagamore of the Wabash. In recognition of his years of dedicated clinical service and teaching, the governor of Kentucky presented Nick with that state's highest honor in 1993, the Kentucky Colonel award. In 1999 the Campus Life Division at IUB presented Nick with its award for outstanding faculty member, recognizing three decades of dedicated service to IU Bloomington students.

For the past two decades we have been proud and very thankful to have been a small part of the vast "Nick Hipskind Network" of friends and colleagues. We have been inspired by his example and look forward to remaining a part of this extraordinary personal community for years to come.

Larry Humes
Phil Connell