

Dennis Conway

Dennis Conway retires this December from the Department of Geography after 30 years of service to Indiana University. Over the course of his career Dennis became internationally renowned for his research on return migration, circulation, urbanization, and development. While the principal geographical focus of his research has always been the Caribbean, he also has written extensively on Latin America and Nepal.

Dennis was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, in March 1941, 20 minutes earlier than his identical twin brother, Peter. In 1959 he got a place in Peter House, Cambridge, studying geography. He graduated from Cambridge in 1962 and entered St. Peter's College, Oxford, where he received a diploma in education in 1963. Upon graduation, Dennis took a position as head of geology and teacher in geography at Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby, in Warwickshire. He remained there until 1966. In April 1966 he married Ruth, and that summer they embarked on a "banana boat" for Barbados where Dennis served as head of geography at Harrison College until 1969. Beginning in the spring of 1969 Dennis and Ruth traveled Mexico and the United States by bus before settling in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco in the fall of 1969. There he worked for Manpower, Inc., and Ruth worked at Kaiser Hospital. They returned to England in the spring of 1970, and Dennis took a teaching position at George Abbot School in Guildford, Surrey. In January 1971 Dennis and Ruth moved to Austin, Texas, where he entered graduate school in geography. He received the M.A. in 1973 and the Ph.D. in 1976.

In August 1976 Dennis joined the faculty of the Department of Geography at Indiana University as assistant professor of geography and Latin American studies. He immediately distinguished himself at Indiana University for his research and teaching, and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1984 and full professor in 1992. In the course of his career he published several books and more than 100 journal articles, book chapters, and technical reports. He has been a longtime member of the Association of American Geographers, the Caribbean Studies Association, and the Conference of Latin American Geographers. He has taught over 40 separate courses during his career at Indiana, many of them several times. He has at various times been director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, acting director of the Population Institute for Research and Training, and chair of the Department of Geography. He has supervised or helped supervise over 40 Ph.D. degrees in fields as diverse as geography, anthropology, sociology, journalism, history, and speech communication.

In retirement Dennis will continue to engage in research and supervise graduate students. He is starting a number of new book projects and continues to write prolifically. He hopes to have more time for gardening and sailing, preferably in the Caribbean, and for his two grandchildren.

Dan Knudsen