

## Norman Furniss

*Professor of Political Science*

Norm Furniss has spent his entire professional life as an active and distinguished contributor to the intellectual community that is Indiana University. He first came to IU in 1971, having earned a B.A. at Yale (1966) and both an M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard in short order (1971). Because of the time and energy that must be invested in fieldwork abroad, it is very rare for students of comparative politics to move so quickly towards the Ph.D. But Norm has rare intellectual gifts. He arrived as the recipient of numerous undergraduate and graduate awards, and quickly made a name for himself as a rising star scholar of comparative politics. He immediately commenced a record of publishing important articles in some of the most highly regarded peer-reviewed journals in the political science discipline, including *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Political Studies*. A 1978 essay on “The Political Significance of the Public Choice Property Rights School,” published in the prestigious *American Political Science Review*, offered a prescient critical discussion of what was to become one of the most important tendencies of the discipline.

But Norm is best known for the book he co-authored with his departmental colleague and friend Tim Tilton, *The Case for the Welfare State: From Social Security to Social Equality* (Indiana University Press, 1977). This extraordinary book placed its authors, and Indiana University, “on the map” in the study of the welfare state. It brilliantly combined empirical research, comparative analysis, and normative political theory, to provide one of the most influential accounts of the “logic of the welfare state” as a form of political empowerment and social justice. I will never forget how, as I prepared for my own job interview at IU in 1986, one of my New York friends said to me “Indiana University? That’s the place that has *Furniss and Tilton!*” When I arrived, I got to know Furniss and Tilton, collectively and as individuals. They were a powerful “team,” intellectual role models and welcoming colleagues.

Norm has always been a highly regarded political scientist. But he has also always been more than a political scientist. He is a true intellectual who reads widely. He is a generalist and a cosmopolitan, who has long been dedicated to the global mission of Indiana University. In this capacity he served with distinction as the chair and director of the West European Studies Department (WEST) for the entire decade of the 1980s, establishing WEST as a National Resource Center. In this capacity he continued the legacy of his senior colleagues and predecessors, James Christoph and Alfred Diamant, who had earlier established Indiana University as a major site of the study of European culture, society, and politics. And like his close friend and colleague, Dick Stryker—who recently retired as a distinguished director of the Office of Overseas Study—Norm worked tirelessly on behalf of IU’s international programs in both research and teaching.

Norm has always been a dedicated teacher. In his almost 40 years of service as an Indiana University faculty member, he taught innumerable undergraduates and graduate students, directed many honors theses and dissertations, and innovated many new courses. He served with distinction as the Department of Political Science's director of undergraduate studies and as its honors director, and has been an outstanding teacher for the Hutton Honors College for a number of years.

Most recently, he became an active, popular, and respected teacher affiliated with the Intensive Freshman Seminars program and the Liberal Arts and Management Program, where he plans to continue teaching in retirement. Norm has always been growing as a teacher, always expanding into new areas, and always placing a commitment to liberal arts education at the center of his professional life. For a number of years Norm also pioneered the Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) program in the political science department and on campus. Through his efforts as the creator of a graduate course on professional development and as coordinator of PFF, Norm made a huge impact on many graduate students, orienting them to the challenges of academic life and helping to place many in their first teaching jobs.

Norm is one of the last retiring members of an extraordinary cohort of comparative politics scholars who helped to make Indiana University a world-class institution. I have watched the way he interacts with and his devotion to his long-retired mentor, Freddy Diamant, and with Natalie Christoph, the widow of his other key mentor, Jim Christoph. I have observed the rapport that he has with his many close friends and colleagues across disciplines and generations. I have marveled at his exploits on the tennis courts, where he has been joined by veteran colleagues such as Ted Carmines and Ilya Harik, and by relative newcomers like the recently tenured Aurelian Craiutu. Norm is a scholar and a gentleman. He is a role model and a mensch, one of a kind both personally and intellectually. His retirement is a wonderful opportunity for colleagues to honor him, and to reflect on the academic and intellectual values that make Indiana University a special place.

*Jeffrey C. Isaac*