

## **Fenton Martin**

*Librarian and Archivist, Research Collections, Department of Political Science*

Years ago I was an undergraduate political science major at IU, and then, after that, a graduate student in the same department. I remember so clearly all the angst of being a New York girl miles away from family, and of being a stressed-out student miles away from serenity. My haven in those years, and for many years since, was the Political Science Research Collection, not for the solace of books, though it offered that, but for the solace of the librarian, my dear, dear friend and now colleague, Fenton Martin.

Fenton is retiring this year and it is an occasion of joy for her since she finally gets to set up a full-time home with her husband, Richard Pacelle, the chair of the political science department at Georgia Southern. It is a deep sadness for the rest of us here who will miss her very much.

Generations of students have known and loved Fenton, have made her their honorary mom, mentor, running buddy, ice cream and cake partner, tap dancing student, and best friend. Her presence—calm, serene, and steady, yet with an irrepressibly impish edge that can send you off into gales of giggles when you most need to laugh—has been an anchor for more of us than I can count.

And, oh, yes, she's been a marvel of a librarian too.

Fenton grew up in Coral Gables, Florida (though she was born in Kansas), and went to school at Florida State. She moved to Boston with her husband, got hooked on libraries at MIT, and when they moved to Bloomington in 1970, she enrolled in and got her M.L.S. from IU's Graduate Library School. Along the way she had Russell and Craig, the two sons who are the cherished lights of her life.

Here at IU she has been the head librarian and archivist of the Political Science Research Collection, part time beginning in 1971, and full time since 1986, and, for a couple of years (1984–1986), she was head librarian in both the Research Collection and the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis.

Fenton has been a prolific writer of bibliographies; she is an author of more than 22 books in all, as well as of several chapters in the books of others. With her colleague, Bob Goehlert, she has left few corners of political science uncatalogued: they have compiled award-winning bibliographies on elections, policy, Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, and even the Parliament of Great Britain. What's more, they did many of these books before computers made the tasks of discovering and assembling such information manageable. Many a student assistant has sat hunched over boxes of thousands of index cards, helping Fenton and Bob catalogue the literature of political science.

Ahh, those students. Fenton has not had a classroom role at IU, but she has touched the lives of students as surely as any professor. In 2001 she was awarded the Gros Louis Special Recognition Award by the Office of Women's Affairs for her contributions to the research and teaching mission of Indiana University. In her 36 years here at IU, an amazing 195 undergraduates and 58 graduate students have worked for Fenton in the Research Collection as work-study or graduate assistants, and many more have spent hours doing their own work. As one IU alum points out, "that room was the center of much of my intellectual effort."

Fenton made "that room" the center of so many of our intellectual efforts. From its early beginnings in the "old Woodburn," to the two-year stint in the Student Building, and then back into our freshly renovated digs in Woodburn, the Research Collection has been a bonus: our very own library, a repository of reserved readings, political science books and journals, from the classics to the modern, all carefully catalogued by Fenton and her students. The room's high ceilings, quiet hush, and stained glass window suggest the solemnity of a cathedral, the polished tables and relaxing chairs the comfort of a living room. For students and faculty alike, the Research Collection has been a departmental resource of unparalleled worth, the envy of less endowed departments around the country, a strong recruiting advantage. Potential faculty members and graduate students always got a meeting with Fenton and a tour of the Research Collection when we were persuading them to join us.

And that Research Collection is Fenton. Without her it will not be the same, and that multiplies our sadness. All of us in the Department of Political Science today and all of us who have passed through Woodburn Hall in the past 35 years have had our lives enriched by Fenton Martin—her infinite willingness to help us find the right source for our work, her dedication to the Research Collection, her mothering spirit, and her huge heart and warm capacity for friendship. We thank her and we will miss her dearly.

*Christine Barbour*