

Donald L. Harnett

Dr. Don, as he is known affectionately by his M.B.A. students and his colleagues, is retiring this year after 41 years of service to Indiana University and the Kelley School of Business. For the past 13 years he has been one of the pillars of the M.B.A. Core Program, teaching the required quantitative course, one of the hardest teaching assignments in the Kelley School. Dr. Don's "Jimmy Buffet Day" in the M.B.A. core has become legendary among recent graduates, with Dr. Don donning his Parrot Head hat for the day. It is hard to imagine what the M.B.A. program will be like without Dr. Don. In fact it is hard to imagine what the Operations and Decision Technologies Department will be like without Dr. Don, since he has been such a valuable colleague for all of us and a mentor to many of us.

Donald Harnett, a native of Pennsylvania, earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from The Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in business and statistics. During his graduate studies Don served as a graduate assistant to two pioneers in the emerging field of experimental economics, Professors Larry Fouraker and Sidney Siegel. Several publications and considerable national attention resulted from Don's graduate work with Professors Siegel and Fouraker. Don credits Professor Siegel for his introduction to and interest in nonparametric statistics. This area has remained one of his primary interests throughout his academic career.

Don's first academic position, in the IU School of Business, began in 1964 in the Quantitative Business Analysis Department. He taught a variety of quantitative courses, including calculus, linear programming, operations research, statistics, and computer programming, which at the time consisted mainly of programming the IBM 650. Don has also taught at Harvard University, the University of Hawaii, and the University of Washington as a visitor. In addition he has taught in numerous executive development programs, and for the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) in Caracas, Venezuela. At IU Don has held a number of administrative positions. He served as a department chair for nine years, first from 1979 to 1984 and then from 1993 to 1996. He also served as chairperson of the M.B.A. program from 1984 to 1987.

Over the years Don's teaching and writing have focused on statistics. He has taught undergraduate students, both in the Kelley School of Business and the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as M.B.A. and doctoral students at the Kelley School. He designed and taught the first data mining course at Kelley, and also taught an M.B.A. course in experimental design. Among Don's major contributions to teaching are his various textbooks, which have been used in many business schools throughout the world. He has published more than 10 editions of four different statistics books, and a book on operations research. His books, published initially by Addison-Wesley, and then by Wiley, have set the standard in many different ways. He has been at the leading edge in the use of technology. One of his books was the first statistics book to include a statistical software package. Another was the first Wiley statistics text to be completely typeset from electronically submitted material rather than from hard copy. In recent years his books have been setting the stage in the use of spreadsheets for statistical analysis and spreadsheet modeling.

Don's teaching efforts have led to numerous honors, including a 1991 Instructional Innovation Award from the Decision Sciences Institute, several M.B.A. teaching awards, several TERA awards, an IU Trustees Teaching Award (2004), and mention (twice) in *BusinessWeek* as one of the professors most respected by M.B.A. graduates. He has also been recognized by various national honorary societies including Pi Mu Epsilon (mathematics), Phi Kappa Phi (scholastic), Beta Gamma Sigma (business), and Alpha Iota Delta (decision sciences). He was listed for numerous years in *Who's Who in America*.

Don has published over 40 articles and papers in the area of bargaining and group decision making. His articles have appeared in *Operations Research*, *Journal of Business*, *Decision Sciences*, *The Academy of Management Journal*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Sociology*, and the *Southern Economic Journal*, among others. Some of Don's early work was with Larry L. Cummings, a fellow faculty member in the Kelley School of Business. In 1969 he and Larry were awarded a grant for international research on bargaining behavior by the Ford Foundation. That research, which involved traveling to and collecting data in five different European countries as well as Japan and Thailand, resulted in numerous publications, including a research monograph, *Bargaining Behavior: An International Study*.

Recently Don has served as a consultant to a variety of law firms and companies as a statistical expert, especially on issues concerned with gender, age, or race discrimination. His work with the legal community has involved a fascinating array of inquiries, including tax assessment for a nuclear plant site, another one concerned with gender equality for firefighters, and another investigating the distribution of peak electrical loads.

Don is the proud father of Kendall and Tina, both graduates of Indiana University. Don has the distinction of having both his children win, in different years, the Little 500 bicycle race. They now live near Portland, Maine. Don is married to Pam, who for many years was the director of the M.B.A. program in Indianapolis. Don has two stepdaughters, Jennifer and Sara, who reside in North Carolina. Pam and Don have six very special grandchildren.

After 40 years in the Kelley School, Dr. Don is going to be missed. Congratulations on a superb career!

Ashok Soni