

Iris Vessey

Iris Vessey is retiring from Indiana University in September 2005 after 10 years of service to the Kelley School of Business. She came to IU in 1995 after serving as a faculty member for seven years at Pennsylvania State University and two years at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to her move to the United States, she served as a lecturer at the University of Queensland (Australia) for 13 years. Iris has also held sabbatical or visiting positions at the University of Oregon, UCLA, City University of Hong Kong, the University of Minnesota, and NYU. A native of Australia, she received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Queensland in 1962, as well as a bachelor's in organic chemistry in 1964. She received an M.B.A. from the University of Queensland in 1977 and a Ph.D. in 1984, both in management information systems. Prior to academia, her professional experience included service as a research chemist for British Drug Houses Ltd. in London, U.K., and Farmitalia in Milan, Italy. She also served as a systems analyst for Morris Woollen Mills in Australia.

Iris is recognized for her research on the evaluation of emerging information technologies from both cognitive and analytical perspectives. Much of her research has used qualitative research methods to assess the efficacy of new technologies. A major contribution in this area is her theory of cognitive fit—the matching of solution approaches to the problem at hand. Her current research focus is on the management and organization of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems. She is investigating factors driving the adoption and successful implementation of such systems. This research involves both theoretical analyses of risk factors and intensive organizational case studies. Her general teaching interests are in the areas of systems analysis, implementation, data management, and software engineering.

Iris has authored more than 50 refereed journal articles, as well as over 25 book chapters, award-winning teaching cases, and conference papers. Her journal articles have appeared in highly regarded publications such as *Management Information Systems Quarterly (MISQ)*, *Information Systems Research*, *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Decision Sciences*, *IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering*, and the *Communications of the ACM*.

In 1998 Iris was ranked tenth in the world in information systems research productivity. Her research has been featured in various industry outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Information Week*, and *Computerworld*. She has also been honored with several editorial appointments, including associate editorships at *Management Science*, the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Information Systems Research*, *MISQ*, and the *Journal of Database Management*.

In addition to editorial services, Iris has provided exemplary service to the information systems (IS) profession. She has served as a member of several conference committees, including the executive committee of the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) and was joint conference chair for the Americas Conference on Information Systems in 1997. From 1995 to 2004, she also served as the secretary for the Association for Information Systems (AIS), our international professional association, as well as secretary for ICIS from 2000 to 2004. Moreover, she has served as co-chair of the 2000 Ernst & Young Foundation/ICIS Doctoral Consortium.

During her career at IU, in addition to numerous service activities, Iris has been director of the Information Management Affiliates Program, which offers seminars to high-level IS managers on the managerial implications of information technologies and provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas on technology topics of current interest. In recent years Iris has also been charged with leading the capstone projects within our master's program in IS. These assignments attest to her leadership, relationship-building, and mentoring skills.

Based on her superb research and professional service, Iris received the AIS fellow award in 1999, which was established that same year by the Council of the Association for Information Systems and the Executive Committee of the International Conference on Information Systems. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, like Iris, who have made outstanding contributions to the IS discipline in terms of research, teaching, and service. AIS fellows are role models and an inspiration to colleagues and students within the discipline, esteemed for their high levels of professional and personal integrity. Our department has been truly honored to be the home of an AIS fellow. The faculty and students within our department, as well as our global colleagues, have learned and benefited from Iris's professional commitment and high standards.

Aside from the honors and awards, perhaps the most rewarding part of Iris's career has been mentoring graduate students and other faculty. Iris always has time to talk about research, offer detailed comments on drafts of research papers, and provide direction for students and faculty who seek her counsel.

Just when most people assumed Iris would retire and spend more time doing “non-systems” related things, she surprised us all by taking a research position in Australia. She will be working with faculty at the Queensland University of Technology (in Brisbane, Queensland) and Monash University (in Melbourne, Victoria) on a project titled “Using measures of ontological distance to evaluate the alignment between organizational needs and enterprise systems capabilities.” We have no doubt that her new endeavor will be rewarding and successful.

The current members of the information systems faculty will miss Iris’s intellectual and professional leadership. She has set standards that will be difficult to duplicate. Iris has also been a dear friend and colleague. Luckily, with her continued interest in research, we anticipate catching up with her at conferences and other events. Following her time in Australia, she has promised to return to Seattle, Washington, to retire with her husband, Bob Glass. We wish Iris all the best in her future professional and personal endeavors. Like us, we hope that she will take time to reflect on the many lives her career has touched and enriched.

Anne Massey