

Dan Drew

Dan Drew has always been a little out of step with the conventional academic parade. As an impoverished graduate student at Indiana University in the late 1960s and early '70s, he lived in a ramshackle trailer in Ellettsville, but he owned an airplane, a 1940 Piper Cub, which he kept at the Monroe County Airport. Now, nearly 40 years later, though the Piper Cub is gone, Dan still skips out of grading student papers from time to time to slip off to the airport for a little flight time on a sunny southern Indiana day. Cloudy day? Well, then he may be in his garage working on his motorcycle or tinkering with his ham radio equipment.

Tinkering with radio. That is how a professional and an academic career began for Dan Drew. Born February 6, 1941, in Elmira, New York, Dan went to a one-room school and grew up in a rural community where few kids went on to college. He liked electrical devices, including crystal and vacuum-tube radio sets, and he decided early in life that he would go into radio.

In 1958 he enrolled at Ithaca College, and he began a radio career with a part-time job at WEHH radio in Elmira. During his college years he spent as much time in radio studios as in classrooms, working on stations in Elmira and Ithaca, reporting government and farm news and doing sports play-by-play. After graduating from Ithaca College in 1962, Dan took a job at WXYJ radio in Jamestown, New York, covering city and county government and handling the full range of news and announcing duties. In 1963 he moved on to WFBR in Baltimore, covering local and state government, and then in 1964 to WWDC in Washington, where he covered Congress, the White House, D.C. city government, and Maryland state government. This was an exciting time to be a news reporter in Baltimore and Washington, in the midst of the civil rights movement, the war on poverty, racial turmoil in the cities, and the Vietnam War.

Though Dan had always imagined he would make a lifelong career in broadcast news, he felt a tug from the academic world, and in 1968 he enrolled in graduate school at the IU School of Journalism. He completed his M.A. in Journalism at Indiana in 1971 and published his first scholarly article, based on his M.A. thesis, in the *Journal of Broadcasting*, an article on the decision-making styles of television reporters. At Indiana Dan slipped from professional journalism into an academic career of teaching and research. He became one of the first students in IU's new Ph.D. program in mass communication, where he forged long friendships and research collaborations with G. Cleveland Wilhoit and David H. Weaver.

After completing the Ph.D. at IU in 1973, Dan was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Stanford University, where he taught courses in media effects, public affairs reporting, and broadcast news. He moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1975 and continued to teach communication research courses as well as professional journalism courses in broadcast news.

In the early 1980s Dan again felt a tug from the professional world and moved to Los Angeles to work as a reporter in television news at KTLA-TV, where he covered everything from government and crime to fluffy beach features and freeway cop-car chases. After two years in front of the camera in L.A., Dan was wooed back into academe by his alma mater. He came onto the faculty of the IU School of Journalism in 1984, and there he stayed.

Under the deanship of Richard Gray in the 1970s and '80s, the IU School of Journalism sought to balance its professional mission with its academic mission, not by hiring some professional faculty and some academic faculty, but by hiring people who were themselves both. Finding individuals who had solid careers in professional journalism as well as academic credentials and a commitment to scholarly research was always difficult. In the early 1980s I blithely suggested to Dean Gray that we should hire "someone like Dan Drew," whom I had known when I was a graduate student at Wisconsin. A bit exasperated, Gray replied, "There's no one like Dan Drew. There's just Dan Drew." So we hired Dan Drew.

Dan has been the exemplar of the School of Journalism's ideal of blending strong professional experience with academic achievement in a single faculty member. Throughout his years at Indiana he has been deeply involved with professional practice,

as a teacher of television news, as a link between the school and WTIU and WFIU, and as a representative of the school to professional organizations. At the same time, Dan's first loyalty has been to the school's academic mission. Dan's own research includes studies of journalists' professional behavior, media effects, children's media use, and voter learning in election campaigns. He has worked with experiments and surveys and has published his work in the leading journals of the field. One of his regular courses over the years has been Broadcast News Analysis, in which he labored, sometimes successfully, to teach undergraduates statistics and quantitative research methods.

In recent years Dan has devoted much time and brainpower to service to the School of Journalism and IU. He has served as associate dean for research and graduate studies, and he has been a key player in planning for the school's transition to a new century and new dean. He has also become increasingly active in faculty governance, serving on the Bloomington Graduate Council, Bloomington Faculty Council, and University Faculty Council.

Though in recent years Dan's life has filled up with meetings, in his heart he is not a meetings kind of guy. As he moves into retirement, I suspect that he will resist chairing new committees. Instead, I see him sharing a laugh with his wife, Beth Wood, flying an airplane, riding a motorcycle, and tinkering—tinkering, perhaps, with another crystal radio set.

David Nord