

## Roger B. Parks

What will the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) be like without regular doses of Roger's colorful jokes, acerbic wit, insightful and concise analyses of complicated situations and challenges, and his sage counsel? Many within SPEA have deluded themselves that the inevitable was still many days off, despite Roger's eagerness to volunteer, without much prompting, the exact number of days left before he became eligible for 18–20.

Roger Parks, after growing up in Florida, found his way to MIT where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautics and astronautics. After a brief career as an aerospace engineer in St. Louis developing military aircraft for McDonnell (now part of Boeing), and a spectacularly brief attempted career in auto racing, Roger came to Indiana University where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science.

As luck would have it, Professor Elinor Ostrom was offering a seminar on a Saturday morning, which was convenient for Roger who was working full time in Indianapolis at the time and taking classes as a part-time graduate student. Under Professor Ostrom's direction, Roger, along with fellow graduate students Dennis Smith and Rick Guarasci, designed a study on policing in Indianapolis. The study did not have outside funding, necessitating a low-cost endeavor supported by a small internal research fund, work-study funds, and vans donated by the Urban Affairs Center at Indiana. Roger's familiarity with Indianapolis was critical to the success of the project as the research team drove through the neighborhoods of Speedway, Beech Grove, and Lawrence in order to identify the areas that would be the subjects of their survey work.

The Indianapolis project ended up being a "demonstration project" that was instrumental in Roger and Professor Ostrom's obtaining funding from the National Science Foundation for a similar study in Chicago, a larger study in St. Louis, and eventually a study encompassing 80 metropolitan areas. According to Professor Ostrom:

It would have been hard for an outsider to tell who was the student and who was the faculty member in those early years. Roger had so much technical training and good theoretical understanding of research design that he contributed at all levels as a full colleague.

The Ostrom-Parks team continued to work together closely through the late 1970s into the early 1980s. Their collaborative research resulted in a large number of influential publications on the topic of the delivery of police services in metropolitan America.

In 1982 SPEA was fortunate to add Roger as a colleague. While with SPEA, he continued his research into various aspects of policing, including community policing and citizen interactions with police. In addition Roger expanded his line of inquiry and analysis to metropolitan governance and organization. In all he has published over 30 articles and numerous book chapters and research monographs. His articles have appeared in *Public Administration Review*, *Publius*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Police Studies*, *American Political Science Review*, *Management Science and Policy Analysis*, *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Justice Research & Policy*, and *Crime and Delinquency*, among others.

From January 1991 to December 1993 Roger served as director of undergraduate programs in SPEA. SPEA's undergraduate program had been struggling in the late 1980s, and Mike Maxfield, Roger's predecessor, had begun to turn the program around. Roger, however, accelerated that turnaround, shaped the undergraduate program, and gave it focus. More important, he spent numerous hours advising and mentoring countless undergraduates. The program grew dramatically under his leadership and became a foundation on which SPEA was built.

In 2000 Roger was again asked to step into an administrative role for SPEA. Not surprisingly he replied in the affirmative and became director of public affairs and public policy Ph.D. programs, a role he served in until his retirement. Once again he tirelessly worked to strengthen the program and spent countless hours advising and mentoring students in both SPEA's public affairs Ph.D. program and the Ph.D. program in public policy jointly offered by SPEA and the Department of Political Science. Under Roger's

leadership the quality of the entering students improved markedly. He broadened faculty participation in the programs and helped improve the job placements of those completing the programs.

Roger has proven to be an outstanding teacher at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels. He has won SPEA's teaching award on four separate occasions. Whether it was teaching large classes of undergraduates management science, or pushing master's students to develop and improve their skills at program evaluation, or helping doctoral students understand research design, Roger's classes were always rigorous and always sought out by students.

Without a doubt he has had a profound positive impact on many students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the classroom, through his mentoring and advising and his programmatic leadership. He has also been instrumental in shaping SPEA, through his administrative assignments, his research, his teaching, and perhaps most important the thoughtful, informal counsel he has given his colleagues. His administrative, research, and teaching contributions will be sorely missed, but he can be assured his SPEA colleagues will continue to seek him out for informal counsel no matter where his post-retirement travels take him.

Roger plans on devoting a good portion of his newfound free time traveling with his beloved wife, Carol, and visiting his son, Josh, who resides in Texas. However, we have it on good authority that Roger will also be doing a substantial amount of "forced gardening" under Carol's watchful eye.

Clint Oster  
Kurt Zorn