

## Tim Tilton

Tim and I arrived in the IU Department of Political Science simultaneously in August 1970. We have been good friends ever since and now he joins me in retirement. This is an occasion to celebrate 35 years of outstanding and highly varied services to Indiana University and the local community by our gifted colleague.

Tim grew up on a farm near Canton, Ohio. He was a three-sport athlete and valedictorian of his high school class. He received a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster and was then accepted at Corpus Christi College at Oxford University, where he studied philosophy, politics, and economics, earning first class honors. He won an National Science Foundation fellowship to Harvard, where he studied with Barrington Moore and Judith Shklar. Tim did fieldwork in northern Germany with a Foreign Area Fellowship, comparing supporters of the Nazi and Neo-Nazi movements. This Ph.D. dissertation and his first major book, *Nazism, Neo-Nazism, and the Peasantry: Nazi Success and Neo-Nazi Failure in Rural Schleswig-Holstein*, predicted a bleak future for Neo-Nazism.

Tim then co-authored a landmark work with Norman Furniss, *The Case for the Welfare State: From Social Security to Social Equality*. The book offered critical evaluations of alternative models of social welfare provision in advanced industrial societies, focusing on Britain, Sweden, and the United States. It was adopted as a core text by a generation of faculty teaching courses in comparative politics and social policy.

Tim visited Sweden for the first time during his doctoral research and was captivated by its egalitarian and uniquely successful social welfare programs. Swedish social democracy became his primary research focus by the mid-1970s. He received numerous grants from the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Swedish Institute, and other sources to finance summer fieldwork over two decades. Two of his major articles appeared in the discipline's flagship journal, the *American Political Science Review*: "Social Origins of Liberal Democracy: The Swedish Case" (1974) and "A Swedish Road to Socialism: Ernst Wigforss and the Ideological Foundations of Swedish Social Democracy" (1979). A series of articles elaborating his arguments followed, and then a seminal book, *The Political Theory of Swedish Social Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 1991), which received enthusiastic reviews. Tim's contributions to the study of Swedish social democracy have been internationally recognized as among the most important by any American scholar.

Always interested in the fundamental question of how to create a good society by nonviolent means, Tim turned his attention in the mid-1990s to the politics of wilderness and national parks. This topic offered an opportunity to study both conflict resolution and the politics of the natural environment. He published a short study of Swedish national parks. These issues will almost certainly engage him during retirement, as he intends to spend more time in the great American Southwest, where he has previously been a visiting scholar at both the Udall Center for Public Policy at the University of Arizona and at the University of Utah. This subject also affords him ample pretext to indulge his predilection for hiking and backpacking.

Tim has long been one of the star teachers at IU. He loves to liberate students' imaginations and to help them think more carefully about their fundamental commitments. Students have consistently evaluated his courses highly and in 1984 he was awarded the AMOCO Foundation Award. In addition to offering courses on American social welfare policy (which he created) and on other political-economy issues, Tim has been one of the department's core figures in the field of political philosophy. Much of his teaching renown derives from these courses, where he is recognized as an inspiring lecturer, a provocative seminar leader, and a master at adapting the Oxford tutorial system to small classes at IU. His teaching award cited all these facets, with notable attention to his innovative tutorial role and his work as a demanding but effective writing instructor.

An able administrator, Tim directed the Liberal Arts and Management Program (2000–03), the Leadership, Ethics, and Social Action Program (2004–05), and undergraduate studies in political science (1987–90). He also served as faculty resident at the Collins Living-Learning Center in the early 1980s.

Tim is widely recognized as a local political leader. After testing the waters in the early 1980s as a Democratic Party precinct committeeman and delegate to state conventions, Tim won a term on the Monroe County Council (1987–88), followed by successive electoral victories for terms on the county's Board of Commissioners (1989–96). He became president of the board (1990–94) and was appointed to the Plan Commission (1987–96), serving as its president (1991–95). In addition, Tim served as a member of the executive committee of the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District board, including two years as president of that new and environmentally critical agency (1990, 1996).

Tim has been an institution builder and a dynamic force for constructive policy changes in Monroe County. He played a central role in transforming the county commissioners into a modern local government body and the solid waste district into an effective city-county agency for dealing with landfill and recycling issues. He helped found the Community Health Access Program and modernize the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation. He was centrally involved in the development of the Convention Center, the county plan and zoning ordinance, and the new youth shelter. He was a strong supporter of social services. These experiences in local government formed the basis for several courses on local government and a book chapter.

Tim has received distinguished service awards from the National Association of Civil Leadership Organizations and the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. In 1993 Tim was honored with IU's Distinguished Service Award, based on perhaps the most impressive community service record ever compiled by an IU faculty member. He thus has the rare distinction of having published two articles in his profession's leading journal and having won both IU's distinguished teaching and distinguished service awards. Our university and our local community are clearly better places because of Tim Tilton.

Richard E. Stryker