

Leslie J. Coyne

Les Coyne has served in administrative positions on the Bloomington campus for nearly 37 years. He possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of the campus and is known for creating some of IU Bloomington's most innovative programs, including the Advance College Project and the Intensive Freshman Seminars. The latter program was instrumental in IU Bloomington's designation as *Time* magazine's "College of the Year" among large universities in 2001.

Les grew up near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and served as a captain in the United States Army's Medical Services Corps in Japan and Seattle, Washington. Prior to the service, he worked as a personnel administrator for RCA in Bloomington and Indianapolis.

Les earned a bachelor's degree in business, a master's in higher education, and a doctorate in higher education administration, all from IU. His first staff position at the university was as a coordinator for the Conference Bureau, where he managed School of Business conferences among others.

From there he moved to the Office of Summer Sessions, which at the time operated from the School of Education with a constituency made up largely of teachers pursuing graduate degrees. Les's leadership as director transformed summer sessions, which is now a separate unit that manages and funds summer programs campuswide. Summer has, in effect, become a third semester; its comprehensive offerings from all schools on campus are marketed extensively. The schedule has evolved into today's six-week and eight-week sessions, providing maximum flexibility for both current IU Bloomington students and those who attend only in the summer. In addition, shorter intensive sessions are now offered. Today the campus is among the top 10 percent nationally in summer enrollments.

Les developed the Advance College Project (ACP) after talking with a high school chemistry teacher who also taught as an adjunct at IU during the summer. The teacher felt that his students at Bloomington High School South were doing the same work and should get the same college credit as his students at IU. In the fall of 1982 the program officially started in high schools in the Bloomington area as well as in Elkhart, Indiana, with 178 students enrolled in chemistry, calculus, and/or freshman composition. Les continued to guide the development and expansion of ACP to the point where it now serves more than 3,000 students annually in 105 high schools in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, with Kentucky soon to join. One of the keys to the program's success is its extensive faculty development component in which IU faculty work closely with high school teachers to ensure high quality courses that are consistent with the material taught on campus.

The Intensive Freshman Seminar (IFS) program was begun in 1990 in response to a challenge from Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis to find ways to increase interaction between freshmen and IU Bloomington faculty. Initially the program, which features small seminar-style classes, was scheduled during the academic year but was later moved to summer to increase faculty availability. Emphasizing research, writing, small groups, and active learning strategies, IFS currently enrolls 300 incoming freshmen in a three-week program each August. A major focus of IFS is to encourage faculty to develop creative courses to deliver in a seminar format and to collaborate with peers in other disciplines. Residence hall assistants and student interns, who are also key components of the program, assist by leading study groups and other activities to foster a sense of group involvement. IFS has recently developed "IFS Extended," which continues into the academic year and builds on the concept of a community of learners.

After the Bloomington Division of Continuing Studies was added to his portfolio, Les incorporated it into a new Division of Extended Programs, which includes summer sessions, ACP, IFS, and the Open Program. The division's primary focus is to develop and

manage programs that are largely independent of the academic year and serve audiences ranging from high school students to senior citizens, both on and off campus.

In addition to overseeing the Division of Extended Programs, Les has served the campus as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs—extended programs since 2000. In this capacity, Les acted as the accreditation liaison for IU Bloomington to the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS), assisted the academic officers committee, and monitored the progress of new degree program proposals through the university and state approval processes. He has also served on the Bloomington Faculty Council's educational policies committee since 1990.

Les has played a leadership role in the major national professional organizations for summer sessions administrators, including the Association of University Summer Sessions, a 50-member group of research universities, where he has held offices including president and executive secretary for 35 years. He has also been an active member of the North American Association of Summer Sessions, comprising about 400 colleges and universities, and has served as president, board member, and consultant for this organization. In addition, Les has been a member, president, and board member of the North Central Conference on Summer Sessions, a spin-off of NCACS, IU's accrediting agency.

Les has held numerous leadership positions in the community. He has served as chair of the Board of Parks Commission, as a founding member of the Bloomington Arts Commission, on the board of directors for the Bloomington Pops, and as an active member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce.

A recognized expert on managing summer programs, developer of innovative programs for high school students and freshmen, creator of a vision to greatly increase access to IU for adults in the community—Les Coyne developed and nurtured programs that will continue to grow and thrive and serve as testament to this talented, innovative, and entrepreneurial educational leader.

In the next phase of his life—certainly not retirement in the traditional sense—Les plans to continue his active involvement with local community and civic groups and indulge his hobby of creating garden art from fabricated steel. In addition, there will be many West Coast trips to visit his two sons and granddaughter.

Ron White