

J. Michael Dunn

Jon Michael Dunn came to Indiana University as an associate professor of philosophy in August 1969 from an assistant professorship in philosophy at Wayne State University, where he had started in fall 1966. He was born in Fort Wayne, went to high school in Lafayette (where he worked in a Purdue biology laboratory during his high school years), and never expected to end up living in Indiana again. But IU's philosophy department was too attractive to resist, having been recently rebuilt by George Nakhnikian, Mike's department chair when he was at Wayne State. However, Mike now happily recalls his Hoosier roots, having fallen in love with IU, Bloomington, and southern Indiana.

Mike's interest shifted from biology to logic at Oberlin, where he received an A.B. in philosophy in 1963. His interest in logic continued as a student of Nuel Belnap at the University of Pittsburgh, where he received a Ph.D. in philosophy in 1966. He has always been involved in multidisciplinary activities, possibly because logic is one of those areas that cannot be neatly pigeon-holed into the usual academic departments. In fact, just prior to Mike's coming to IU, he was a visiting assistant professor at Yale, where his position was funded by the Departments of Philosophy, Electrical Engineering, and Linguistics, and where he presented several lectures in a mathematics seminar led by the famous logician Abraham Robinson.

When the computer science department installed its first time-sharing computer system (which dates this event), Mike was given a Unix account. A few weeks later, when asked how he liked Unix, Mike, eyes sparkling, responded: "All my career I've studied formal systems, and at last I have one that is truly responsive."

Mike was promoted to full professor of philosophy in 1976. The year 1989 was particularly eventful, in titles anyway, for he became the Oscar Ewing Professor of Philosophy and a professor of computer science, and was one of the founding faculty in the Cognitive Science Program.

Mike has successfully combined research, teaching, and service. His research is reflected in more than 80 publications, including four books and one more almost completed, and over 130 talks at conferences and universities. He has received fellowship awards from Fulbright, the National Institutes of Health, and the American Council of Learned Societies, and research support from the National Science Foundation. He has directed 17 Ph.D. dissertations. He was twice chair of the Department of Philosophy, and in the early 1990s served as the first executive associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Most recently he has been the founding dean of the School of Informatics, the first completely new school at IU in a quarter of a century. Mike was also instrumental in the creation of the logic program at IU and was a key in the recruitment of a number of distinguished logicians in philosophy, mathematics, computer science, and informatics.

Mike's research focuses on information-based logics, and relations between logic and computer science. He has developed an algebraic approach to these under the heading of "gaggle theory" (for generalized galois logics) in a series of papers and in his book, with Gary Hardegree, *Algebraic Methods in Philosophical Logic* (Oxford, 2001). He has done recent work on the relationship of quantum logic to quantum computation, and has a general interest in cognitive science and the philosophy of mind. He has been a visitor at the Australian National University, University of Melbourne, and Oxford University, among others. In Australia he met another logician who has risen in academic administration, Michael McRobbie, and was an examiner on his Ph.D. dissertation.

Mike has admitted to a few of us that he is an avid multitasker, and could not combine his research and administrative careers in particular without the ability to be in a meeting seeming to take scrupulous notes, when in fact he is trying to prove a new theorem.

Beside his official administrative service, he has led or served on numerous faculty committees at all levels (over 70 campus and university committees alone), and in particular has been on practically every committee having to do with computing at IU, including chairing the university's Information Technology (IT) Committee, which put together the strategic plan for IT at IU in 1999. He also serves on the board of the Pervasive Technology Labs. He has been an editor of two of the three principal journals sponsored by the Association for Symbolic Logic (*Journal of Symbolic Logic* and *Journal of Philosophical Logic*), and he was president of the Society for Exact Philosophy and vice chair of the Computing Research Association's IT Deans Group. He was first finalist in 2001 for the Cyberstar Award from the Indiana Information Technology Association, and under his leadership the School of Informatics won the Mira Award from TechPoint in 2002. This year he received the i-School Caucus's "Bookends Award" for "vision and pioneering leadership in the formation of the i-schools community."

Occasionally campus conversations become confused at the mention of "Dean Dunn," a confusion that arises because Mike's wife, Sally Dunn, (they met while students at Oberlin) is dean of University Division. The confusion continues with "Jon Dunn," as their son, Jon William Dunn, is associate director for technology of the Digital Library Program. Their daughter, Jennifer Knight Dunn, has an M.S. degree from SPEA, and her husband John Knight is a graduate student in chemistry at IUPUI. However, there is no known connection of Mike to Dunn Meadow.

Mike has been active in civic service. He has been president of the Old Northeast Downtown Neighborhood Association (he helped found the association). He served on the Task Force to Save the Indiana Theater (now our city's beloved Buskirk-Chumley Theater). He has served on the board of Bloomington Restorations, and as chair of the City of Bloomington's Council on Neighborhood Improvements. He also served on the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Vision 2010 Task Force as well as the Life Science Strategic Plan Task Force of the Indiana Health Industry Forum.

He has been on external review committees for a number of universities, and currently serves on academic advisory boards for Carnegie Mellon University, Spelman College, and the University of Dubai.

Paul Spade and Edward L. Robertson