

Herbert D. Riley

Herb Riley retired in the spring of 2006, at the completion of his thirty-fifth year as a faculty member in the Indiana University School of Optometry. He leaves behind a record of dedication to teaching students the rudiments of optometric procedure and clinical care. Herb was born October 28, 1943. His undergraduate education was undertaken in Iowa, and he earned the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree from Indiana University in 1971. Health problems dating from his student days did not stop him from completing his education or from having a career in which he helped educate well over 2,000 optometry students.

After completion of optometry school, Herb joined the Indiana University optometry faculty. In his first several years on the faculty, he served as a full-time clinical instructor in the general optometry clinic. He also was an instructor in the contact lens clinic. He developed a reputation as a well-rounded and skilled clinician. During this period of time, through the 1970s, optometry was undergoing an expansion of scope. Herb readily embraced that expansion and helped facilitate the necessary enhancement of training in ocular disease detection methods.

Later Herb took on responsibility for teaching in the diagnostic procedures series of courses, a role for which he is known by two decades of optometry students. His work in the reorganization of these courses has been instrumental in the high ranking of Indiana University optometry students on the clinical skills portion of the National Board Examinations. Along with teaching those courses, he developed a Web site that contains syllabi, instructional materials, and photographs of ocular disease conditions. The images are of high quality and readily illustrate the conditions and procedures being shown. The high caliber of these pictures and materials is evidenced by their being used and cited by other optometry schools and medical programs in the United States and across the globe, from the United Kingdom to Thailand. The appreciation of his students and colleagues for his dedication has earned him numerous teaching awards from students and peers.

Over the years Herb has served the School of Optometry in a variety of other capacities, such as clinic director in the late 1980s and chairman of the busy admissions committee in the late 1990s. He has been characterized as a quiet man who is very capable and who has not felt compelled to engage in self-promotion. Professor Emeritus Paul Pietsch, a long-time colleague, referred to Herb as "a good human being whom I admire as a person." Another faculty member appreciated Herb's "deliberate approach" to problems and that in cases of disagreement, Herb would almost apologetically say that he "wouldn't do it that way," rather than openly criticize.

Herb and his wife, Phyllis, hope to do some traveling during his retirement and spend some time in Florida.

David A. Goss and Richard E. Meetz