

Joel F. Meier

In a remarkable 43-year professional career, Joel Meier has made exceptional contributions to the health, physical education, and recreation professions. Joel is a professor and the former chair of the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies. Prior to coming to IU in 1994, he served as associate dean of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana. During his 24 years at Montana, Joel held various other positions, including chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER) and professor and coordinator of recreation management in the School of Forestry. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska, and his doctoral degree in recreation and park administration at Indiana University in 1973.

Joel has influenced the direction and progress of our profession in many ways. In whatever arena Joel has undertaken to work, he has quickly become a leader. His vision, hard work, positive attitude, and leadership skills have resulted in his making significant and valuable contributions. Whether it was teaching, research, administration, professional leadership, writing, speaking, or setting a world-class standard for adventure activities, Joel's involvement always ensured a quality outcome.

Joel's commitment to the profession knows no bounds, and he has given unselfishly of his talents in a variety of capacities. For Joel, no job is too small or too large. He has served with distinction as president of a number of professional organizations, including the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) and the American Association for Leisure and Recreation. Joel also served as chair of the North American Society of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, as a member of the AAHPERD board of governors for eight years, and on a number of boards of other organizations. Other special assignments and awards include service as a senior Fulbright scholar in New Zealand, consultant to the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sport, and distinguished visiting professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

A distinguished scholar, Joel is a renowned speaker and prolific author whose scholarship has been recognized in a number of ways, including the J. B. Nash Scholar Award from the American Association for Leisure and Recreation. Joel has also been awarded the Luther Halsey Gulick Award, which is regarded as the highest honor of the AAHPERD in recognition of long and distinguished service to the organization; the Julian Smith Award from the National Council on Outdoor Education; and the Distinguished Colleague Award from the Society of Park and Recreation Educators for professional accomplishments and contributions to the profession. Joel is an excellent teacher who genuinely cares about his students whether he is teaching his undergraduate Wilderness in the American Mind course or advising his many doctoral students in advanced research.

Over the years Joel has planned, organized, and led local, regional, and national workshops, institutes, and research symposia and has made more than 100 presentations or keynote addresses at state, district, national, and international conferences and meetings. He has published articles on a regular basis throughout his career and is author of several books. Indeed, his service has benefited students, his academic department, the university, and the profession.

Beyond indoor classrooms and boardrooms, Joel excels in his professional specialization, adventure activities. He is an avid backpacker, mountaineer, whitewater and ocean kayaker, alpine and nordic skier, motorcyclist, and outdoor photographer. He has undertaken lengthy wilderness treks in Nepal, New Zealand, and other areas of the world, has kayaked numerous whitewater rivers in the United States, and has completed extensive ocean kayak expeditions throughout the world, including paddling expeditions along the coasts of Siberia and the Russian Far East, British Columbia, Canada, and the Alaska arctic region, as well as in Belize, Costa Rica, Malaysia, and the Baja Peninsula of Mexico. Joel is truly a world citizen, able to travel and function effectively in cities and

wilderness, from the Arctic to Antarctic, on land and water, at high altitudes and sea level, in cold or in desert heat. Joel is equally at home using a computer downloading photographs for a class lecture or a ski pole, wielding a gavel or an ice axe, carrying on his shoulders an organization or a backpack, surfing the Web or cruising in a kayak with his wife, Patti.

Outstanding educator, administrator, leader, working adventurer, giver of self and talent—Joel Meier is all those things and more. Joel is thoughtful, gracious, enthusiastic, insightful, generous, and everyone's friend and has served the profession and Indiana University with both distinction and dedication.

Joel and Patti will be spending part of their leisure during retirement at their vacation home in Colorado pursuing their love and passion for skiing and the great outdoors. All of Joel's colleagues will miss his leadership, scholarship, and friendship, and we wish him the best in his many years to come!

Craig M. Ross