

## Thomas Schwen

Thomas Schwen retired this past December after 36 years at Indiana University. Tom's career has been full of service to IU and to its students. He is credited with "seeding" the very successful emphasis on the scholarship of teaching at IU, and he served in prominent service positions for much of his career. Tom has also directed well over 100 dissertations. Both of these service contributions have left indelible marks on IU and the field of instructional design and technology.

Tom's career began as director of the Division of Instructional Development for the Bloomington campus with a dual appointment as an assistant professor in the instructional systems technology department in the School of Education. In 1983 he became executive director of the Audio Visual Center and, in 1986, associate dean of learning resources. In these roles Tom helped shape the teaching of faculty on campus, bringing to their attention the potential for scholarship about teaching in higher education. Tom attracted approximately seven million dollars of initial contracts from large companies such as Eli Lilly & Co., IBM, GM, and AT&T, to support instructional opportunities on campus. He also supervised more than 50 postdoctoral teaching fellowships for junior faculty and consulted with over 500 graduate students and faculty regarding their teaching development at IU. Many of his initial faculty clients in the scholarship of teaching and learning initiative at IU are now nationally recognized leaders.

Tom moved from primary service appointments to a full-time appointment in the Departments of Instructional Systems Technology (in 1993) and Counseling and Educational Psychology (in 2003). The list of Tom's teaching-related activities would be endless. Most important, many of his doctoral students have become national and international leaders in their institutions. Three of these students won local dissertation awards and seven won national awards. Tom has directed as many as nine dissertations in a calendar year. At Tom's retirement party, students shared their reflections about Tom's mentoring skills, noting how supported and important they felt during this process. Many relayed stories of Tom's tireless devotion to their needs. In 1993, to recognize his support, 35 former students endowed a Mentor Award in the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). Tom was the first recipient of this award. AECT also awarded Tom the Life Long Service Award in 2001.

Despite his strong local commitments, Tom worked diligently for the national scholarly community. He co-founded the *Journal of Instructional Development* in 1976 and has sat on multiple editorial boards, holding two separate editorships. He sat on the board of the Division of Instructional Development and the national AECT board. During his tenure on the board he reorganized five marginal journals for AECT into two successful journals. He also co-founded the association called Professors of Instructional Design and Technology, and has worked with the Children's Research Triangle, the Indianapolis inner-city schools, and the Indiana Public Defender Council to assist citizens in lower socioeconomic classes. Often his students would complete their instructional design projects in national and regional organizations with projects that contributed substantial value to these organizations.

Tom's research contributions were just as important to the national scholarly community. Tom probably provided the first description of design research in the instructional design field in 1977. Subsequently he was the first journal editor to focus exclusively on design research in the field of instructional development. His research and development contracts were seminal contributions to the growing field of performance support technology. His recent work has included theoretical expansions of the nascent field of human performance technology. A 2006 issue of the journal *Performance Improvement Quarterly* featured his theoretical work in the dissertations of seven former students.

Tom will retire with his wife of 42 years, Emilie Bach Schwen, and they intend to visit their four children: Michael, an optometrist, Sarah, a physician, Melissa, a stay-at-home mother and former Olympic medalist, and Christine, a Washington, D.C., consultant. Eight grandchildren will be the incentive for many pleasant journeys.

*Joyce Alexander*