

## **Theodore K. Miller**

*Professor of Public and Environmental Affairs; Professor of Geography, Part-time*

Professor Theodore K. “Ted” Miller concluded 32 years of service to Indiana University on June 30, 2007. Ted was professor in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). He joined SPEA in 1975 as associate professor. He was granted tenure in 1979 and promoted to professor in 1993.

Ted was born in Wausau, Wisconsin, and attended primary and secondary schools there. He spent his first year of college at Michigan Technological University before transferring to the University of Minnesota, where he received a B.S. with honors, majoring in mathematics and minoring in geography. He received a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Iowa in 1970.

Ted’s first academic appointment was in the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He subsequently moved to the Department of Geography at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he spent four years before joining IU.

Ted’s research is distributed between disciplinary research in geography and interdisciplinary research that applied his considerable expertise in statistics. He used advanced statistics in his research, but he also shared this expertise widely with colleagues and collaborators. Ted authored and co-authored dozens of refereed articles, book chapters, and conference papers on topics ranging from stream channel morphology to predicting mammography utilization.

For much of his career in SPEA, Ted’s main teaching responsibilities involved introductory and advanced statistics courses for graduates and undergraduates. These courses were extraordinarily challenging because they brought together students with large differences in statistical competence, many of whom had well-developed math and statistics anxieties. Ted was masterful at helping students understand the big picture of statistics, focusing them on key concepts, and convincing students they were much more capable than they first thought they were.

During his 32 years at IU, Ted served the university with distinction in many roles. He directed SPEA’s graduate programs for five years during the school’s formative period in the early and mid-1980s. He was co-director of the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Statistical Applications for much of the past two decades. He served as associate dean of the faculties from 2000 to 2003. His most noteworthy and distinguished contributions came when he led the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC) for not just one term but two. He was president of the BFC from 1997 to 1999 and again from 2005 to 2007. One of his proudest accomplishments was the BFC’s steps to strengthen standards for undergraduate students.

Ted married Joyce, who is now an assistant director in University Division, in 1976. They are the proud parents of two. Their son, Teddy, a National Merit Scholar finalist, is a sophomore in the Honors College at Arizona State University, majoring in Russian. Jocelyn, recently inducted as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, is a senior at IU double majoring in anthropology and Japanese.

Although retirement means that Ted leaves the classroom where he helped countless students overcome their statistics anxieties, it gives him more time for hobbies and pastimes, including sports and cooking. He is an avid fan of IU basketball and football. He is chief organizer for a SPEA–Political Science football tailgate, which itself has a growing fan base, that combines his sports and culinary interests. Ranking with IU sports is his lifelong passion for the Green Bay Packers. He is a Packer stockholder and can be found on any given Sunday in front of the TV cheering on the current legends of Lambeau. An indication that he has not entirely abandoned his roots is that he is now hard at work creating a public Web site to explain the random variable concept to future students of statistics.

*Jim Perry*