

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
PATRICK O'MEARA
(1938-2021)

Patrick O'Meara passed peacefully after a brief illness on March 30, 2021 in his Bloomington home at the age of 83. A celebration of his life occurred at Indiana University on September 2, 2021 with a sharing of fond memories and recognition of his accomplishments as IU's director of African Studies, dean of international affairs, and its inaugural vice president of international affairs (https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_ifcucwnj). O'Meara had great vision and keen insight, was indefatigable in service, thrived in personal interactions, and made friends in all corners of the campus and throughout the world. Patrick was generous and kind, offering thoughtful comments and helpful advice to students, faculty colleagues, and administrative staff.

Joining the IU faculty in 1972, O'Meara was a scholar of comparative politics and international development who rose to professor in the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. In several administrative roles, O'Meara sustained, enhanced, and launched initiatives associated with IU's global engagement. Professor emeritus and vice president emeritus O'Meara retired in 2011 but continued to serve as special advisor to President Michael A. McRobbie.

O'Meara's initial scholarly publications concerned African politics, including his book, *Rhodesia: Racial Conflict or Co-existence?* (1975) and three co-edited anthologies with Gwendolyn M. Carter, *Southern Africa in Crisis* (1977), *Southern Africa: The Continuing Crisis* (1982), and *African Independence: The First Twenty-Five Years* (1985). O'Meara co-edited four editions of *Africa*, the acclaimed and popular textbook, with IU historian Phyllis Martin in 1978, 1986 and 1995 and with IU African Studies faculty members Maria Grosz-Ngaté and John H. Hanson in 2014. He also co-edited the anthologies *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century* (2000) and *Changing Perspectives on International Education* (2001). O'Meara commemorated the IU Bicentennial with co-authored books (with Leah K. Peck): *Indiana University and the World: A Celebration of Collaboration, 1820-2018* (2019) and *Windows on Worlds: International Collections at Indiana University* (2020). O'Meara's scholarly legacy continues through the scores of graduate students he supervised in political science, the O'Neill School, African studies, and other IU departments, programs, and schools.

As director of the African Studies Program (1972-1993), O'Meara directed its rise to national prominence. He oversaw a program that attracted talented students who went on to careers at universities, museums and governmental and non-governmental agencies in the U.S. and abroad. O'Meara encouraged African studies faculty to work collaboratively on projects that culminated in published anthologies and an innovative CD-ROM. O'Meara himself was project director of the documentary film, *Living Africa: A Village Experience* (1983). He led IU efforts to support the 1986 founding of Khanya College, a private university in Johannesburg, South Africa, that served working class students who had few opportunities at the time. O'Meara secured funds for these (and other) initiatives from extramural funding sources, including the

National Endowment of the Humanities, the U.S. State Department, and the Title VI area studies and languages program.

As dean of international affairs (1993-2007) and then as the university's first vice president for international affairs (2007-2011), O'Meara oversaw IU's global engagements and international partnerships. At the center of IU international activities for almost two decades, he enhanced existing programs, encouraged new initiatives, and created pathways for IU faculty and students to research or study abroad. O'Meara managed IU's Center for International Education and International Development (now the Office of International Development) that drew on U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) funds for numerous initiatives, including the 2001 founding of South East European University (SEEU) in Macedonia. O'Meara loved to welcome international students to IU, to engage with visiting scholars, and to host visiting dignitaries. O'Meara's legacy at IU endures because he was at the forefront of the creation of IU's first International Strategic Plan, which set the university on a course in 2008 to consolidate the internationalization of IU's campuses, to increase global teaching and research opportunities for IU faculty, to expand study abroad for students, and to provide international perspectives in K-12 classrooms throughout Indiana.

University chancellor, president emeritus and university professor Michael A. McRobbie lauds O'Meara's leadership: "For many decades, Patrick O'Meara was truly Indiana University's ambassador to the world, representing the university with extraordinary grace, intelligence, professionalism, collegiality and distinction, and helping to elevate IU's global reputation to remarkable new heights. . . In his various academic and administrative roles, he greatly expanded the range and depth of international activities at IU in recognition of the rapidly increasing importance of the international and global dimension of higher education for our students, our faculty and the communities we serve" (<https://news.iu.edu/live/news/27470-iu-mourns-passing-of-patrick-omeara-iu-vice>).

Vice president for international affairs, the John E. Schiller Chair in the Maurer School of Law and professor Hannah L. Buxbaum praises O'Meara: "A skilled diplomat and a deft negotiator among foundation and university leaders, government officials, and corporate executives, Patrick forged agreements that funded IU's research, scholarship, and creative activities and developed long-standing partnerships that continue to shape IU today. From testifying to the U.S. Congress to meetings with university leaders, he was a powerful advocate of the Title VI programs that provide the primary infrastructure supporting the nation's and IU's expertise and training in international and area studies" (<https://global.iu.edu/about/leadership/patrick-omeara/in-memory.html>).

O'Meara received multiple distinguished awards. International recognition includes the Amicus Poloniae Award from Poland, La Cruz de San Jorge from Spain, the Magyar Érdemkereszt from Hungary, and an honorary doctoral degree from the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok, Thailand. The Indiana Statehouse recognized O'Meara's life and accomplishments on behalf of the State of Indiana in a formal resolution passed in 2014.

Indiana University bestowed several awards on O'Meara, including the John W. Ryan Award, the Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion, the Distinguished Service Award, and the President's Medal for Excellence. At his retirement, the IU Office of the Vice President for International Affairs established the O'Meara International Lecture Series in recognition of his work in international affairs and to celebrate his legacy of enriching the university's international involvement; this lecture series brings leading international figures to campus annually.

A naturalized U.S. citizen, O'Meara was born on January 7, 1938, in Cape Town, South Africa, to Daniel and Fiorina (Allorto) O'Meara, immigrants from Ireland and Italy, respectively, who operated a bakery in Cape Town. O'Meara completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Cape Town, followed by M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science at Indiana University (1970).

Closely connected to his extended family, Patrick is survived by his nephew Timothy O'Meara and his wife Bridget (Hoban) who were present during his final days, his nieces Maria, Jeannie, Katie, Eileen, and Suzanne O'Meara, his sister-law Lorraine (Rademeyer), and his eight great-nephews and nieces and their children. His parents, his two brothers O. Timothy and Daniel, and his sister-in-law Jean (Fadden) preceded him in death.

Patrick valued the arts and music, film and theater, modern architecture and historic buildings, especially cathedrals. His breadth of interests was evident when he interviewed guests as one of the hosts of WFIU's *Profiles*, a one-hour program featuring interviews with local and national figures (his interviews are available at <https://indianapublicmedia.org/profiles/remembering-iu-vice-president-patrick-omeara.php>). Nephew Tim O'Meara remembers Patrick's conviviality: "leaving a Bloomington restaurant or IU musical performance with Patrick was a lengthy affair, as he seemed to know everyone and always stopped to catch up on their lives and make the proper introductions" (<https://www.allencares.com/obituaries/Patrick-O-Meara/#!/Obituary>).

We warmly remember Patrick, our beloved colleague, mentor and friend, for his kindness and generosity, his wit and charm, and his sage advice.

I request that this memorial tribute to Patrick be presented to the members of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and that it be preserved in its minutes and archive.

John H. Hanson
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