

MEMORIAL Resolution

Frederick R. Smith

(1929-2022)

Frederick R. Smith was born on September 19, 1929, in Lowell, Massachusetts, to a Yankee father and an Irish mother. Nine decades later, Fred died as a Hoosier in Bloomington, Indiana on September 7, 2022.

In his youth, Fred exhibited traits that would later ensure his success as an adult. He was intelligent, self-motivated, athletically talented, and a devoted team member. In high school, he attracted the attention of Duke University officials who offered him a full scholarship to play football for the Blue Devils. Four years later, in 1951, Fred graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science.

Following graduation, Fred served two years in the United States Air Force, where he was assigned to the Strategic Air Command. Given his outstanding performance in the Officer Candidate School, he could easily have chosen a career as an Air Force officer. However, he decided to become a teacher and an athletic coach.

He returned to Massachusetts, and in September 1953, enrolled in a master's degree program at Boston University. It was a good decision. Not only did he successfully complete an M.S. degree in social studies education and social science, but he also met Patricia Berry, who was also preparing to be a public-school teacher. They were married in August 1954.

Fred and Pat began their professional careers in Jackson, Michigan. Fred taught various social studies courses and coached football, basketball, and track as an assistant coach. After four years, Fred was ready to take the next step in building his career. He enrolled full-time in a doctoral program at the University of Michigan. In 1960, he completed his Ph.D. in secondary education and social studies education.

Fred began his tenure at Indiana University in September 1960 as an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the School of Education. It was a great time to be a professional educator. Baby boomers swelled schools, creating a demand for many more teachers. Opportunities for professional growth were enormous, and Fred took full advantage of them. He taught graduate and undergraduate courses in secondary education and in social studies education. He planned and taught in summer workshops. He also created a new doctoral program in social studies education that developed into one of the leading programs of its kind in the country. He was a busy man, but he found time for exercise. He took advantage of his athleticism to become an outstanding racquet ball player, thereby winning the respect and admiration of other racquet ball players among faculty across the entire campus.

Fred 's research focused on an issue that attracted his attention when he was a doctoral student at the University of Michigan. The issue relates to the specific reading skill one needs to become a good reader in different content areas of the curriculum. What skills are necessary to read history, science, or music? As a result, Fred's research was published in such journals as *The Journal of Educational Research*, *The Reading Research Quarterly*, and *The Journal of Reading*. Meanwhile, Fred was also writing for a more general audience that was interested in the field of education. From 1965 to 1969, he co-authored four books, one of which was cited by *Education Book List* as one of the 20 most outstanding books in education for 1965.

Fred's success as a teacher and a scholar did not go unnoticed by his colleagues. He was promoted to associate professor in 1964 and to full professor in 1969.

What is so striking about Fred's achievements is how he seemed able to "do it all". He not only taught his share of classes and contributed to noteworthy publications, but he also provided extraordinary service; he was a team player. He served on countless committees within the School of Education and across the entire campus. He was active in state and national professional associations and within the Bloomington community. He was also frequently given leadership roles, including in his own department.

Fred also seemed willing to take on very challenging tasks that most faculty would have politely refused. For example, in 1975, the School of Education was experiencing a huge loss in enrollment that led to drastic cuts in its budget. Faculty and staff morale was low. The previous dean resigned, and the university recruited a new dean who had no prior experience as an administrator in higher education. He desperately needed help and Fred agreed to take the job as associate dean.

Another example of Fred's willingness to take on difficult service assignments occurred in 1984. At that time, Indiana University officials and Indiana University Foundation leaders were discussing ways to improve communication and understanding among the IU faculty regarding the roles each institution played in their mutual success. Someone suggested that a new position be established at the Foundation for a faculty member who could act as a bridge between the Foundation and the faculty on the Bloomington campus. Anyone who could fill that role should be well known and trusted by IU faculty and administrators and able to win support among Foundation employees. Fred was the person they chose; he became director of development for the Bloomington campus and the IU Foundation.

Every institution needs one or more individuals like Fred Smith. These are people who love their work, do it well, and are willing to take on difficult tasks for the good of the team. Fred made important contributions to Indiana University, his profession, and the Bloomington community. We are grateful and proud to have been his friend and colleague.

We request that the memorial tribute to Frederick R. Smith be presented to members of the Bloomington Faculty Council, that it be preserved in the Council's minutes and archive, and following its presentation, that copies be sent to members of his family.

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