MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
MARY L. REMLEY

Dr. Mary L. Remley, dedicated educator and nationally recognized scholar, passed away on May 27, 2016. Dr. Remley spent twenty years at Indiana University as professor in the Department of Kinesiology of the IU School of Health. Born in St. Louis and raised in Hornersville, Missouri, Dr. Remley received a BS degree in Physical Education and English from Southeast Missouri State University in 1951. She spent several years teaching in various areas of the country before earning a master’s degree in Physical Education from Ohio University in 1960. She then taught at Macalester College in Minnesota before heading west for the University of Southern California where she earned a PhD in Physical Education under the tutelage of Dr. Eleanor Metheny in 1970. Just prior to receiving her doctorate, she accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Dr. Remley came to Bloomington as a member of the Indiana University faculty in 1976 and during her time here made innumerable contributions to the field of physical education. She was a dynamic leader in the field of sport history and received numerous honors and awards. In recognition of her lifelong achievements, Dr. Remley’s undergraduate alma mater awarded her the prestigious Alumni Merit Award in 1992. Notably, Dr. Remley’s brother, Dr. Marlin Remley, also was a recipient of the Alumni Merit Award, making them the only brother-sister to receive this honor in the history of Southeast Missouri State University.

Dr. Remley was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the United States Military Academy. The superintendent of West Point conferred this honor upon Dr. Remley for her outstanding service to the department of Physical Education where she was a visiting professor in 1991-92. While at West Point, Dr. Remley wrote a comprehensive history of the Department of Physical Education. In addition to her position at the United States Military Academy, Dr. Remley also served as a visiting faculty member at a number of other universities. In 1984, she was a distinguished lecturer in residence at Texas Women’s University. That same year, Dr. Remley was a visiting scholar at the University of Georgia and was also selected to give the Seward C. Staley Distinguished Lecture at the annual conference of the North American Society for Sport History. Dr. Remley’s expertise in the field of sport history was also recognized internationally. In 1979, she presented at the International Congress for the History of Sport and Physical Education in Uppsala, Sweden and in 1985 at the American Studies Seminar in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. She also presented at the International Conference on Movement and Sport in Women’s Life in Jyvaskyla, Finland.

Perhaps the greatest contribution was her dedication to teaching. She continually worked to bring innovative and creative methods into the classroom so students understood relationships and concepts. As one former student remarked, “Dr. Remley gave me a thirst for new knowledge and the appreciation of learning for its own sake.”

Dr. Remley’s distinguished career was also notable by her service and leadership to the profession. She was president of the North American Society for Sport History from 1981 to 1983 and was president of the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education in 1991. Additionally, she served on numerous state, regional, and national committees.

A memorial to Dr. Remley would be incomplete without mention of her exemplary service to Indiana University. Throughout her tenure at Indiana University, she was a steady and strong voice for faculty governance, academic freedom, and gender equity. She relentlessly championed these causes in roles as the Acting Dean for Women’s Affairs, president of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and a
member of the Athletics Committee. Those who served with her recognized her ability to listen quietly to a discussion, assimilate the facts, and then gracefully lead others to an objective and fair conclusion.

Dr. Remley retired from Indiana University on June 1, 1996. As a faculty member in the department and school, she left a positive and strong impact – the department and school is a better place having had Dr. Remley serve as an advocate for faculty and students. She is remembered fondly as a tireless voice for student fairness, and her legacy will live on through the countless students she has taught as well as the policies and procedures she helped the university initiate: we are truly indebted, and thankful that she served Indiana University.

We request that this memorial resolution be presented to a meeting of the Bloomington Faculty Council, and be preserved in its minutes and archive. We also request that after its presentation copies be sent to members of Dr. Remley’s family.

Compiled from information and writings of:

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