Memorial Resolution
William Donald Martin
1930 -2014

Don Martin was a Southern gentleman by any measure, with a quiet disposition, a friendly nature, patience and a willingness to help others among his numerous friends, colleagues, and students alike.

Don was born near the small town of West, Mississippi and attended Belzoni High School. From there it was on to Wabash College in Indiana. During one of his college social events he met Frances Swain, a student at DePauw. Don graduated from college in 1951, Fran in 1952, and they married in 1953. After his graduation Don had joined the United States Air Force and trained as a troop carrier pilot. Within months after his marriage to Fran he was sent to Japan, where they lived for the next two and a half years.

After his four years of military duty Don enrolled in Indiana University and completed a Master of Science degree in Park and Recreation Administration in 1957. He then did a one-year in-service training program sponsored by the National Park and Recreation Association in Milwaukee. After a stint as a recreation program supervisor in Oak Park, Michigan, he became Director of Recreation in Birmingham, Michigan. It was not long before Don became the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in Southfield, Michigan in 1966.

Then academia struck and Don became an Associate Professor at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. During his years in Michigan Don worked on and received his doctorate in Resource Development from Michigan State in 1972. In 1975 he was invited to join the faculty at Indiana University in the Department of Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies in the School of Health Physical Education and Recreation.

At Indiana Don taught courses in Recreation Planning, Finance and Budgeting, and Park Design. His sabbatical leaves involved research in planning activities and trends in park operations and open space standards. Don authored or co-authored a variety of publications, including “Riddle Point Park on Lake Lemon: A Feasibility Study,” “Managing Your Department’s Cash,” “Blue Prints for Successful Bond Referendums,” “Financial Analysis of Revenue Producing Facilities,” and “A Ten-Year Look at State Park Systems.” He was a co-author of the fourth edition of Recreation and Leisure: The Changing Scene, with Janet R. MacLean and James A. Peterson.

Don Served as Assistant Chair of the Department of Recreation and Park Administration, and he was noted for this long tenure as Treasurer of the Bloomington Park Foundation. He was a member of the Indiana Park and Recreation Association, the National Recreation and Park Association, and the Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

One of Don Martin’s outstanding graduate students, Dr. Phil Rea, former chairperson of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University, said about Professor Martin: “Teacher, mentor, friend, leader and colleague. Don Martin is all of that and more. In all my years I’ve not met a finer person. ... That is how much I value the time spent with this fine gentleman. He improved the life of everyone he touched.”

Don’s family includes his son, Robert Alan, and daughter, Jane Ann Huber, plus their spouses Beth and Rich, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

We request that this memorial resolution be presented to the members of the Bloomington Faculty Council, be preserved in its minutes and archive, and that after its presentation copies be sent to his son and daughter.

Lynn M. Jamieson, Professor and Past Chair, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health IUB

James A. Peterson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies, School of Public Health IUB