

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

THOMAS E. HESLIN

(March 27, 1927 – February 15, 2009)

Thomas E. Heslin died at Bloomington Hospital on February 15, 2009. He had taught more than 25,000 students at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business and reintroduced and redesigned the Introduction to Business curriculum for the School in 1991. He taught this course until his retirement in 2008.

Everybody who came in touch with Tom Heslin knows he did every task in front of him with great passion and total dedication. Such a commitment to his work easily explains what would equate to two full careers for the average person. Forty-four years of corporate experience ranging from area manager to director, three years of running his own business, followed by 18 years of teaching in a world-class university is a remarkable accomplishment that anyone would be proud of. Tom took all of his accomplishments in stride and carried out his teaching and mentoring with the same zeal he demonstrated in his earlier years.

Tom began his career with AT&T, Western Electric and Teletype Corporate in 1944 where he served in a variety of management and directorship roles until 1986. During that time he attended New York University on a full tuition scholarship and received his B.A. in Economics in 1961. In 1967 he completed the AT&T (Western Electric) Executive Training Program. In 1973 Tom had his first teaching experience as Executive in Residence at Santa Clara University. Tom retired from Bell Systems after 43 years of service. From 1986 through 1989 Tom began his own company and served as Chief Executive Officer of Supra Liminal Creations Inc. in Chester, New Jersey. In 1990 Tom joined the Indiana University School of Business and was asked to set up a program for introduction to business. He worked all that summer writing the syllabus and lectures. A class that began with 100 students now attracts over 1000 students. In 1999 he earned the title of Clinical Professor of Business Administration.

When Tom Heslin began teaching in 1991 in the Kelley School of Business, he was often touted as a favorite instructor throughout his career. His remarkable teaching accomplishments resulted in numerous teaching awards and honors. Some of the awards include William G. Panschar Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award in 1992-93; Student Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty in 1994, 2002, and 2004; All University Teaching Award in 1994; IU Teaching Excellence Committee Recognition Award for Teaching Excellence in 1996; Favorite Teaching Award, Alpha Lambda Delta, in 1999, 2000, and 2001; Overall Outstanding Teacher, Alpha Kappa Psi, in 2000 and 2002; Teachers Excellence Award for "Cares Most About His Students," Alpha Kappa Psi, in 2001; Schuyler F. Otteson Teaching Award, Delta Sigma Pi, in 2002; Student Choice Award Winner, IU Student Alumni Association, in 2003; and Student Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty in 2004.

Tom made significant contributions in the service dimension working as a faculty advisor and authoring an introduction to business book titled "A Roadmap." Some of the student organizations he advised included Sigma Iota Epsilon, DECA – IU Kelley School of Business Marketing Department, the IU football team, and cultural diversity student groups. Tom performed his advisor role with great enthusiasm and seeded ideas when he identified a need that had been unmet for his students. Teaching a large introductory business course brought together young men and women from diverse backgrounds. When Tom realized a cultural sensitivity and appreciation of diversity was needed among his students, he gladly volunteered to be an advisor for such a group. Several of his students upon graduation remarked that they were greatly influenced by his teaching and his book, "A Roadmap."

Tom had a positive influence over his many students from various walks of life. Many of his students continued to stay in touch with him due to his positive influence not only in their careers but also in their lives. He rewarded his stellar students by hiring them as his teaching assistants to manage a large and complex freshman course. Over the years these teaching assistants met with him on an annual basis before the winter holiday break and they put together a book featuring their memories of him. He had a first-hand glimpse of students following their career paths and had the pleasure of seeing these students grow academically. Tom felt that IU should be very proud of attracting these students.

Tom was born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 25, 1927. A U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II, he is survived by his wife, Carole and his two daughters, Leah and Maria as well as four siblings, Mary, Ed, George and Peach, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and many beloved pets.

When he was asked what he would like to be remembered for, Tom replied that he hopes he lives up to the many thank you letters from students for what they think he had done for them. As Tom put it, "I will miss the life but have the joy of remembering these things that have given me so much pleasure."

Tom left behind a great legacy by the generation of students he has influenced. Tom's contributions as an outstanding teacher will leave their mark on the teaching field in the business area.

This memorial resolution will become part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council. Copies will be sent to Carole, Maria and Leah.

M.A. Venkataramanan
Associate Dean – Academic Programs
December 22, 2009