

DELLA JEANNE PATTERSON
November 7, 1934–September 30, 2013

Jeanne Patterson, retired associate professor of public and environmental affairs, of Orr’s Island, Maine, died at age 78 on September 30, 2013, following a long illness. Her many contributions to Indiana University over a thirty-year career include several notable achievements, some of which endure today.

Jeanne was born in Billings, Montana, on November 7, 1934, where she attended public schools and graduated from Billings High School in 1952. After attending the University of Montana for two years, she transferred to the University of Colorado from which she graduated in 1956 with a B.S. in business administration. Following two years as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army in Portugal and The Netherlands, she pursued graduate work at Indiana University where she completed an M.B.A. in 1960 and a D.B.A. in 1967 with her dissertation defense on the topic, “Local Industrial Development Corporations in Indiana.”

During her graduate school years and while sailing on Lake Lemon, she met and in 1964 married James M. Patterson, marketing professor in the Kelley School of Business. Together, they continued their sailing lives, first, as local Thistle sailors for thirty years, followed by living part-time in Annapolis, MD, where the family of four—including, son Marshall and daughter Julie—maintained a condo and a Tartan sailboat. Sailing continued after her 1998 retirement when they bought a second home south of Brunswick ME, where they moored their boat at their waterfront property on Orr’s Island, and, for about ten years, split the year between their Maryland and Maine homes, finally becoming full-time Mainers in 2009.

Jean was a charter faculty member of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), founded in 1972 as a comprehensive professional public affairs school with a broad public service charter that included environmental science and engineering—at the time, the only applied science mission at Indiana University. Her SPEA appointment grew out of three years (1968–1971) of research work as a senior research associate at the business school’s Bureau of Business Research during which she worked on a variety of topics related to Indiana economic development, substate regionalism, and state and local finance. In 1971, when IU President John Ryan appointed research bureau director, Charles F. Bonser, to chair a feasibility study committee to assess the prospects for establishing a new school, Jeanne became Chuck’s chief assistant. With Chuck’s appointment as SPEA’s founding dean and Jeanne’s subsequent appointment to a tenure-track position, SPEA acquired its first faculty member.

Jeanne played a critical role in the launch of a new school whose intellectual foundations had yet to be fully specified and laid. In those early years, she was particularly thoughtful in welcoming and orienting new faculty—especially those who came from other parts of the country—to life in Bloomington. Most importantly, she chaired the committee charged with developing the proposal for an undergraduate degree program and when, in 1972, the IU trustees approved SPEA’s bachelor of science in public affairs degree, Jeanne became the school’s first director of undergraduate studies, serving from 1972 to 1977.

Problem one on the new director’s desk was the establishment of a new undergraduate program of Big Ten university scope and scale for which myriad design puzzles loomed. For example, complex public sector problems, by definition, are not the intellectual property of any single academic discipline. Thus, to have thrown undergraduates into the interdisciplinary collaborations required for an examination of real-world problems, the design of action options, and an analysis of both the sequence and substance of required decisions and their execution would have presented a curriculum challenge that undergraduates were not prepared to meet without first acquiring a basic education in the core disciplines with substantive ties to public and environmental affairs. Even the most capable undergraduates would need a place to start their post-secondary educations and continue building knowledge, skills, and abilities that could serve equally as an entry to the workplace or as a basis for professional education and training.

Jeanne's founding notion that the BSPA must provide "a liberal education with a professional focus" provided a simple but workable formulation that steered the undergraduate program away from the traps attached to disciplinary purity and unattainable professionalism. In doing so, she and her committee leveraged the intellectual course of the entire school, stimulating new research programs and requiring the development of new courses and materials that would serve a multi-disciplinary school with an inter-disciplinary, public service approach to public problems. The result was an undergraduate curriculum that mirrored the demands of many different work environments and, in the bargain, provided a framework for recruiting and retaining the new faculty needed by growing programs.

Jeanne's contributions did not end with the initial design of the BSPA program. She carried a prodigious service portfolio that touched both the school and the larger university in many ways. Within SPEA, her committee load ranged across at least a dozen curriculum committees and task forces, including service as chair of the Faculty of Finance and Economics from 1986–89.

Beyond SPEA, she served on key committees of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA), the main accrediting body for SPEA's peer institutions, and became a NASPAA Faculty Fellow in 1977–78, assigned to work in Washington, D.C., with Coastal Zone Management in the U.S. Department of Commerce. NASPAA assignments included her chairing the undergraduate programs section in 1976 and the NASPAA Committee on Public Service Internships in 1978–79. Her Faculty Fellow recognition and NASPAA service helped SPEA make internships an integral part of its undergraduate curriculum. Later, in spring 1992, she served as the resident faculty member for SPEA's well-established Washington (D.C.) Leadership Program.

Jeanne did not stint on her service to Indiana University. She was elected to the Bloomington Faculty Council (BFC) from 1982–86 and 1990–95 and the University Faculty Council (UFC) in 1985–86, serving on the BFC fringe benefits committee, as chair in 1991–92 and as chair of the UFC fringe benefits committee. She also chaired nominating committees of the BFC and UFC, among many other committee assignments. Notably, IU President Thomas Ehrlich appointed her to chair the IU athletics committee from 1991 to 1996, having served as a committee member from 1983–89. In 1995, she received formal recognition for her "Contribution to IU Women's Athletics."

Beyond her long and distinguished service record, Jeanne made important teaching and research contributions. As a specialist in public finance, who had studied the uses to which corporate instruments might be put in public policy and administration and who taught government accounting for thirty years, Jeanne understood the public ledger. She was part of SPEA's widely recognized finance and economics faculty group in which she taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in government accounting and reporting along with a diverse array of courses in finance and budgeting, investing public funds, urban strategies, and the interactions between "the public and the corporation."

Her research interests did not stop with retirement. She remained interested in corporate governance and explored many areas—such as, stock market operations, social investing and pension fund management—where public and private interests overlapped. She also served as the editor of the then Portland(ME)-based Corporate Library's research clearinghouse, and for years contributed research material to at least two editions of the widely used text by Robert A. G. Monks and Nell Minow (See, for example: *Corporate Governance*, fifth edition (John Wiley & Sons, 2011).

Looking back on her life and career, close friends still miss her company, the sailing adventures on Casco Bay, and the excitement and pleasure she found in collecting bargains—lighthouses, boats, bird decoys, paintings, pictures and posters found in the many Maine auctions she found all around her. As an avid collector, she took

special delight in wrapping and presenting surprise, and often amusing, gifts to friends. As an institutional matter, however, what is clear in hindsight is that Jeanne added vision and stability when it really mattered to a school now approaching its fiftieth anniversary.

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