

Memorial Resolution
Vernon Dee Pace
1930 -2014

Vernon Dee Pace was associate professor emeritus in the School of Education, where he held academic appointments – first as a doctoral student graduate researcher and then as a professor – for thirty years in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction (1964 to 1994). He died at the age of eighty-three on October 7, 2014 in Bloomington, Indiana, preceded in death by his wife of fifty-eight years, Marlee Gardner Pace. He was dearly loved by all his past doctoral students, who supported him throughout his retirement and is remembered fondly by both former students and colleagues for his sense of humor, good nature and love of sports.

Vernon grew up in Massena, Iowa, where he was born to parents, John Harrison Pace and Verdi Irene Walker Pace, and where he was number six in the line of seven children. Growing up in a family who owned several local businesses including a car lot, a restaurant pool hall, and a drycleaner, Vernon learned the value of hard work. He excelled in the local athletic programs in school including baseball and basketball. Vernon graduated from Massena High School in 1949 with high honors. He was drafted into the Army, where he served for several years. He then attended Simpson College in Iowa where he played basketball and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1954. That same year he married Marlee Gardner. Vernon went on to earn a master's degree from Drake University while teaching and coaching and then becoming principal of a local high school.

In 1964, Vernon, his wife and three children relocated to Indiana University where he worked on his doctoral coursework and as a research assistant to Professor Phil Peek. After earning his doctorate in 1967, Vernon immediately accepted a position as assistant professor in the School of Education at Indiana University, and he quickly rose to prominence as a scholar in school evaluation. In 1969 Vernon was appointed as Director of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. Later, he became the Executive Director for the National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE), one of the top ten educational organizations in the US. During his career at IU, he primarily taught courses in general secondary education methods, and organized teams of academics to conduct school evaluations in Indiana, throughout the US, and internationally.

While at Indiana University, Vernon was an avid IU football and basketball fan. He was an IU season ticket holder for both sports and a member of the Varsity Club from the day he arrived in Bloomington in 1964 and throughout his retirement. Following retirement in 1994, in addition to sports, he devoted his time to his four children, thirteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He also loved to work on his lawn and was known for the beautiful flowers that bloomed yearly in his yard. In addition, Vernon remained busy throughout retirement as an active member of St. Paul's Methodist Church in Bloomington, where he was a member for over thirty-five years.

In recognition of Vernon Dee Pace's contributions to the university, the profession, and the world around him, be it resolved that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and that copies be sent to family members including his children, Marla Pace, Joni Hulls, Kari Costello, and/or Juli Fisher.

Mary Benson McMullen
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