

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**ROBERT LEWIS GIBSON****(October 13, 1919 - July 23, 2015)**

Robert L. Gibson, born the son of an educator, had a lifelong commitment to excellence in education. His father, Alva J. Gibson, served as superintendent of secondary schools for the State of West Virginia and as the executive secretary of the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. His mother, Flora, and his father had a significant influence on Bob's decision to devote his career to education. It must have been a source of pride for Alva J. and Flora Gibson to have their only son actively involved in developing effective school counseling programs in his home state of West Virginia, in the nation, and throughout the world.

Robert L. Gibson was born in Elkins, West Virginia. His undergraduate career at West Virginia University was interrupted by his service as an officer in the United States Infantry from 1941 to 1945. In 1942 he participated in the invasion of North Africa. He was injured three times while serving his country and was awarded four Bronze Stars. After his distinguished military service, he received his B.S. degree in social sciences; his M.A. degree in guidance and counseling from West Virginia University, and his doctoral degree in counseling and guidance from Columbia University.

During the course of his professional life, Robert Gibson pioneered many "firsts." He established the first counseling and guidance program in Morgantown High School in Morgantown, West Virginia, where he served as the director of guidance and instructor in history from 1946-49. He established the first counseling and guidance program at the West Virginia Institute of Technology (Montgomery, West Virginia) in 1951 and also served as director of guidance and associate professor from 1950-1957. While there, he formed the first West Virginia Guidance Association and served as its first president in 1953.

After completing his doctoral degree in 1956, Robert Gibson accepted a position at the University of Toledo as professor of education and assistant dean of the School of Education, At Toledo he established the Department of Counselor Education and initiated the university's first doctoral degree program. He successfully competed for federal research training grants (a first for that institution at that time in Education). He won a grant from the Ford Foundation to study early school leavers, as well as one from the Office of Education to investigate the comparative academic achievements of elementary school youth in the United Kingdom and the United States. During his tenure at Toledo, Dr. Gibson successfully competed for funds to conduct National Defense Education Act training institutes for six successive years, thereby establishing the Department of Counselor Education as one of the most respected programs at the time in the country (1957-1965).

Dr. Gibson came to Indiana University in 1965 as a full professor. He initiated Indiana University's Scotland Program in 1970 and its Bermuda Program in 1972, both of which functioned until 2000. From 1965-1980, he directed numerous federally funded grants studying cross-cultural aspects of education and the achievement of secondary-school students.

Dr. Gibson served as chair of the Department of Counseling and Counselor Education at the School of Education from 1969-1982, during which time it earned its present reputation as one of the best programs in the country. He was also instrumental in creating the M.S. Counselor Education program at IUPUI. He coordinated and taught in the IUPUI program for over twenty years. Dr. Gibson's excellent teaching skills and administration acumen were highly respected by both his students and colleagues. His doctoral students have gone on to distinguished careers in higher education in various institutions in the United States and foreign countries. His willingness to devote extra time to students in need of extra help endeared him to students, many of whom returned to visit him on campus. Rarely do other counseling faculty members meet a former counseling student at a convention without being queried about Dr. Gibson.

Not surprisingly Dr. Gibson served as a leader in professional associations at the state, regional, and national level. He served as president of professional associations in three states (West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana); he served as treasurer of the Association of Counselor Education and Supervision; and he chaired the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges' Committee on Standards and Research in Guidance for many years.

Robert L. Gibson's eleven textbooks and extensive periodical publications have influenced the field of counseling throughout the world. His *Introduction to Counseling and Guidance* textbook, co-authored by Marianne H. Mitchell, (now in its 7th edition) was adopted by over 200 institutions in this country alone. Many of his textbooks have been translated into foreign languages, including Chinese. He also directed fifteen funded research projects.

He served as a consultant to numerous governmental agencies, including the Bermuda Ministry of Education; the Bermuda Ministry of Health and Social Sciences; the Bermuda College; the Scottish Ministry of Education and the Moray House College of Education at the University of Edinburgh. He retired from Indiana University in 1990, but continued to do consulting work until 2010.

Dr. Gibson and his wife Juanita (whom he married in 1945 and who pre-deceased him in 2010) derived great pride and pleasure from their three children: Katherene Gibson of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paul Gibson (Sharon Perry) of Phoenix, Arizona, and Nancy Wallace (Joseph) of Spencer, Indiana, and their grandchildren and great grandchildren

Among his colleagues, Robert Gibson was known for his quick wit, high energy, and strong sense of loyalty. He was also recognized as an avid sports fan, particularly of IU basketball and football. (He was a student-athlete himself, participating in both baseball and track). Colleagues always solicited advice from him, because he found no problem insoluble. Colleagues and others will remember him as one who was modest about his own accomplishments but quick to praise the success of his colleagues' achievements.

As friends and colleagues, it has been an honor to prepare this memorial resolution to become part of the Indiana University archives through inclusion in minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council. Copies will be sent to the School of Education Interim Dean Terry Mason, Ph.D. and the IUPUI Interim Executive Associate Dean Robin Hughes, Ph.D. of the School of Education. Copies will also be sent to his children: Katherene Gibson, Paul L. Gibson, and Nancy L Wallace.

Marianne H. Mitchell
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