

Dolores Tichenor: Commitment to a Community

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While a number of members of the Indiana Section of the MAA have assumed national roles, many more have quietly made a significant impact on their own campuses and in their own communities. One such person is Dolores Tichenor, Professor Emeritus at Trine University.

A native of Chicago, Dolores was finishing work on her MS in Mathematics at Purdue University when the Dean of Faculty approached with an offer to come work at (then) Tri-State University. In 1967, this direct approach was common, as was the practice of accepting the offers. Dolores taught and worked at Trine University for the next 43 years, with the exception of a four year leave as she completed her Ph.D. at the University of Missouri – Rolla.

Over those many years, Dolores taught most of the mathematics curriculum and part of the computer science curriculum. She served as her department chair for nine years. An outstanding teacher, Dolores was awarded the Helen Smith McKetta Excellence in Teaching Award (1990), the Barrenbrugge Award for Excellence in Teaching Award (1993), and the Jannen Renaissance Scholar Award (1994).

But this was only part of her leadership work at Trine. Dolores also served as Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences and as Vice-President for Institutional Planning and Analysis. In this latter role, she brought over \$3.5 million to the University in grants and awards. Dolores served on several strategic planning committees and co-chaired the University's accreditation efforts with the Higher Learning Commission.

Later in her career, Dolores served as the Assistant Vice-President for Study Abroad. In addition to promoting study abroad across campus, she also developed her own courses including Vienna: Castles, Cathedrals, and Culture; Normandy and Paris: D-Day, Art, and Architecture; and Berlin: WWII and the Cold War. Dolores has traveled to all 50 states and 54 foreign countries. (A side note here: Dolores' junior colleague in the mathematics department, Haseeb Kasi, has taken on this role for the University.)

Dolores' future husband Don had just started teaching mathematics and engineering at Trine when she arrived. They married a short time later and were married for 23 years before Don passed away in 1993. In his honor Dolores endowed the Don R. Tichenor and Dolores M. Tichenor Scholarship Fund at Trine University. With the gift, Dolores noted that "an endowed scholarship is a permanent way to help students."

An avid genealogist, Dolores recently wrote the lead story for *Lines*, the quarterly magazine of the Allen County (Indiana) Genealogical Society. The story recounts her investigations of stories her father had told of their family's immigration to the United States. These investigations had led Dolores on trips to Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic to uncover her roots. Always a teacher, they also led Dolores to a post-retirement teaching assignment at Trine University as the instructor of an honors seminar on genealogical research.

Dolores has been an active member of the Steuben County (Indiana) community. She has served as a board member for Cameron Memorial Hospital Foundation, as a board member and president of the Steuben County Literacy Coalition, as a committee member of the Steuben County Community Foundation, as the Steuben County representative to the Regional Arts Commission, and as a reviewer for Arts United of Fort Wayne (Indiana). For these sustained commitments to the community, Dolores was named as one of 100 influential women during the 100 year history of the city of Angola (Indiana) in 2010.

Even with all of these local commitments, Dolores was also an active member of the Indiana Section of the MAA, regularly attending both the fall and spring meetings of the section. She served as the section chair from 1996-1999 (including vice- and past-chair roles).