

September 18, 2014

Professional Accomplishments

Thomas Keefe, DSW

Thomas Keefe earned his D.S.W. from University of Utah in 1973 and began his scholarly career at the University of Northern Iowa. He accepted the position of Assistant Professor. Here he soon distinguished himself as a scholar of Conflict and Social Reconstruction.

Professor Keefe joined the University of Northern Iowa faculty in 1973 as an Assistant Professor. In his forty-one years with our department he has helped bring the Iowa program into the forefront of graduate and undergraduate studies. In many ways, his leadership has prevented our department from becoming hopelessly entrenched in any theoretical "camp."

We are indebted to Professor Keefe's foresight, as we see our peers struggling to adopt what is best described as the modern dynamic relational approach. Professor Keefe has written three major books and twenty-six articles in several respected journals.

Yet Professor Keefe's leadership is not limited to scholarly arenas; he has also carefully nurtured our Graduate Program and contributed in essential ways to curricular development, instructional innovation, and departmental governance. For example, twenty years ago, he instituted a prescient renovation of the curriculum that led to the development of a more structured and efficient educational model that exposes our students to all sides of the scholarly debate.

This strategy may have had the greatest impact on our undergraduate majors, many of whom practice critical thinking skills. His active mentoring of graduate students (via his role as MSW Director) ensured that they, too, had an understanding of not only issues germane to scholarship, but of the many issues they will face as they enter the profession. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, our department has much to be proud of: Our peers have emulated our example on several fronts - in part because Professor Keefe's students have carried his reforms with them. As a result of his contributions, his students and colleagues credit him with raising the general level of discourse and inquiry in the field.

Professor Keefe has been an exemplary citizen of the university, chairing the most recent reaccreditation self-study. It is with great pride that we request emeritus status for our colleague, Thomas Keefe.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Boes, DSW  
Undergraduate Director  
Associate Professor