

## **In Honor of Dr. D. Ray Heisey, President, IAICS, 2001-2003**

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### **Introduction**

In the summer of 1999, the Board of Directors of the International Association for Intercultural Communication met at the biannual conference in Louisville, Kentucky. One of the topics on the agenda was the election of the new President of the organization. The choice of the President of the IAICS was not an easy task. The board only considered proven scholars who met both the Asian and the North American concepts of distinguished scholars. Fortunately, most of the board members had attended one of the sessions in which Dr. D. Ray Heisey presented his research. Heisey was not a newcomer to the organization. He attended many of the international conferences of the IAICS and was recognized as one of the major intellectual contributors to the area of intercultural communication. During the meeting of the board, Dr. Brooks Hill suggested the name of Dr. D. Ray Heisey for the Presidency. The move was seconded by Dr. Bates Hoffer and quickly ratified by the rest of the board. The decision was made and Dr. Brooks Hill was given the duty of approaching Dr. Heisey with the honor of serving as the President of the organization for the interim of 2001 to 2003. Dr. Heisey accepted and the announcement was made that Dr. Heisey would serve as Vice President of the organization and that he would accept the presidency at the next conference in Hong Kong.



It should be noted that the International Association for Intercultural Communication is not the only organization that has honored Dr. Heisey. He was chosen as a Coolidge Research Fellow in the Association for Religion and Intellectual life in 1991; he received a special citation from the Ohio Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio as “one of Ohio’s finest educators” in 1996; he received the President’s Medal by the Kent State University Board of Trustees for “30 years of outstanding service to Kent State University” in 1997; and he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for “Outstanding Service through Vocational Excellence” from the Alumni Association of Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, in 2002.

Although the Board of Directors only knew of Dr. Heisey as a contributing scholar to the organization, they would soon learn that he is married to Susanne E. Van Valin, a certified language arts teacher. They have three sons:

- Kevin S. Heisey, who received his B.S. in Technology from Kent State, and currently works as a Regional Sales Manager for Rockwell Automation in Cleveland, Ohio;
- Alec D. Heisey, who received his B.A. in French and Computer Science from Oberlin College, and works as a systems analyst for the Business Information Group in York, Pennsylvania;
- Ian S. Heisey, who received his B.A. in Communication at Messiah College, and is employed as a Mediation Coordinator for The Bellaire-Puritas Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio.

As for Dr. Heisey, he began his academic career as a speech major at Greenville College and completed his BA in 1954. He then went on to complete his MA in Speech at The Ohio State University in 1955. He then found his interests transformed and went on to fulfill his interests in Theology at Messiah College in 1957. This was followed by Post-Graduate Study at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, during 1959-60. He returned to complete his doctorate in Communication with a major in Public Address and Group Communication at Northwestern University in 1964.

### **His Successful Academic Career in Teaching**

Dr. Heisey has had a long career in teaching in the United States and overseas. He has been characteristically associated with Kent State University where he served at the Director of the School of Communication Studies and earlier as the Coordinator of the Division of Rhetoric and Communication. Currently, he is Professor and Director Emeritus (since 1996). He was made a full professor in 1970, and was granted tenure in 1966; Professor Emeritus, July 1, 1996; Professor, 1970-June 1996; Associate Professor, 1966-1970. He retired in 1996. Although most scholars will associate him with Kent State University where he has had a long career in the School of Communication Studies, he also served at other universities both within and outside of the United States.

Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania

Visiting Professor, February-May 1997

Peking University, Beijing, China

Visiting Professor of International Communication, School of International Studies, Fall Semester, 2000-2001, Fall Semester, 1996-1997

Renmin University, Beijing, China

Visiting Professor of International Communication

Department of International Politics, November and December, 1996

Estonian School of Diplomacy

Visiting Professor of Communication, May 1993,

Tallinn, Estonia

University of Lund, Sweden

Visiting Professor of Communication, Department of Applied Psychology,

Fall Semester, 1992

Damavand College, Tehran, Iran

Professor of Speech Communication, 1975-1978  
 (Taught one course while serving as president of the college)  
 University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium  
 Visiting Professor of Communication, Center for Communication Studies,  
 First Semester, 1972-1973  
 Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio  
 Adjunct Associate Professor of Speech, 1968-1972 (part-time basis in the winter  
 term)  
 Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania  
 Instructor in Speech, 1955-1959; Associate Professor, 1962-1965; Professor,  
 1965-1966

### **His Service to Academia**

Dr. Heisey has not only served IAICS well, he also has a long record of service to his university and community. For example, in 2002, he served as the President of the Phi Beta Delta, an honorary chapter for international scholars. Earlier, he served on the Board of Directors of the United Christian Ministries. Within academia, he served on faculty exchange committees, faculty search committees, review committees, and directed eighteen doctoral dissertations at Kent State University. He also served as an External Reader for the Ph.D. Thesis of Liao Tizhong, (1995) at Beijing Foreign Studies University. Dr. Heisey has been instrumental in establishing faculty exchange programs between Kent State University and the Guangming Daily in Beijing, Peking University in Beijing, Renmin University in Beijing, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in Beijing, and the University of Lund, Sweden. He served for three years, 1975-1978, as president of Damavand College in Tehran, Iran, to assist in the development of that Iranian liberal arts college for women.

Dr. Heisey also has belonged to numerous professional organizations: Speech Communication Association of Ohio, Central States Communication Association, Eastern Communication Association, National Communication Association, International Communication Association, International Society for Intercultural Education, Training, and Research, Chinese Communication Association, Association for Chinese Communication Studies, International Association of University Presidents, Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, World Communication Association, Phi Beta Delta (Honor Society for International Scholars), Beta Zeta Chapter, International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, Cleveland Council for World Affairs, Fellow in the International Academy for Intercultural Research. He was the program planner for competitive programs at SCA, SCAO, ISIJAR, and CSCA. He served as chair of the Peace Communication Commission of SCA in 1989-1990 and as chair of the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the National Communication Association in 2001-2002. And, of course, Dr. Heisey was the Vice President of IAICS in 1999-2001 and President in 2001-2003.

### **His Scholarly Contributions**

Scholarship plays a major role in academia. The success of a scholar is not only measured by what he has published, but also by the quality of those publications. Dr. Heisey served as editor of the Ablex Publishing series, *Advances in Communication and Culture*, producing five volumes. Dr. Heisey has distinguished himself as a scholar and this is evidenced by his numerous publications.

## Books

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- Heisey, D. R. (2004). *Healing body and soul: The life and times of Dr. W. O. Baker, 1827-1916*. Grantham, PA: The Brethren in Christ Historical Society. 547 pp.
- Heisey, D. R. (Ed.). (2000). *Chinese perspectives in rhetoric and communication*. Stamford, CT: Ablex Publishing. 297 pp. Volume One in the Ablex series, Advances in Communication and Culture.
- Heisey, D. R. & Gong, W. (Eds.). (1998). *Communication and culture: China and the world entering the 21st Century*. Amsterdam: Editions Rodopi. 370 pp.
- Jia, W., Lu, X., & Heisey, D. R. (Eds.). (2002). *Chinese communication theory and research: Reflections, new frontiers, and new directions*. Westport, CT: Ablex Publishing. 281 pp. Volume Four in the Ablex series, Advances in Communication and Culture.
- Lu, X., Jia, W., & Heisey, D. R. (Eds.). (2002). *Chinese communication studies: Contexts and comparisons*. Westport, CT: Ablex Publishing. 278 pp. Volume Five in the Ablex series, Advances in Communication and Culture.

## Chapters in Books

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Dr. Heisey has also published numerous book reviews in such journals as *The Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *The Journal of American History*, and *The Review of Rhetoric*.

He has also presented a plethora of papers at professional conferences, such as the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, the Conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, The National Communication Association Convention, The Rochester Intercultural Conference, The International Academy for Intercultural Research, The Rochester Institute of Technology Conference, The Central States Communication Association, The Association for Chinese Communication Studies, The Speech Communication Association, The Conference on Culture and Communication in Beijing, The Conference on Multiculturalism, Cultural Diversity and Global Communication, The Eastern Communication Association, and the World Communication Association.

He continues to be active as a scholar doing research on the communication of Chinese leaders and has worked on several unpublished projects such as the following: Dr. W. O. Baker and the Underground Railroad; Mediating Development Communication in Central Asia: Uzbekistan, A Case Study; Conversations in Intercultural Encounters in Iran and Sweden, and China; A Personal Perspective on Chinese and American Cultural Characteristics; A Basic Course in Speech as an Approach to Intercultural Understanding; Horace Bushnell and the Meaning of the Negro in Nineteenth-Century America; and a Philosophy of Christian Higher Education.

### **Community and Church**

Dr. Heisey has served as an international communication advisor to two international firms: (1) Beijing New Beicheng Industrial Development Company (an international company that produces and markets database CD-ROM projects) with offices in New York and Beijing, and (2) Guangming Public Relations Company (consultant in data acquisition, government policies, marketing strategies, and information transmission for international companies that wish to do business with China), Beijing, China.

Throughout the years while at Kent State, Dr. Heisey served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Brimfield Memorial House Association and as coordinator of its Lyceum Lecture Series, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Community Action Council of Portage County and one term as its president, as a speaker for numerous area radio and television stations on their interview programs and panels on foreign affairs topics, such as the Middle East conflict, the rhetoric of presidents, and of world leaders, as a pulpit supply speaker for the Kent Presbyterian Church, and as a leader of the Adult Dialogue Class in its Christian Education program.

During the years while in higher education, Dr. Heisey served on the Board of Directors of United Christian Ministries at Kent State University, on the Board for Schools and Colleges of the Brethren in Christ Church, on the Parents' Council of the Alumni Association of Messiah College, and as a licensed minister in the Brethren in Christ Church.

In the arts area, Dr. Heisey served as a member of the Adult Choir of the Kent Presbyterian Church and has exhibited his photographs taken from his world travels, focusing on people and places, at exhibits at United Christian Ministries Contemporary Arts Festival at the United Methodist Church in Kent, at the Art Gallery of Kent State University's Geauga Campus, and the Art Gallery of the Student Center at Kent State University, at the photo exhibit at the Kent Presbyterian Church, entitled, "Images of Our World," and at the Ohio Bicentennial Religious Arts Festival, Tallmadge, Ohio. Dr. Heisey also produced videos of his professional work in Beijing, China, entitled, "Faith at Work in China" and "China, Up Close," which have been shown at public events in churches and in the chapel service at Messiah College and on the campus at Kent State University.