

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH



Gene England

Gene was born in Luling, TX, a small town south of Austin and east of San Antonio, in 1940. Gene's mother and father were both from families with long histories in Texas, hence Gene's faint Texas drawl. An only child, he had a happy life as the center of attention. He was educated in the public school system of Luling, graduating in 1958. His education continued at the University of Texas, Austin, where he received a BA in English with a minor in History in 1962. In 1964, he completed the MA degree and in 1969 the PhD, both in English from UT. As an undergraduate student, he met Rosemary Cochran while both were working in the Geology Library. They married in January of 1963. Son Meric was born in November of that year, and son Scott came in 1969. Gene taught during his graduate school days in programs for international students to improve their skills in English and trained Peace Corps volunteers to do ESL work in Turkey. He also taught one year of the English faculty of Perryton High School in the panhandle of Texas. In 1969, the family left Texas to become Hoosiers as Gene accepted a position with the English faculty at ISU.

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During the years since, their sons have grown up in Terre Haute, graduated from North Vigo High School and ISU, and have careers here. Scott, who works at Clabber Girl, and his wife Linda, an ISU graduate, and a fourth-grade teacher at Lost Creek Elementary, have three adult children, all of whom are South Vigo High School and ISU graduates. Two are now married. His oldest grandchild and his wife are expecting a child in May, so he will be Great-grandpa Gene. Son, Meric, works for Morris Manufacturing in Brazil, IN, and his wife Kerri is on the staff at ISU. Gene and all his family take pride in celebrating the life and artistic accomplishments of Rosemary, whom they lost in 2009 to ovarian cancer. Her creativity and artistry are preserved in many works she created - some of which are displayed here in Westminster Village. During thirty-three years at ISU, Gene taught a great variety of courses in the Department of English, with a specialization in American Literature.

He also taught a few courses for the Department of Humanities, African American Studies, and Honors Program. He served as Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of English with oversight of advisement and student organizations. Outside the department, he served a semester as Assistant to the Dean of College of Arts and Sciences for curricular matters and another semester as Assistant to the Dean for student affairs. For five years, he was Director of General Education at ISU. Gene was involved for twenty-five years with the publication of the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature of the Modern Humanities Research Association. The last five of those years as the American Editor. In this capacity, Gene traveled twice to Cambridge University, the headquarters then of the Annual Bibliography. Among highlights of his years at ISU, Gene was a recipient of the Caleb Millis Distinguish Teaching Award, the Faculty Distinguished Service Award, and the President's Medal. He retired in 2003.

In 2019, at the invitation of Curtis Winkle, Gene visited and dined several times at Westminster Village. Later that year, he attended an open house held by Carolyn Steinbaugh in her new apartment here. From those experiences, he made his decision to sell the home he had shared with Rosemary and his family and take up residence here. Gene continues to believe that to have been the right decision made at the right time of life. Gene enjoys serving on the committees for Dining Services and for Community Life. Lifelong interests in music and in performance continue here with the involvement in Village Singers and with the Poetry Discussion Group. Gene feels he is a very lucky man having his family living near him and to have a great extended family with his many friends at Westminster Village.