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Blakey Has Unique Approach To Teaching

by Vanassa Coy

Dr. George T. Blakey, professor of history, has a unique approach to teaching. He chose to be a professor because of his love for teaching. Blakey enjoys discovering new things, doing research, and challenging old assumptions; and he tries to impart all of this on his students.

Blakey's teaching techniques differ from the standard method of memorizing facts. He uses a visual approach, with lots of slides, occasional movies, and he also uses the audio equipment.

Blakey said, "I like my students to be assaulted with a variety of interpretations and different techniques. Then let them make their own judgements, and conclusions, and find the truth for themselves." He also requires his students to get involved in role playing, where they learn to interpret, analyze and question what they are studying

The success of Blakey's approach is evident by the awards he has received from the Student Senate and Alumni. In 1981 Blakey was presented The President's Award, for excellence in teaching, an award given within the IU system.



In 1967, Blakey joined the IU East faculty. He is a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky. He earned his M.A. degree at Vanderbilt University and then completed his doctorate at IU in Bloomington.

Blakey's expertise is in Twentieth Century America. He is presently writing a book on the New Deal and its impact on Kentucky, which is where he was born. He hopes to have it published within the next calendar year. Blakey has already published one book in 1970, on World War I propaganda. He decided to write his second book because he enjoys the research and the idea of doing something no one else has ever done.

Currently, Blakey is planning a course on the founding fathers of the Constitution. It will be taught in 1987, on the 200th anniversary of the writing of the Constitution.

For fun Blakey enjoys playing tennis. He was one of the first to hit the new IU East courts. In college he was a member of the cross country team, and he still likes to jog. He also finds "immense pleasure" in getting lost in a used bookstore.

Dr. Blakey also enjoys working outside on his farm he shares with his wife Carolyn. They both enjoy traveling and their most recent trip was to England last summer.