

Arthur S . Daniels: From Student to Dean

by
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Arthur S. Daniels displayed a tenacious perseverance in his education and moved through a variety of increasing responsibilities to the deanship of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University. After an early, difficult life in New York City, he entered Springfield College in 1927 where he became editor of the student newspaper. He soon became an instructor at Allegheny College. While at Allegheny he was never “gung-ho” about coaching duties but was much more interested in physical education classes and intramural sports, and his leadership led to the founding of the Allegheny Outing Club.

Daniels received his master’s degree at Columbia in 1935, and began work on his doctorate before taking a position at the University of Illinois in 1937. During World War II he was an officer in the Army Air Force. He authored a master guide for the AAF physical training program which was accepted as a dissertation by Columbia from which he graduated with the Ed.D. in 1943. He was chief of the Physical Reconditioning Branch during the War.

His work with handicapped led him to a position at Ohio State University where he headed the special physical education program for disabled students. His adapted program received a special citation by the American Academy of Physical Education to which he was subsequently elected. Daniel’s well-known text, *Adapted Physical Education*, clearly expressed his philosophy that excusing exceptional students from physical education in the guise of protection was actually denying their rights to reach the greatest individual development.

In 1957, Daniels accepted the position as Dean of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana. While he led Indiana to increased stature in the field, he became President of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Emerging interests in Daniel’s latter years included international relations, sport sociology, and the structure of physical education as a discipline. He was instrumental in the founding the “Big Ten Body of Knowledge Project.” He presented a major address at the First International Congress on Sociology of Sport in Cologne, Germany in April, 1966. Two months later, after hemorrhaging from an ulcer which necessitated major surgery, Daniels died. Daniels had striven to be first class. The memorial statement written by his staff reflected the fact that he had literally given his life to the cause of physical education.