

Keith B. Roys, Sr.-2015

Jefferson City, MO – Keith B. Roys, Sr., PhD was inducted into the Missouri Recreation and Parks Hall of Fame on Thursday, February 26, 2015. Dr. Roys is a resident of Columbia and has influenced thousands of University of Missouri students. Many of these are now seasoned professional leaders in communities across the United States and around the world. In 1966, Dr. Roys' charge was to pursue department accreditation, then to develop both bachelor's and master's degree programs in recreation and park administration. The BS gained approval in 1967, followed by the MS degree in 1968. In 1973, the University of Missouri and North Carolina State became the first two universities to receive accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association. Instrumental in developing Mizzou's internship program, Dr. Roys is a respected author on the subject, and for years met individually with every intern candidate. He was also a driving force behind the creation of Rho Phi Lambda and the student organization now known as SPRTA. After serving as department chair for 4 years, he returned to teaching and advising and retired in 1997. Dr. Roys received his Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Leadership from the University of Washington, and his master's in physical education - interrupted by service in the U.S. Navy. It was a rare degree choice in those days, and his first job was with the Green Bay, Wisconsin Recreation Department. Following positions with Rohr Aircraft Corporation (Recreation Coordinator) in Southern California and the City of Coronado (Director of Recreation), he pursued his PhD at the University of Illinois. He joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota, but in 1966, he finally found his "home" at the University of Missouri - Columbia, as the Department of Recreation's first Chair. During his working years, Dr. Roys swam almost every day and is a Life Deacon at First Baptist Church in Columbia. He is most proud, however, of his family, who he describes as "fantastic individuals," - wife Sylvia, children Keith and Vicki, grandchildren and a great grandson.