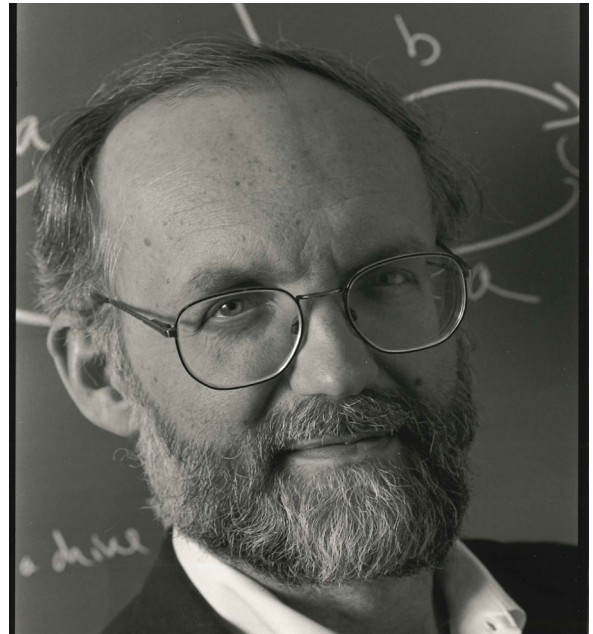


K. JON BARWISE

K. Jon Barwise, a logician renowned for his research in mathematical logic, his ingenuity in applying mathematical techniques to outstanding problems in other disciplines, and his pioneering efforts in logic pedagogy, was born in Independence, Missouri., on June 29, 1942. He received his doctorate in mathematics in 1967 from Stanford University, where he studied logic under Professor Solomon Feferman of Stanford and Professor Dana Scott, now at Carnegie Mellon University. In 1992, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jon held appointments in mathematics and computer science at Yale and the University of Wisconsin. He also held one-year visiting positions at Oxford University and the University of California-Los Angeles, and was twice a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. Between 1983 and 1990, he was a professor of philosophy at Stanford before coming to Indiana University in 1990. Jon was appointed in five departments and programs at IU: Philosophy, Mathematics, Computer Science, Cognitive Science, and Linguistics.

Throughout his prolific career, Jon sought to develop a better theoretical understanding of information content: how it is expressed in language, computers or graphical representations, and how it is transferred from one form of representation to another. He was author or co-author of 11 books and nearly 100 papers. His early work, in pure logic, was primarily concerned with model theory and higher recursion theory. In philosophy, he focused on the implications of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of language for the foundations of logic and mathematics. In linguistics and computer science, he set out to develop a theory of information rich enough to support an understanding of discourse



and computation. This latter work, cut short, was an effort to distill into a single mathematical theory, a theme that had underwritten his whole life's work: how to understand the semantic content of information, independent of form—in language, thought, computers, and graphical notations, and in systems that transform information between and among different representational forms.

In addition to his substantial research contributions, Jon was deeply committed to the teaching of logic. He was quick to volunteer for undergraduate courses and delighted in opening minds to the rigors of analytical thinking. With Stanford's John Etchemendy, Jon shared the 1997 Educom Medal in philosophy for creating a computer program that could better teach logic, an endeavor he found fulfilling because of its effect on his students.

Born: Independence, Missouri June 29, 1942
Died: Bloomington, Indiana March 5, 2000
Years at IU: 1990-2000

See also the K. Jon Barwise Prize awarded by the American Philosophical Association