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GREETINGS FROM IUPUI

May 2015

Student speakers shared the IUPUI experience during commencement

When Brandi Blakley first came to IUPUI, she admitted she was a little overwhelmed by the size of the campus and the city.

Undeterred, she made it a point to get involved in the campus and community, including participating in IUPUI's dance marathon for Riley Hospital for Children, working with the Wheeler Mission and serving as a motivational speaker for child abuse awareness. All of a sudden, that overwhelming feeling was gone.

"IUPUI is like our own little community. Just like my hometown," said the psychology degree recipient to her fellow 6,500 graduates at Commencement last Sunday afternoon.



Student commencement speakers Brandi Nicole Blakley (left) Victoria Rose MacLain (right)

The Commencement speaker at the Sunday morning session, Victoria MacLain, also found her home at IUPUI. MacLain, a recipient of psychology and criminal justice

degrees, has worked in the community through the Heminger House Domestic Violence Shelter in addition to participating in numerous, larger IUPUI-sponsored community service events.

Victoria “came to realize that IUPUI . . . is a place where we make an impact on the lives of students, the Indianapolis community and beyond.” She articulated the breadth of IUPUI’s contribution: “We do this through our research, our commitment to diversity and most importantly our passion for civic engagement and understanding that community relationships are a vital role in the progression of our city, state and nation.”

These two impressive individuals are representative of the more than 6,500 graduates in the Class of 2015, a group filled with passion, potential and civic-mindedness. It’s a group that tens of thousands of happy relatives and friends celebrated at the Indiana Convention Center during my favorite annual rite of passage.

Intriguing facts about the Class of 2015



Excited IUPUI students watch classmates as they await their moment

For the record, the 6,547 graduates earned 6,633 degrees—5,241 from Indiana University and 1,392 from Purdue University. The graduates ranged from 19–69 years of age and included six sets of twins and even one set of triplets! Of the 723 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 114 were Psychology; while of the 604 Bachelor of Science degrees, 101 were in Computer and Information Technology.

IUPUI continues to graduate a wide variety of individuals:

- 32.6 percent of this year’s graduates were first-generation degree recipients
- 7.3 percent of the graduates were international students from 101 countries
- 88 of Indiana’s 92 counties and 37 states were represented
- Our partnership with Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, led

to at least seven graduates from the schools of business, science and engineering & technology

- One-third of graduates were ages 25-29, the largest group by age
- More than 17 percent of our U.S. graduates were African-American, Asian-American, or Latino

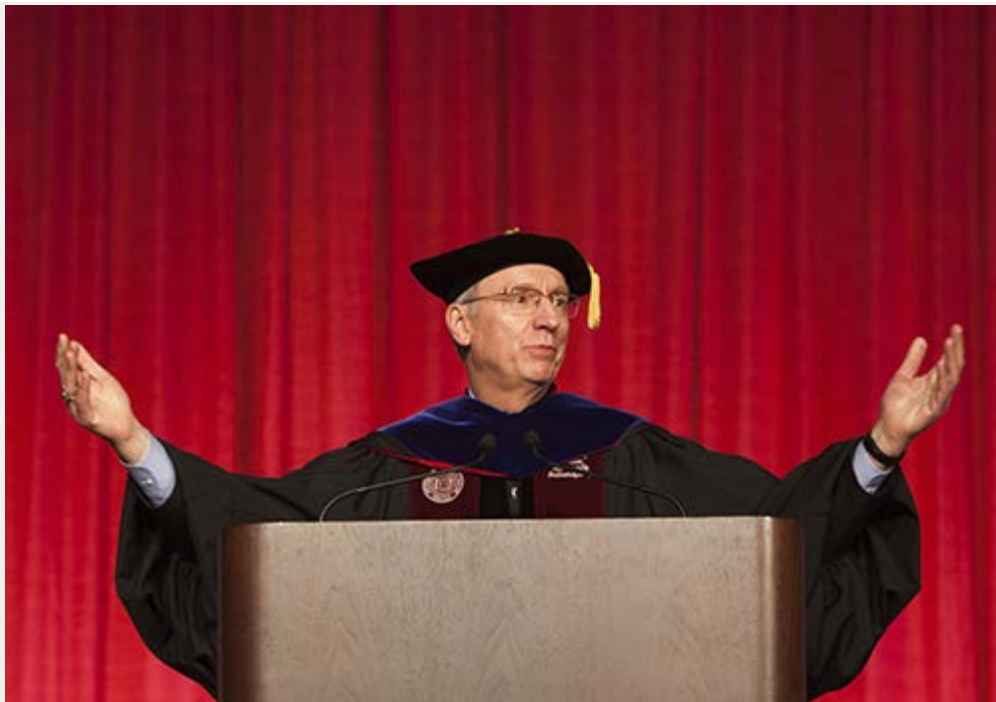


Dignitaries included Indiana University Trustee Michael J. Mirro, Trustee Chair Randall L. Tobias, President Michael A. McRobbie, IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz, Trustee Janice L. Farlow, and Trustee Philip N. Eskew Jr.

And let's not forget about the amazing academic achievements of our students. This year 126 graduates completed degree requirements with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. The breakdown of students who achieved excellence is 85 master's, 33 bachelor's, two doctoral/research degrees, three associates and one doctoral/practice.

Welcome to the family

Each of the more than 6,500 graduates last weekend was different but they will forever share the common bond of being members of the IUPUI Class of 2015. I look forward to their ongoing relationships with the campus—through the alumni groups, faculty, staff and fellow graduates.



With open arms, Chancellor Charles R. Bantz welcomes the Class of 2015 as lifetime members of the IUPUI family!

To each graduate, I offer congratulations and the hope that you will be a difference maker in your field and in your community, making this world a better place. Thank you for your perseverance, your diligence, your commitment and service, your hard work and for all that you will strive to achieve from this point on.

Remember to never stop learning, to always help others and to never fear detours along the road of life. Some will lead to wonderful, unexpected places!

Charles R Bantz

CHANCELLOR CHARLES R. BANTZ

Send your comments to chancellor@iupui.edu.

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