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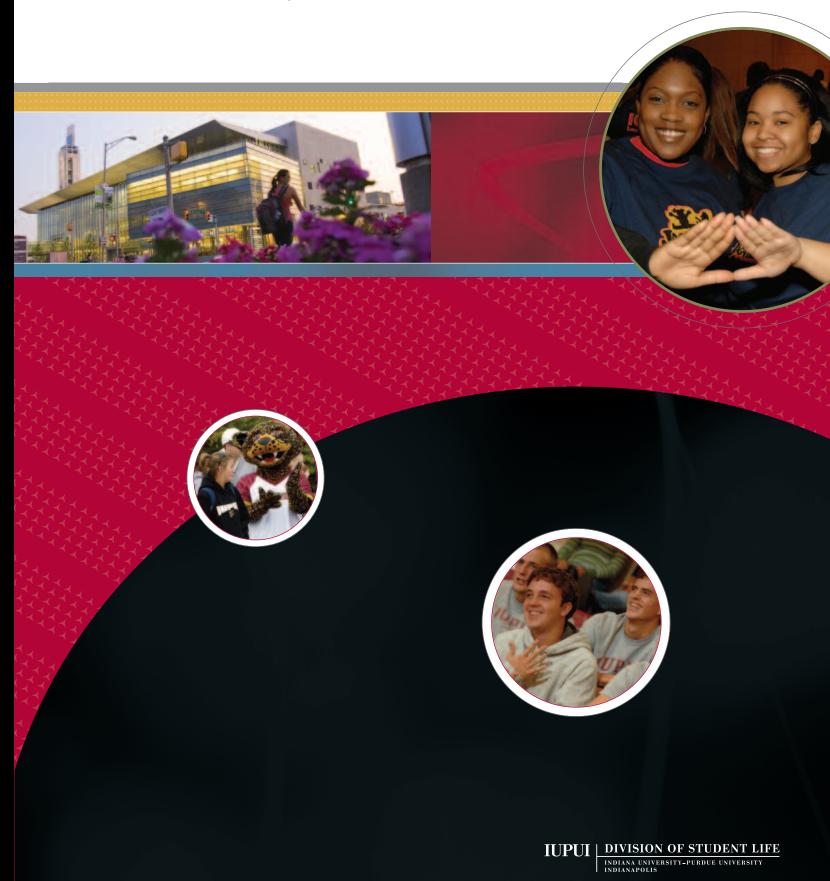
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IUPUI | DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE

### **IUPUI DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE**

2007 - 2008 Annual Report



### You can feel the excitement!

What a year it has been for student life at IUPUI. From events and programming to on-campus living and student engagement, this has been a year filled with the accomplishments and progress we strive for in the Division of Student Life. This report is designed to share some of these highlights with our campus colleagues, corporate partners and the Indianapolis community. Fulfilling our vision to "engage all

students" is not possible without the hard work, dedication and generosity of so many here on campus and across the community.

Student life is thriving at IUPUI, and there is no place that embodies this more than our new Campus Center, which opened in January 2008. Just more than a year later, it is hard to imagine our campus without this spectacular center — a place that has become a community

gathering place for students, faculty and visitors alike. In the first six months, the Campus Center hosted more than 2,600 events — nearly half of those sponsored by IUPUI student organizations.

Whether we are adding new student organizations or expanding services, student life at IUPUI is always growing and changing. This is particularly true for Housing & Residence Life. Campus housing opened at full capacity—1,100 students strong—for the fall 2007 semester. With the increasing popularity of on-campus living, we are looking ahead to the day when more IUPUI students can take advantage of residential campus life. Plans are currently underway for the second phase of student housing, slated to provide residential opportunities for an additional 2,000 students.

It is indeed an exciting time to be part of IUPUI. One of the nation's leading urban universities, IUPUI has flourished, capitalizing on opportunity, much like its neighbor, downtown Indianapolis. As the Division of Student Life, we are proud to be at the heart of it all and stand ready to ensure a bright future.

Karen M. Whitney, Ph.D.

Karen M. Whitney

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT LIFE ◆ DEAN OF STUDENTS INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS

## **Our Vision: Engaging All Students**

The Division of Student Life has implemented a five-year Strategic Plan that provides direction for much of the Division's work, including the activities for the 2007-2008 academic year. The Strategic Plan has three goals:

- ) Excellence in Community-Building
- ) Excellence in Student Engagement
- ) Excellence in Professional Practice

This annual report includes examples of how the Division has met these three goals during the past year. Profiles of student leaders and a Division staff member help illustrate the impact and influence of Student Life.

The mission of Student Life is to empower student learning, inclusion, and success through engagement.



#### **ERIN BECK**

Graduate Student, Higher Education Student Affairs Program Graduate Assistant, Campus and Community Life



With a biology degree from Butler University in hand, Erin Beck found herself working as a contractor in a chemistry lab—and wanting something more out of life. She started thinking back to what she enjoyed most about college. Time and again, she kept coming back to the activities—serving as a class officer, membership in her sorority, participating in College Mentors for Kids. That's when she realized she wanted a career in student affairs.

Today, she's a semester away from graduating from IU's higher education student affairs program. For her assistantship, Erin's a graduate assistant for Campus and Community Life at IUPUI. She works primarily with the Student Activities Programming Board—a group that's grown threefold in just one year and is responsible for coordinating educational and social activities on campus.

"Students really want a campus life that builds community and camaraderie," says Erin, a native of central Indiana. "It's really great to see how much IUPUI has changed from when I graduated from high school."

Erin plans to begin interviewing for jobs this spring, setting her sights on a position in academic advising or a study abroad program—anything that allows for one-on-one interaction with students. She's enjoyed that aspect of her assistantship the most and is grateful for the chance to see firsthand the many career options open to someone with an interest in student affairs.

"I've really been impressed with the opportunities we have in CCL to create our own experiences for learning," Erin says. "Everyone's very open to offering us the chance to work on projects in different areas, like Greek life or leadership."

IUPUI's diversity has also been a benefit for Erin, as she prepares for her career in student affairs.

"The variety of students that come through IUPUI that we get to work with is really remarkable," she says. "I've worked with people from all over, from age 17 to age 45. It's a unique experience."

## **Excellence in Community-Building**

The Division of Student Life strives to be a campus leader in building community to support student learning and success. This is accomplished by strengthening and building community partnerships; promoting and embracing diversity; ensuring that community-building actions and accomplishments are frequently communicated to students, staff, faculty and other stakeholders; fostering campus spirit through promotion of existing and new traditions; and developing new facilities, programs, services and populations designed to increase community.

#### MEETING THE GOAL: OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ) The Campus Center opened on January 7, 2008, and was formally dedicated on April 9. The development of Campus Center Phase II: Student Health & Fitness began.
- ) More than 1,230 volunteers participated in 15 different service/civic engagement activities for a total of 10,048 community service hours.
- ) Campus housing opened at full capacity (1,100 students) in the fall of 2007 and remained at a record-high capacity of 97 percent through the year.
- ) "Service and the City" took 61 students on a tour of Indianapolis and then to serve at local non-profit agencies.



SUSAN CANADY
Associate Director, IUPUI Campus Center



"In some respects, I think it's what I was meant to do." That's how Susan Canady, associate director of IUPUI's Campus Center, sums up her nearly 20 years working in student affairs. Capitalizing on her own involvement as a student at Franklin College, Susan steered her course away from her journalism major to a career in student affairs. She worked at the University of Indianapolis and her alma mater before coming to IUPUI in 1999 as a coordinator in the department that's now Campus and

Community Life. She became assistant director of that department in 2003 and joined the Campus Center staff in 2006. Today, she hires, trains and manages the center's 40-plus student employees.

"Ultimately, we want students to have a good experience academically, but in reality, what students gain from college has a lot to do with what they do outside the classroom," Susan says. "It's very rewarding to see students come in the first year and observe the changes that happen during their time here."

A recipient of this year's Student Life Vice Chancellor's Vision Award, Susan is recognized for her ability to connect personally with students while holding them accountable. She's quick to acknowledge what's kept her at IUPUI for nearly a decade. She likes working in a place that's open to new ideas.

"It's very fun and exciting here," Susan says. "And there aren't a lot of barriers. We're willing to try new things, and that's not something you can find everywhere."

Susan says the experience of helping to open the Campus Center has been a privilege.

"To have been a part of a university's first campus center is an experience I never thought I'd have professionally," she admits. "It's been very enlightening and rewarding."

- ) Housing & Residence Life established the Mary Cable Social Justice Center, providing students living in campus housing with resources and programs to expand their understanding of diversity issues.
- ) Campus & Community Life (CCL) coordinated programming for the Collegiate Readership Program, which included a visit from a *New York Times* editor.
- CCL sponsored more than 90 cultural enrichment programs during the academic year, reaching 4,000 IUPUI students, faculty and staff.
- ) IUPUI's Black Student Union hosted the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner. A sold-out crowd of 850 was on hand to hear world-renowned poet and author, Nikki Giovanni.

## **Excellence in Student Engagement**

The Division of Student Life is committed to increasing student engagement in order to strategically improve student persistence and graduation. This is accomplished by assessing student engagement based on our National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data; increasing the number of involved students; identifying evidence, research, best practices and innovative approaches to determine current student engagement work and to inform future efforts; communicating the value of student engagement to the campus community; and developing new facilities, programs and services to increase student engagement.

#### MEETING THE GOAL: OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ) WOW (Weeks of Welcome) 2007 spanned three weeks with 18 on-campus and community-related events. Over 7,000 students participated.
- ) CCL began the expansion of IUPUI's Greek Life program by hiring a full-time coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life to work with the campus's 13 existing Greek chapters.
- The Campus Center employs approximately 50 students; 30 of these positions are new as of the 2007-2008 year.
- This year, Housing & Residence Life hosted 70 social and educational programs, serving a total of 2.902 students.
- More than 55 percent of students responding to a Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) survey said that receiving CAPS services helped them remain at IUPUI.
- Ninety-eight percent of clients completing the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) survey were satisfied with the services they received.
- The Office of Community Service coordinated more than 78 volunteers on five Alternative Spring Break trips to Frederick, Maryland; Maryville, Tennessee; Waveland, Mississippi; and Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.
- Forty-five students took part in the "To Mexico with Love" program, providing 960 person-hours of service in Mexico and serving 110 children and dozens of hospital patients.
- ) More than 1,500 individuals participated in 16 different "IUPUI Goes to Town" events, such as sporting events, Broadway shows and museum visits.
- ) CCL introduced approximately 4,000 students to campus involvement through summer new student orientation presentations.
- CCL hosted 88 student organizations and 38 non-profit agencies at the Fall Involvement Expo in 2007. More than 1,500 attended the event. A similar event was held in spring 2008.



### SHAREÉ MYRICKS Senior, Sociology major



After changing majors three times in her quest to become a nurse, Shareé Myricks spent time reflecting on what she was really meant to do. As a student senator in IUPUI's Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Shareé attended a conference that focused her attention on a career in student affairs. Coupled with encouragement from Division of Student Life staff members, Shareé carved out a new path for her life.

"Being involved has really helped me realize that my purpose in life is to serve others," says Shareé, a resident assistant in Ball Residence Hall and a founder of the Alternative Breaks Service Organization (ABSO). "I do love serving students and having a chance to impact their life."

As last year's USG president, Shareé, a native of Gary, Indiana, and the first member of her family to attend college, helped preside over the spring dedication of the Campus Center and has made presentations to the IU Board of Trustees and university leaders. She says these experiences have helped her tremendously.

"I've learned how to be a leader and become more civic-minded and aware of what's going on in our country," says Shareé. "It's brought me a lifetime of experience that I wouldn't have had anywhere else."

In addition to her USG involvement, Shareé served as an Orientation Team leader and was a First Year Seminar mentor. She was also involved with Student Support Services, helping to mentor first-generation college students. She plans to begin a master's program in student affairs next fall with the intent of pursuing a career in student judicial affairs and risk management.

"The Division of Student Life has been very supportive," Shareé says. "They've provided a lot of time and resources and have invested a lot in my future. For that, I'm very grateful."



*IUPUI's impressive Campus Center, formally dedicated on April 9, 2008, has been called the "new generation" of student unions.* 

### **Excellence in Professional Practice**

The Division of Student Life is a leader in student development utilizing best professional practices. This is accomplished by increasing Student Life staff knowledge and understanding of Student Life programs, services and facilities; enhancing professional development for all employees within Student Life; increasing the level of teamwork within Student Life; identifying evidence and research to assess best professional practices and to inform future efforts; developing a disaster/emergency response plan, including regular training exercises; and developing a more successful culture of resource generation and enhancement within Student Life.

#### **MEETING THE GOAL: OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ) CAPS contributed to a campus-wide evaluation of IUPUI's readiness for dealing with a traumatic event.
- ) The Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct (SRRC) Office adjudicated 69 disciplinary cases based on the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.
- ) SRRC coordinated several Division departments and other campus partners to develop a Behavioral Consultation Team to assist in responding to behaviors of concern on campus.
- ) CAPS staff members delivered presentations to clinical trainees at the University of Indianapolis, IU-Bloomington and IUPUI Counseling/Counselor Education. They also spoke to several church and community groups.

# **STEVE OETTING**Senior, Political Science and Criminal Justice major



Whatever the future holds for Greek life at IUPUI, Steve Oetting can look back and say he was there at the beginning. Steve is one of the founding members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon ( $\Sigma AE$ ) at IUPUI. He and a couple of friends began researching options for starting a fraternity during their freshman year. They decided on  $\Sigma AE$  and after nearly four years of recruiting members, they were officially chartered in the fall of 2008. When Steve graduates, he'll leave behind 25 brothers and good memories of what Greek life at IUPUI has meant to him.

"What we've realized is that even though we're all different, we want the same things—brotherhood, a chance to serve and to have some fun," Steve says. "Greek life offers opportunities for all three."

With 13 fraternities and sororities, IUPUI's Greek system is still young, but the progress made this past year has Steve and others excited about the future. With his eye on law school, Steve recently served as a member of IUPUI's Greek Life Taskforce, a group charged with building a solid foundation for the program. His involvement included directing a series of campus surveys to gather students' perceptions of Greek life. One of the task force's recommendations has recently come to fruition with the hiring of the campus's first coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life. According to Steve, whether a student is part of the Greek system isn't the point. What matters is that students participate while they're in college.

"Every student should take the opportunity to get involved and run with it," says Steve. "I tell the younger guys, 'you're not just paying for credits in the classroom; you're paying to have some say on a student level. Being involved will make you a better, more well-rounded person."