

UCOL News

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In This Issue

- UCOL 10th Anniversary Celebration
- Gayle Williams, Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate
- UCOL Honorary Members of Golden Key Society
- DOE Publications Win MarCom Awards
- STAR Program a Success
- Career & Employment Services Spring Events

Upcoming Events

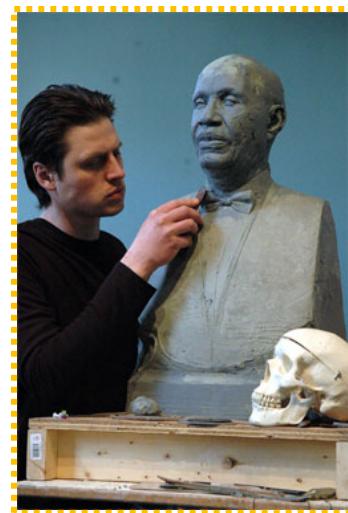
The 2009 Honors Recognition Program will take place on Sunday, April 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Cathedral (650 N. Meridian St.). Student registration is from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. A reception will follow the program.

University College 10th Anniversary

This year marks the tenth anniversary of University College at IUPUI. On February 25, 2009, the 10th Anniversary Celebration took place on all three floors of Taylor Hall on the IUPUI campus. Dr. Eugene White, superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools, gave the keynote address.

University College was officially named Joseph T. Taylor Hall in fall 2008 in honor of the first dean of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. During a dedication ceremony at the 10th Anniversary Celebration, a **bronze bust** of Joseph T. Taylor was unveiled. Other events that took place throughout Taylor Hall included the debut of a song about University College written by a local musician, a 10th Anniversary video featuring individuals who were key to the development of University College in its early years, and the unveiling of a permanent display depicting the ten-year history of University College.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration song was specifically written for the celebration event and was performed by composer George David Peters. The bronze bust of Joseph T. Taylor was created by artist and sculptor Casey Eskridge. Photos from the event can be found [here](#).



Sculptor Casey Eskridge with bronze bust of Joseph T. Taylor

Gayle Williams Wins National Award

Gayle Williams, Assistant Dean of University College, was a member of the founding administrative team for University College and has helped take IUPUI/University College to the cutting edge in first-year student support. Williams' dedication to the success of first-year students and achievements

in making University College a gateway for new students entering IUPUI has earned her national recognition with an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award from the [National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition](#) ("The Center").

Williams graciously recognizes her colleagues for this amazing achievement as she reminds us of the numerous people who have worked hard to bring the first-year programs where they are today. It is her firsthand knowledge of the difficulties many students face that has driven her in the development of these programs.

Williams is devoted to engaging students, keeping expectations high, and holding everyone accountable for their success.



As a first-generation college student, Williams remembers, "I was underprepared and underachieving – but I didn't know that. I just thought I wasn't smart....Most of my professors would not say anything to me if I did poorly. Perhaps they didn't want to embarrass me. But, what they did was confirm to me that I was not very smart because I believed they did not expect any more from me than that. A few did challenge me, though, and that was the greatest gift they could give me. They told me I could do better."

Williams has indeed done better and is paving the way for others to do better as well. John Gardner, founder of The Center has said, "As Indiana goes, so goes the country." Williams believes that "IUPUI/University College is in a unique position to make a difference and be a model, nationally," but recognizes, "this can be challenging because student needs are always changing, and finding effective solutions to their problems is never easy. It takes visionaries like Scott Evenbeck to take that leap and make the difference."

When asked how she feels about winning this award, Williams smiles. "It's an unbelievable thrill! A thrill of a lifetime." She cites the best moment being when her daughter, realizing the prestige of the award, called with joy, congratulations, and pride.

University College Staff Named Honorary

University College Nina Scholars also named to IUPUI Top 100 Students List

This year, a University College Nina Scholar was also named to the IUPUI Top 100 Students list. Linda Collins, a senior majoring in psychology, was the only student of the eight nominees from University College who made the Top 100 list.

In order to be eligible for the **Top 100**, students must be undergraduate juniors or seniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. These students show outstanding performance in scholastic achievement, collegiate and co-curricular activities, and community service.

Nina Scholars receive full tuition, all fees and books covered, a laptop computer, and a \$2,750 annual living allowance. Eligible students must either be 25 years or older and have dependents, have physical disabilities, or an incoming freshman between 18-25 years old who was raised in the child welfare system and has no means of financial support.

Members of Golden Key Society



Three University College staff members were recently inducted as Honorary members into **Golden Key International Honour Society**. The Honorary members from University College are Harriett Bennett, Assistant Dean, University College; Lynn Trapp, Manager, Office of Development, Operations, and Employee Relations; and Regina Turner, Associate Professor, School of Liberal Arts. The members of Golden Key are allowed to induct five Honorary members per academic year into their local chapter. These Honorary members were nominated by an existing Golden Key member because of their dedication to the students of University College and IUPUI.

Golden Key International Honour Society was founded in 1977 on the campus of Georgia State University. What began as a small group of undergraduate students and faculty advisors has grown into the world's largest collegiate honor society. Membership is by invitation only and invitations are only extended to the top fifteen percent of university sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students. The members of Golden Key are dedicated to academics, leadership, and community service. The Society is a nonprofit organization that offers more than \$500,000 in annual scholarships and awards as well as networking opportunities, career assistance, and countless other benefits available to its more than 1.8 million members.

Currently, Golden Key has more than 8,000 honorary members around the world. Each of these honorary members was elected by a local chapter because of their commitment to their campus and their communities. Some other notable Golden Key Honorary members include Bill Cosby, Ronald Reagan, and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.

University College Publications Win Awards

IUPUI University College was among the winners of the 2008 MarCom awards. Only 18 percent of the total entries were awarded the Platinum Award, the top honor that MarCom awards, and University College was among those recipients.

The Platinum Awards were given for the 2007 Learning Communities Conference (category: Marketing/Promotion Campaign/Special Events), the spring 2007 issue of *Indiana Insight* (category: Magazine/Educational Institution), the 2008-2009 *Navigator* student planner (category: Marketing/Promotion/Calendar), and the 2008 New Student Welcome backpack (category: Marketing/Promotion/Specialty Item).



Left: IUPUI Navigator student planner

Middle: Indiana Insight magazine

Right: Students sport the 2008 New Student Welcome backpack

The MarCom awards are given by the **Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals** (AMCP), an organization that defines the standard of excellence for the marketing industry. In addition, AMCP supports the hard work of creative professionals who use their exceptional talents to help charitable organizations.

IUPUI University College was also awarded four Gold Awards and two Honorable Mentions.

**ATTENTION:
RETENTION!**



IUPUI has just been named this year's winner of the public four-year sector 2008 Outstanding Student Retention Program Award. The award will be presented at **RETENTION 2009**, a conference in New Orleans celebrating student retention efforts from schools all over the country. The awards are given on behalf of the **Educational Policy Institute**.

On March 13, 2009, University College helped coordinate the 2009 Indiana Student Access and Success Conference, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation for Education, which had a record number of attendees for the annual event.

STAR Program a Success

The **STAR** (Students Taking Academic Responsibility) Program at IUPUI University College is thriving under the leadership of Chris Maroldo, Coordinator of Academic Success Programs in the Office of Academic and Career Development. He has taken the program to new levels and into uncharted territory. Maroldo, also Chair of the Probation/Dismissal/Reinstatement Issues Interest Group of the **National Academic Advising Association** (NACADA), states, "This intervention is fairly cutting-edge in terms of what other schools are doing. I am not aware of other mentor programs for students on academic probation like this."



The STAR Program is a retention effort. Currently, second semester freshmen with a GPA below 2.0 receive extra support via mentors who have volunteered to help them succeed in college. The mentors use the tools of the program to assess the needs of the student and the students pick the appropriate intervention once the key problems are identified. Typically, the pair meets on a weekly basis for approximately ten sessions where goal-setting is a key component. Maroldo adds, "Study skills is part of it—but it's not a huge part. There are many issues these kids are facing."

The other issues Maroldo is referring to are obstacles such as transportation, finances, and juggling school and family responsibilities. The mentors are volunteers who share a desire to make a difference in these students' lives. They listen and brainstorm with them and celebrate the successes as they come. Some students value this support so much that they ask to remain in the program after their sessions are complete, while others believe so strongly that their mentor changed their lives that they volunteer to be mentors themselves. Maroldo would like to begin to integrate the latter into the program this fall.

Maroldo would love to accommodate all students who ask for this support, but there are not enough mentors at this time, although numbers are growing. While the relationship between University College (as a two-year gateway to four-year institutions) and IUPUI causes most freshman programs to fall solely on the shoulders of University College staff and faculty, those from different IUPUI schools have come to realize that some of these students will never make it to their program if they do not succeed at University College. Proving that sometimes it really does "take a village," mentors run the gamut from deans to instructors and advisors to students to faculty.

The STAR Program fits very nicely with the retention philosophies of

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University College as is evidenced by the numerous other programs the school has in place to help students succeed. While STAR has been available to struggling students for three years, an average 71 percent retention rate each semester prompted administrators to make it one of two available mandatory interventions for University College students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0. Maroldo expects this mandatory requirement to have a very positive impact on the retention rate for the program. The program will undoubtedly face challenges in carrying out this new mandate and will undoubtedly undergo additional changes as it develops ways and means to serve this new demographic.

Beginning fall 2008, all first-year undergraduate (FYU) students will be placed on academic probation at the end of their first semester if their IU GPA is between 1.0 and 1.99. FYU students who attempted 12 or more credit hours (including Ws) and do not obtain at least a 1.0 GPA at the end of their first semester will be dismissed.

Career & Employment Services Spring Events

IUPUI's Career and Employment Services has been hosting several spring events on campus to help students with employment navigation. [Career and Employment Services](#) helps students find the career path and employment that is right for them. By working with a career counselor and academic advisor, students are able to develop an educational plan for reaching their career goals.

The [spring events](#) were kicked off by an Intern Connections Spring Fair Resume Review and Information Tables, and the Intern Connections Spring Fair.

The Indiana Collegiate Career Fair was held April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Crowne Plaza at Historic Union Station. Many employers were in attendance, specifically those with opportunities in accounting, marketing, and technology.

Crowne Plaza at Historic Union Station will also be the venue for The Indiana SustaiN: Indiana's Green and networking event to be held April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

These events are open to all IUPUI students.

Career Conversations in the Café

Students can chat with Academic & Career Development counselors every Tuesday and Thursday from 11am – 1pm in the [Barnes & Noble bookstore](#) café!

