



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
IUPUI

FYI – MAY 2010

Civic Engagement

Students in a Communication Studies course taught by Lecturer **Venessa Bowers** tested their powers of community organizing and face-to-face communication by fundraising for Riley Hospital for Children. Putting their words to work and taking their grassroots advocacy to the “streets” of IUPUI, the class of twenty-five students raised more than \$2,000 in cash gifts for the hospital.

Research

Students **Dan Branstrator**, **Maggy Baurley**, **Molly Dagon** and **Stephanie Yarian** presented their research on Indianapolis’ Eastside neighborhood at the 2010 meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of North America/Association of Black Anthropologists joint conference in Denver, Colorado. The students—among the only undergrads to present at the event—spoke about work they completed as part of their work for Anthropology Professor **Sue Hyatt’s** community-based research course in spring 2009.

Grants

Daniel Johnson, Assistant Professor of Geography, and researcher in the Institute for Research on Social Issues, has received a three-year, \$419,220 cooperative grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Johnson and the NASA/Center for Disease Control team will develop extreme heat vulnerability models for three U.S. cities. The models will help public health officials to identify spatially specific areas of highest mortality risk during extreme heat events.

Creative Activity

A poem written by English professor **Karen Kovacik** will be featured on one of IndyGo’s downtown bus shelters on Virginia Avenue as part of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Her poem, “Invisible Moments,” was selected from more than 100 entries for placement on one of the three “Moving Forward” bus shelters. Each poet receives a \$1,000 honorarium.

Awards

Mike Polites, Lecturer in Communication Studies, is the inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Communication Studies Department at Ball State.

Faculty

Indiana University Trustees Teaching Awards honor individuals who have a positive impact on learning through the direct teaching of students, especially undergraduates. Award recipients demonstrate a sustained level of teaching excellence in the form of documented student learning. 2010 Liberal Arts recipients are:

- **Carrie Foote**, Associate Professor of Sociology
- **Ain Haas**, Professor of Sociology
- **Terry Kirts**, Senior Lecturer in English
- **Brian McDonald**, Lecturer in English
- **Anita Morgan**, Senior Lecturer in History
- **Kristy Sheeler**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies
- **Rosa Tezanos-Pinto**, Associate Professor of Spanish
- **Jennifer Thorington Springer**, Associate Professor of English

Grants

Two Liberal Arts faculty are recipients of IU New Frontiers Exploratory Travel Fund grants.

- **Modupe Labode**, Assistant Professor of History and Museum Studies, received a \$2,500 grant to attend the Advanced Oral History Summer Institute. Her project, “The Busing Project: Oral Histories of Busing for Desegregation in Indianapolis” is also supported by a grant from the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Grants program.
- **David Bodenhamer**, Professor of History and Executive Director of the Polis Center, also received \$2,500 to attend key meetings to further the development of a formalized international expert network in the emerging field of spatial humanities. These meetings will be held in association with Digital Humanities 2010, the major international gathering in the field.

Events

The **Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture** will host a three-week summer institute for school teachers this July. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the institute will focus on religion in American history and culture and is part of the NEH’s “We the People” initiative, a program designed to encourage and enhance the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles.

FYI from Liberal Arts is a service of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. Information provided here may be used in publications, presentations and other media. Please contact the Office of Development and External Affairs of the School of Liberal Arts at libarts@iupui.edu with any questions or to gather further detail.