

Advances

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IUPUI Turns Forty!



Geography Grad Keeps Indianapolis Beautiful

By Josh Flynn, BA English 2007



Nate Farris

For **Nate Farris** figuring out his career path was a bit like dancing the cha-cha. First he tried communication studies, but changed to outdoor recreation studies. From there he moved to pre-med, but quickly knew it wasn't the right choice. Spurred by a love of maps developed during his Boy Scout days, he finally settled on geography, and graduated in 2002. Geography degree in hand and with past experience as a youth minister, he attended the Christian Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Theological Studies. Eventually, it was his love of the outdoors that led him to his current work, a job at **Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB)**—an organization that works with the Indianapolis community to improve the environment.



"I wanted to work outside," he recalls. "I wanted to make the environment better. I wanted to make a difference in the social fabric. The job met all those needs."

At Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Farris was able to bring his IUPUI connections to bear in a professional partnership. The organization was already in the beginning of a relationship with the Geography Department—thanks to another alum, **Wendy DeBoard**—when Farris came aboard, KIB was completing a study of Center Township using GIS mapping to determine areas in need of trees. Layering maps allowed determination of where the highest crime rates were, where asphalt surfaces existed, where pediatric asthma was high, and where the tree canopy was the lowest. All these factors pointed to areas in need of trees. "We stacked up the maps and it highlighted seven parts of Center Township that we thought were most in need of trees," explains Farris. "And that kicked off our NeighborWoods program."

NeighborWoods is a project in collaboration with Indianapolis; the goal is to plant 1000 trees within ten years. "It was a very big step

for us to take this a strategic look," Farris says. "Before that, neighborhoods applied with us and we went where people applied. We are still accepting applications but we are also proactively reaching out to these hot spots."

While the partnership with the Department allowed for the determination of hot spots, Farris invited the IUPUI Solution Center to join the two programs in a second partnership—this one focused on tracking the growth of the trees planted.

"The Solution Center helped us identify a student who would help us track our trees by using GIS." **Mitch Green** was brought in to set up the program, went into the field and retroactively tracked the location of all the trees in the city and placed them on the new mapping system. "On the map, we could go to any dot in the city and click on it and it would show us where the tree is planted. It records the

GPS coordinates of the trees, tells when the tree was planted, and what nursery it came from. It was a productive partnership and helped us get the mapping program we needed."

Farris says the tracking allows Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to see what areas of the city are getting trees and if they need to focus on spreading the planting to new areas or concentrate on one particular locale. It also provides knowledge about the trees' ability to survive and helps the organization make information-driven decisions about each round of planting.

Farris is pleased with the work accomplished with IUPUI, and is especially satisfied to be able to reunite with the Geography Department. "It was nice that I could link up with people from the past," he says. "I already had some sense of what needed to happen because of my background with them, but they helped me implement it. The Geography Department has been a great partner."

Learn more about the NeighborWoods project at www.kibi.org.



NeighborWoods volunteers plant trees in Indianapolis' Center Township.

History Making: Allison Gets Governor's Attention

By Josh Flynn, BA English 2007



David Allison, history graduate student, at work at Conner Prairie (at right in above and below photos).

What does it take for the governor to sit up and notice you? In the case of **David Allison**, the recipe was a hearty dose of dedication to bringing living history to the citizens of Indiana. In other words, he did what he loved and the governor happened to hear about it. One of two IUPUI students to win a 2008 **Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders**, Allison is a graduate student in history who expects to complete his degree in 2009. The award, created by

the Indiana Humanities Council and the Office of the Governor, goes to just 12 Indiana students annually. Amongst the criteria is the nominee's ability to apply the humanities in the areas of entrepreneurial success, community engagement and academic and cultural achievement. Winners are awarded \$1000 for use as a scholarship or to donate towards a charity of their choosing. They also meet Indiana leaders, members of the selection



committee, and past winners.

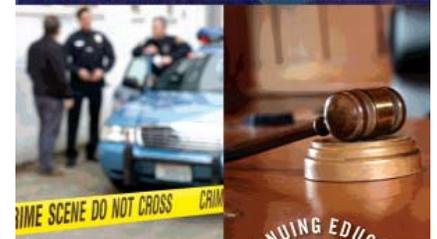
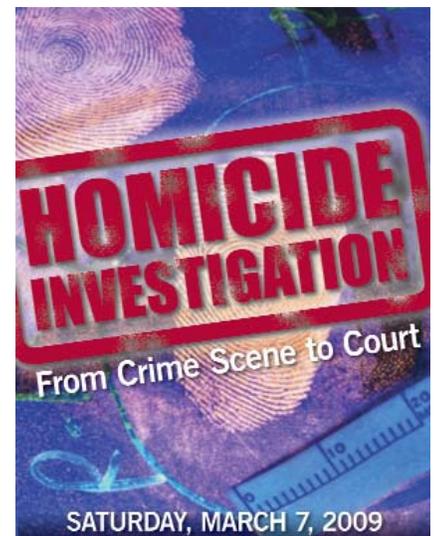
Allison's day job, as Experience Design Manager at Conner Prairie, was instrumental in his award nomination. In 2007, he managed the development and opening of Discovery Station, Conner Prairie's hands-on play and learning area for children aged two to eight. In his current role, Allison is developing new areas and experiences at Conner Prairie that will debut in the next few years. A former high school teacher, Allison has been immersed in the work of Conner Prairie since he joined the staff as a summer interpreter.

Conner Prairie also inspired his master's thesis project. Motivated by it's unique recreated environment full of costumed educators and authentic 19th century villages, Allison decided to explore the outdoor museum's evolution. "I wanted to get to the heart of why the administration and educators there in the 1960s and 70s decided to use that technique to try to connect people to Indiana's history," he says. "Through my research, I've found that the creation of Prairietown at Conner Prairie in the 1970s actually reveals some of the larger themes of commemoration, memory, and patriotism that have shaped our country's perception of our history and culture."

Allison's passion for understanding and impacting the lives of others and for "living history" doesn't end with the work or class day. For the past seven years, he has been active within his church on many community service projects. In 2006, he co-led a relief trip to New Orleans, helping gut damaged houses and working alongside community members to clean up debris. Last year he helped with community partnership and development in Southeast Asia, and

recently Allison worked to register voters in Marion County.

With his service, study, and professional focus, Allison was bound to be noticed, if not by the governor, then by the thousands of other people he has entertained, helped, and educated. "The award is a great honor," says Allison. "I am blessed to have amazing family and friends, to work at Conner Prairie and to go to school at IUPUI and to live in this vibrant community. I am excited to be in Indiana at this stage of my career and look forward to further contributions to the state."



Amazing Students + Amazing Students + Amazing Students

There Are No Rules For Radicals

By Josh Flynn, BA English 2007



Courtney Singleton

While most kids in sixth grade don't know what anthropology is, **Courtney Singleton** knew it was her future. Arriving at the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, anthropology led her to archaeology. "I've always liked being outside and doing physical labor and exploring ideas of the past and working with communities and people," she recalls. Last summer, Singleton—now an IUPUI senior majoring in anthropology with a focus on archaeology—took one step closer to a successful career in the field when she presented her paper, "There Are No Rules For Radicals: Can Archaeology be a Form of Activism?" at the 6th annual World Archaeological Conference (WAC-6) in Dublin.

The paper asks the question: Do we have activist archaeology and can archaeology organize for social change today? "Archaeology can be a component in a larger social movement," Singleton says. "The past has always played a huge role in any mass social movement. That mixed with the socially creative process of archaeology itself—of actually being out in the field and digging and interpreting artifacts and bringing people together in the process—those two mixed together can be powerful tools, but the difference is you have to be challenging

something. You have to be going after power structures."

Singleton—whose archaeological work focuses on race relations—developed her paper after a trip to a historical archaeology conference in New Mexico. She sat in on a session that

was an open forum discussing race. The discussion began with activism in archaeology, and Singleton listened to some of the best historical archaeologists dealing with race. She was amazed at the inconsistencies in their definitions of activism. She walked out of the forum thinking "there are a lot of people considering just consulting the public as activism and it's not. Talking with members of society is not activism. It's much greater than that." Singleton took her concerns to anthropology professor **Larry Zimmerman** and he told her to put them down on paper. So she did. In the past, Singleton's colleagues had recommended it was good to get started doing presentations on a small scale, and Singleton, thinking local, hoped she

could present her paper on campus. The next thing she knew, however, she was being asked to present at the WAC-6 Conference in Ireland. "The turn out for the presentation was very good," she says. "I was amazed at the amount of people who were interested in it."

Singleton says her paper had the largest reaction of those presented at the conference and during the question and answer session that followed, it sparked discussion that continues today. "It's hard to put your thoughts out there. You're worried about upsetting people. I'm just a lowly undergrad student from Indiana. What can I contribute? Then you realize you can contribute just by saying it and getting out there and doing it."



Chasing Dreams

By Jennifer Nagelin, English major

First, Lena S. Jones earned a paycheck from IUPUI. Now she is working on earning something else—a degree as a full-time student. Giving up her job to pursue her interest in sociology, Jones feels very fortunate for what she describes as her "second chance." A former business administration student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, as a part-time student and secretary for the African American and African Diaspora Studies Program and Women's Studies Program, she made the connections that paved the way for a life change.

One inspiration was a trip to Kenya in March of 2007 as a member of a faculty/staff/student group. Experiencing life in Africa made Jones curious about how different societies work. A second force helped her give up her salary and make the move. "Professor Najja Modibo," she says, "kept stopping by my desk and leaving articles which focused on sociological issues and concerns." These articles fueled her desire to learn more about social groups and social life.

Now in her second full-time year as an IUPUI student, Jones has been extremely successful academically. In addition to staying on the Dean's List every semester, she was the first recipient of the **Turner-Wright Scholarship for African American Studies**. She is also one of the first cohort of **Olaniyan Scholars**, a scholarship program that promotes undergraduate research in African American and African Diaspora Studies.

Today, Professor Modibo is still giving Lena those articles, and she continues avidly reading about the field, but now it's with a life goal in mind. Post-college, Jones is bound "straight for grad school, then on to Ph.D.-ville." Her goal is to teach as a professor of sociology and continue helping others. Later, she'd like to create a place where young women coming out of the foster care system can live, so that they can pursue an education and a future without struggling to meet basic needs. Jones' eyes light up as she describes this aspiration, explaining, "I want to allow them the freedom to chase their dreams."

Jim East: Cheerleader and Visionary

1931-2008

Once upon a time, IUPUI's old Downtown Campus was kind of a scary place. Prospective students, many juggling families and jobs, found it difficult to get to, hard to park at and a bit intimidating after dark.

Jim East, whose cheerful optimism carried many a discouraged adult returning student to success, knew this and hatched a plan to stem this problem at IUPUI's new (and current) campus, opening up the possibility of a college degree to thousands of Indianapolis citizens. He convinced university and school administrators to take college to the students, creating the unique and early distance learning program called "Learn and Shop." It was revolutionary—classes offered in satellite locations in five of the city's major shopping malls ringing the city with access to higher education. And when Circle Center Mall opened its doors—IUPUI was there, and so was Jim.

Coming from his own hard-scrabble background, Jim understood the

challenges, hopes and dreams of IUPUI's "non-traditional" students. He served 29 years as a tenured faculty member and associate dean of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI before his retirement in 1996.

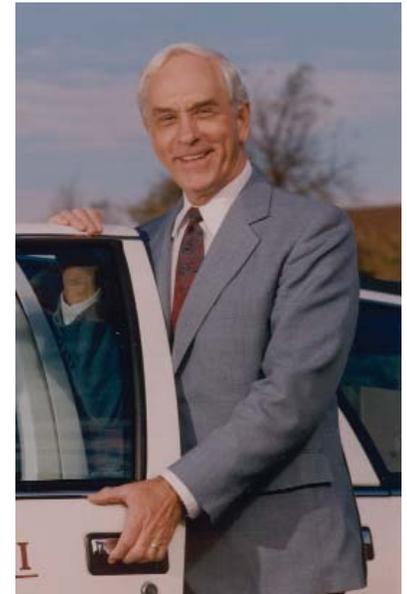
Simultaneously, he worked tirelessly raising scholarship dollars to establish a remarkable scholarship program through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Indiana, a program now named for him. He was also creator and dean of IUPUI's Weekend College, the world's largest such program in which college courses are offered on Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. This work earned him two awards from the Central Indiana Community Service Council, along with a 2002 Indianapolis Mayor's Community Service Award. In his spare time, he grew apples, raised bees and ran a small business selling apples, honey and related items.

As a professor, the charter member of the International Listening Association taught a listening course in the Department of

Communication Studies for 25 years. In retirement he continued serving IUPUI as a volunteer, teaching college-credit listening courses without pay for 11 years; coordinating Bookmarks, the popular, non-credit book-reading program; and serving two years as the president of the IUPUI Senior Academy, a campus support organization of retired faculty and staff.

Over his career, Jim's contributions to IUPUI were recognized with many of the campus' top awards: the Glenn W. Irwin Jr. Excellence Recognition Faculty Award, the Edward C. Moore Top Administrator Award, and the Maynard K. Hine Alumni Leadership Award Medal presented by the Indiana University Alumni Association. Grateful alumni of the School of Liberal Arts elected him an honorary member of their Alumni Association, and on March 7, 2009, Jim will be recognized again, as the inspiration behind Deans' Day, an annual program that has now grown to include nearly half a dozen IUPUI schools (See "Homicide Investigation" ad in this newsletter).

When he retired, Jim once again sought a way to help students who had the greatest challenges. The **James East Scholarship** benefits students who are



Jim East

alumni of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Indianapolis—students whose lives he understood and respected.

Remembered for his ready smile and enthusiastic and energetic approach to every "opportunity," Jim East leaves an important legacy. He helped build a university, and paved the road to success for countless others. He will be missed.

Gifts in Jim East's memory may be made by visiting liberalarts.iupui.edu/giving/give_online and selecting the James East Scholarship.

IUPUI

40 Years: From Idea to Impact

What began as an idea in the late 1960s—to merge the local campuses of Indiana's two major state higher education institutions into one great university for Indianapolis—has taken shape and matured into a campus that is integral to the life of our city, region, and state. A young university at 40, IUPUI continues to advance rapidly in every area of its mission, surpassing its own past accomplishments year after year and amassing an enviable record of achievements.

Top: the first architects model of the IUPUI campus, 1969.
Bottom: IUPUI campus center, the center of campus life, 2008.

WHERE IMPACT IS MADE



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Join fellow alumni and friends at the Alumni Association's Winter College in Fort Myers in February, 2009.

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Accomplished faculty will join us for the weekend to lead our educational program.

For additional information email: www.alumni.iupui.edu or email sslavits@iupui.edu or call Stefan Davis at 317-274-2317 or toll free at 866-267-3104.

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