

The biannual news magazine for 155,000 IUPUI alumni worldwide

# IUPUI

**MAGAZINE**  
**SPRING 2013**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
INDIANAPOLIS

## **CELEBRATING STUDENT LIFE**

Life on campus offers new opportunities, **page 19**

Herron grads designing bright future, **page 8**

Dentistry grad shaping Navy health care, **page 12**

**FIFTH ANNUAL REGATTA: SEPT. 21**

Save the Date!



## SECTIONS



CAMPUS NEWS 1



FEATURES 8



ALUMNI UPDATE 18



STUDENT LIFE 19

Welcome to *IUPUI Magazine*, the alumni publication celebrating the men and women whose careers and accomplishments highlight the impact our campus has on our world. Share their success stories in these pages, online, and in video (at [magazine.iupui.edu](http://magazine.iupui.edu)).

*IUPUI Magazine* is published biannually by IU Communications.

### THOSE INVOLVED IN PRODUCING *IUPUI MAGAZINE*:

Creative Director: Ric Burrous  
Art Director: Jeff Green  
Web Developer: Ashley Callahan  
Photography: Chris Meyer, Ric Cradick, John Gentry, Brian Drumm, IUPUI Athletics, School of Physical Education and Tourism Management, School of Science, Herron School of Art & Design, Attic Design Collective, U.S. Navy, Pixar Animation Studios, Joan Savage.

## IUPUI MAGAZINE

*IUPUI Magazine* is published for alumni of the schools of Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. The IU Alumni Association (IUAA), the Indiana University Foundation (IUF), and the IUPUI Office of External Affairs are partners in the publication.

### OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Stefan Davis  
Chief Enrichment Officer, IUAA  
Associate Executive Director, IUAA  
Indiana University  
Advancement Center (Indianapolis)  
340 W. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 317-274-8828  
Toll-free: 866-267-3104  
Fax: 317-274-5064  
On the web: [alumni.iupui.edu](http://alumni.iupui.edu)  
Email: [alum@iupui.edu](mailto:alum@iupui.edu)

### ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

OFFICERS:  
Jeannie Sager, '03, President  
David H. K. Nguyen, '06, Secretary-Treasurer  
Casey Reagan, '99, Past President

### MEMBERS:

Mary Ann Davis, '76  
Ed Brizendine, '93  
Rob Forste, '71  
Kentin Gearhart, '91  
Pete Hunter, '10  
Tiffany Kyser, '03  
Jacob Manaloor, '03  
Robert Scheele, '07  
Richard Schilling, '89  
Diane Spaulding, '72  
Terri Talbert-Hatch, '92  
Stephan Viehweg, '85  
Greg Wright, '90  
Josh VanGoey, student, SOAR

### OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Amy Conrad Warner (MS '00, BA '83)  
Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

Jennifer Boehm (PMC '03)  
Director, Community and Government Relations  
355 North Lansing Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 317-274-7400  
Fax: 317-278-0898  
On the web: [iupui.edu](http://iupui.edu)  
Email: [extaff@iupui.edu](mailto:extaff@iupui.edu)

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Dee Metaj  
Vice President Indianapolis  
Indiana University  
Advancement Center (Indianapolis)  
340 W. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Phone: 317-274-3711  
Fax: 317-274-8818  
On the web: [iufoundation.iu.edu](http://iufoundation.iu.edu)  
Email: [iuf@indiana.edu](mailto:iuf@indiana.edu)

### IU COMMUNICATIONS

Valerie Peña  
Associate Vice President  
Branding & Marketing  
IU Communications  
Capital Center  
251 N. Illinois St., Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-274-7711  
317-274-7722  
Fax: 317-274-5457  
317-278-8722  
On the web: [communications.iu.edu](http://communications.iu.edu)  
Email: [iupuiocm@iupui.edu](mailto:iupuiocm@iupui.edu)

### INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Phone: 317-278-JAGS (317-278-5247)  
On the web: [iupuijags.com](http://iupuijags.com)



CAMPUS  
NEWS

## EVAN BAYH GIVES INAUGURAL BIRCH BAYH LECTURE

Evan Bayh, former Indiana governor and U.S. senator, honored his father in October by giving the first talk of the IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law's Birch Bayh Lecture Series. The series will be an annual event that focuses on issues of importance to Birch Bayh, a former U.S. senator from Indiana.

During his time in the Senate, Birch Bayh authored such seminal legislation as Title IX, the Juvenile Justice Act, and the Bayh-Dole Act, which allows universities and small businesses to retain intellectual property rights for inventions developed with government-funded research.



## HOLIDAY NIGHT CELEBRATES MOTORSPORTS

IUPUI's Office of Alumni Relations celebrated the campus's dynamic Motorsports Program during its annual Holiday Night event at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. There were Hot Wheels cars for visiting children, a mascot-coloring contest, and a presentation about the racing-related program by director Pete Hylton.

The program, based in the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, brought one of its vehicles to the evening's festivities so that alumni and their family members could be photographed with it.

The annual event, one of the highlights of the Alumni Relations calendar, also featured musical entertainment and an opportunity to explore the Hot Wheels exhibit (which was linked to the motorsports theme) and other exhibits in the museum.

**The IUPUI Regatta celebrates a milestone on Sept. 21 with the fifth annual race for students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The regatta has grown steadily during its early years, and this fall's race promises to be the best yet. Save the date!**

**HERRON GRAD NAMED  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

For art-inspired service projects created with her students at Delaware Trail Elementary, Herron School of Art and Design alumna Suzanne Whitton (B.A.E. '06, M.A.E. '12) was named Indiana's 2013 Teacher of the Year.



**THE FUTURE OF IUPUI:  
YOUR IDEAS MATTER!**

How do you envision IUPUI in 2025? We'd like to know. "IUPUI 2025: A Commitment to Indiana and Beyond" is a new strategic planning initiative that will engage IUPUI students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community partners in developing new strategies for the campus. The result of the planning will be a blueprint that supports IU's Principles of Excellence and brings together campus leadership, students, faculty, and staff in shared thinking, a shared commitment to excellence, a shared vision, and shared priorities for the next decade and beyond. Planning during the spring semester will focus on 10 strategic initiatives and will be completed by summer 2013.

Chancellor Charles Bantz has appointed Executive Vice Chancellor Nasser Paydar to lead this effort. Visit [strategicplan.iupui.edu](http://strategicplan.iupui.edu) to chart the planning process and emerging strategic initiatives. We welcome your ideas. You can submit a comment on the website or write directly to [plan2025@iupui.edu](mailto:plan2025@iupui.edu).

**PROFESSOR IMPROVES WEATHER PREDICTIONS**

Professor Yao Liang from the School of Science is heading a multidisciplinary project to rebuild the National Weather Service's River Forecasting System. The new computerized system is designed to improve the NWS's predictions of floods and drought. Designed to be more user-friendly, the system increases capabilities to draw from satellite and other sources of data to improve weather forecasting. A rigorous testing and validation process is underway at one of the NWS river forecast centers to extend the system to centers across the country.

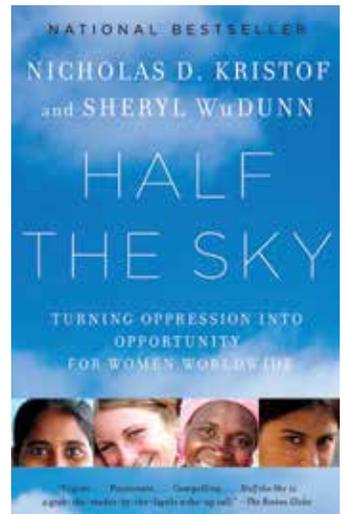
**PULITZER WINNER VISITS IUPUI**

Sheryl WuDunn, Pulitzer Prize-winning co-author of the best seller *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, visited IUPUI in November as part of the 2011-13 Common Theme initiative.

WuDunn and her husband, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas D. Kristof, titled their book after the Chinese proverb: "Women hold up half the sky." They recounted stories of women of courage and determination battling sex trafficking, abuse, gender-based violence, poverty, and lack of education and basic health care in Cambodia, Kenya, India, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, and Vietnam.

The book inspired a documentary of the same name, featuring such notable actresses as America Ferrera, Diane Lane, Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Gabrielle Union, and Olivia Wilde.

The common theme, "Change Your World: The Power of New Ideas," was inspired by the stories and principles described in the book *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas* by David Bornstein, which was the campus reader for 2011-12.



**FOR MORE NEWS VISIT:**  
[newscenter.iupui.edu](http://newscenter.iupui.edu)

## IUPUI FACULTY MEMBER EARNS SPECIAL TITLE IN AFRICA

IUPUI faculty member Bessie House-Soremekun has spent years building expertise in such fields as economic development and entrepreneurship—work that earned her a distinctive honor last November. During a trip to Nigeria, the IU School of Liberal Arts professor was awarded the title of “Chief” by Oba (King) Michael Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, the Okukenu IV, Alake of Egbaland.

According to Pastor Peter Omole, “the title of chief is a very high honor in the cultural, historical, and contemporary context of African society.” Nominees for chieftaincy go through a rigorous and competitive vetting process. Candidates for chieftaincy must also have performed deeds through the years to uplift the Nigerian society.

House-Soremekun’s efforts to improve the economic future of Africa, particularly Nigeria, was a factor in her selection. She has spoken at past public gatherings about the issues as they affect African life, and she plans to return for more meetings during 2013.

“Only a few people in Nigeria are elevated to chieftaincy status, which means the individual is part of the ruling elite,” House-Soremekun says. “It means you are part of an inner circle of political advisors that are working to improve the country and the society as a whole. We are representing African culture and society and will help others understand the glory and richness of African culture and history, as well as promote better ties between Africa and other countries.”

House-Soremekun is a professor of political science and of Africana studies; an adjunct professor of philanthropy; a public scholar of African American Studies, Civic Engagement, and Entrepreneurship; and a faculty fellow at IUPUI.

Bessie House-Soremekun (right) received the Egba National Award of Excellence at a special ceremony. With her is her husband, Dr. Maurice A.E. Soremekun (left).



### NEW BASE FOR FOUNDATION, ALUMNI RELATIONS

Two organizations that link IUPUI with both campus alumni and the central Indiana community have a new home on Indianapolis’s Downtown Canal.

IU Foundation Indianapolis and IUPUI’s Office of Alumni Relations are now headquartered in the historic Williamson Center at 340 W. Michigan St. The building previously was the home of Indiana Landmarks, which sold it to the Foundation in 2011 when Indiana Landmarks relocated to another downtown Indy facility.

The Williamson Center is an 1879 house that was scheduled for demolition until Indiana Landmarks restored it and made the building its state headquarters. The building is well positioned geographically to help both organizations serve their core constituencies as well as IUPUI’s mission of being a dynamic, vibrant part of civic life in Indianapolis.



## JAGS HALL OF FAME WELCOMES FOUR

A basketball standout, a soccer star, a cross country stalwart, and an orthopedic surgeon are the newest members of the Jaguars Hall of Fame, which honors top IUPUI contributors to the Jaguars' athletics program.

The four include: Don Carlisle (men's basketball), Vangel Nacovski (men's soccer), Brad Wheeler (men's cross country), and Dr. Arthur Rettig (meritorious).

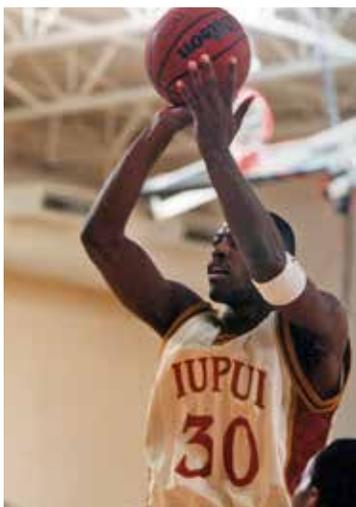
Carlisle led the men's basketball team in both scoring and rebounding in each of his final three seasons at IUPUI and is currently 11th on the all-time men's scoring list with 1,340 points. Carlisle recently rejoined the IUPUI basketball program as an assistant coach under Head Coach Todd Howard.

Nacovski was a four-time, first-team All-Summit League selection, and was the 2004 Newcomer of the Year and 2007 Offensive Player of the Year for the league. He is ranked second all-time in goals scored and assists. He is also co-recipient of the IUPUI Mel Garland Distinguished Student-Athlete Award.

Wheeler was a four-time, first-team selection in cross country, and was IUPUI's top finisher in 22 of the 28 career races he ran. At the time of his graduation, he held school records in both the 8,000- and 10,000-meter events. Like Nacovski, he was a Garland Award recipient.

Rettig's contributions to IUPUI athletics came behind the scenes, as the Jaguars' long-time orthopedic surgeon. Rettig is a member of Methodist Sports Medicine—part of IU Health—and also has been the team physician for the Indianapolis Colts. He was the 2003 recipient of the Jerry "Hawk" Rhea Award for outstanding service to NFL players and the NFL Physician's Society.

New Hall of Fame members (from top to bottom): Brad Wheeler, Arthur Rettig, Vangel Nacovski, and Don Carlisle.



## IUPUI WELCOMES TWO NEW SCHOOLS

Two new schools at IUPUI—the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, and the School of Philanthropy—have expanded the academic horizons available for students. The School of Public Health was recently named in honor of Richard M. Fairbanks, whose foundation's generous support helped to establish the school. The school will focus on areas of urban health, health policy, epidemiology, and biostatistics. The school aims to increase the amount of spending on Hoosier health initiatives and promote a healthier workforce through public policy and research.

The School of Philanthropy has appointed Gene Tempel to serve as its founding dean. Tempel was president and CEO of the Indiana University Foundation and senior fellow at the Center on Philanthropy. His nearly three decades of experience in the philanthropic sector will be valuable in guiding the development of the school and securing world-class faculty and students. The Center on Philanthropy, The Fund Raising School, the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, and the Women's Philanthropy Institute will all be folded into the new school.

### PROFESSOR DESIGNS MOBILE APP

Professor Carolyn Gentle-Genitty from the School of Social Work at IUPUI has adapted material from her classroom for a smartphone app. The app combines 10 chapters of study material and a final test that simulates an introductory course in social work. Gentle-Genitty and her undergraduate team, Crystal Barnett and Tracy Beer, spent hundreds of hours developing the \$2.99 app, which has had its biggest sales abroad. Gentle-Genitty is already working on her next app, "101 Social Work Theories," which will aggregate many of the discipline's theories into one domain.

## SMITH TAKES HELM AT IU FOUNDATION

Daniel C. Smith has been appointed president of the IU Foundation. Smith, who served as dean of the IU Kelley School of Business for the past eight years, is a seasoned fundraiser who secured close to \$170 million in gifts to the school during his tenure. President Michael A. McRobbie believes Smith holds a “deep understanding of the complexities of fundraising in a difficult economic climate that will allow him to effectively guide the long-term development strategy at IU.” Gene Tempel, who formerly held the position, is now heading the new School of Philanthropy at IUPUI. The IU Foundation oversees the strategizing, coordinating, and executing of all IU fundraising goals and initiatives, and is located in both Bloomington and Indianapolis.

## STUDENTS RESEARCH FACULTY PATENTS THROUGH NEW PROGRAM

IUPUI’s new Innovation-to-Enterprise Central program pairs business and engineering undergraduates to advance the commercialization of IUPUI faculty-patented inventions. Students were recently tasked with researching competitors’ devices, government regulation, and future funding opportunities for Dr. George Akingba’s modular arterio-venous shunt device. The device is designed to open and close a tube used in dialysis and may improve the durability of that tube.

This research will determine whether Dr. Akingba should pursue building a start-up to market the device, or license out his patent. The program’s collaboration between faculty and students offers students a practical application of their skill set in a divergent field, and faculty a chance to move their inventions to the next stage of business.



## CAMP BROSIUS OFFERS SUMMER FUN

For nearly a century, visitors to Camp Brosius on the shores of Elkhart Lake in Wisconsin have spent the summer months enjoying vacations hosted at a historic facility, owned by Indiana University and staffed by college students from across the country.

Many of those students come from the IU School of Physical Education and Tourism Management (PETM) at IUPUI, which manages the camp for IU. Each summer, the PETM students and other young adults refine their skills in fields related to their future careers.

Brosius offers guests—many IU alumni, families, and friends among them—daily programs that include swimming, fishing, golf, tennis, hiking, water sports, crafts, and more. It’s a perfect place for weeklong reunions and group outings.

If you’re interested in vacationing at Camp Brosius, or want to learn more about available activities, visit the camp’s website at [www.campbrosius.com](http://www.campbrosius.com) or call 317-274-0606.



# RISE INITIATIVE ELEVATES STUDENT'S CAREER

*(Based on a story by David Hosick of the School of Science)*

Jennifer Romine is well aware of the definition of a “full plate”—she’s been dealing with one throughout her IUPUI academic career. Romine mixes her undergraduate coursework in the Purdue School of Science with intense research work with her mentor—Dr. Jinhui Chen of the IU School of Medicine—and an application to enter the medical school thrown in for good measure.

Oh, and then there’s the daunting prospect she faced this fall—presenting research findings before a top-flight group of fellow investigators at the second annual International Neural Regeneration Symposium in China.

If you’d asked Romine a few years ago about her chances of facing such an illustrious group of experts, the Indianapolis Roncalli High School graduate might have put the odds at somewhere between slim and none, with slim a few miles down the road.

When she came to IUPUI, Romine admits she “didn’t really want to do research. What’s ironic now is I’m completely embedded in it,” she says. During her IUPUI tenure, Romine has been part of the school’s Biology Freshman Work Program, earned her way into the Life

Health Sciences Internship program, done investigative work at the renowned Star Neuroscience Institute at IUPUI, and honed her presentation skills before the local chapter of the Indiana Society of Neuroscience.

That last group is particularly important, since she’s aiming to work in the field of neuroscience research, focusing on the study and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

“IUPUI has allowed me to take advantage of all the opportunities to meet my RISE goals,” says Romine, referring to IUPUI’s mission to provide Research, International study, Service, and Experiential learning for all undergraduates.

Romine is a Fugate Scholar, under the umbrella of the Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholarship Program, and is the president of Timmy Global Health at IUPUI (part of the Timmy Foundation, launched by School of Medicine graduate Chuck Dietzen). She also serves as an ambassador for the Center for Research and Learning, and is the pre-professional coordinator for the IUPUI Biology Club, a member of the Student Development Funding Committee, and an IUPUI Honors College peer mentor.



## BUILDING BRIDGES: NEW PROGRAM LINKS ART, HEALING

BY RIC BURROUS

Sir William Osler, one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 19th century, once said, “The practice of medicine is an art.” Juliet King, director of the IU Herron School of Art & Design’s fledgling art therapy program, believes that sentiment is true in reverse—the art-making process has its own therapeutic benefits to offer.

The program, in its first full year of operation, is the only one of its kind in the state. And it’s already building relationships and connections across the IUPUI campus and throughout central Indiana. Using artistic skills like painting, sculpture, and drawing, people with deep-seated needs can find their way back to sound mental health.

The field isn’t widely understood, King says. “So many people don’t know what art therapy is, so it is important for pioneers who are expanding it to explain it clearly,” she says. “We all relate to the world around us nonverbally, through symbolic expression. It’s the way we are made. At its heart, art therapy is a bridge between art and science.”

Though Herron’s program is new, the field has been in existence for years, and King herself is a veteran, dating back to her education and early professional years in her native Pennsylvania. She is a natural for the field, with roots in both art and psychology.

“I understand firsthand the importance of the creative process. But I also have an interest in psychology, in understanding why people work the way they do,” says King. The Herron program offers current and future students who follow in her footsteps a wide range of career paths to choose from—and that’s what excites her. “The coolest thing about art therapy is it’s so flexible. Our grads can be clinicians and work at children’s hospitals, in corrections facilities, in public and private schools, and even in the nonprofit sector.”

The art therapy program has hit the ground running and is taking full advantage of the resources available at IUPUI, thanks to the planning and preparation by leaders like Herron Dean Valerie Eickmeier—and key figures in the IU School of Medicine and throughout the IU Health system.

“This campus has so much to offer a program like ours, and I believe we have a lot to offer, too,” King says. “Art therapy is a valuable tool to help people cope with the problems they face, from depression to physical and emotional trauma. So much of what people have to face is locked inside parts of the brain and body that we can’t easily access. But that part of the brain that *can* be reached by artistic thoughts and expressions becomes a way for people to express the things that are bothering them. Then, they can begin to deal with those problems.”

The campus offers plenty of potential partnerships, which include IUPUI’s programs on behalf of U.S. military veterans who are patients in the Riley Hospital for Children and other IU Health facilities. Off-campus collaborations in community-based programs like mental health facilities, public schools, and Wishard/Eskenazi Health provide practical experience and training, blended with real-world assistance, for the next generation of art therapists.

The beauty of art therapy, King insists, is that it “transcends all kinds of barriers—social, economic, language, and psychological defenses,” she says. “Through creating art, whether it’s drawing, painting, sculpting—anything, really—people learn to relax, channel what they’re feeling, and learn that they are not alone. All around them, they see others who have similar experiences. They can relate to each other, feel less helpless, and more empowered!”

# DREAMS TO REALITY

DESIGN ALUMNI CREATE NICHE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

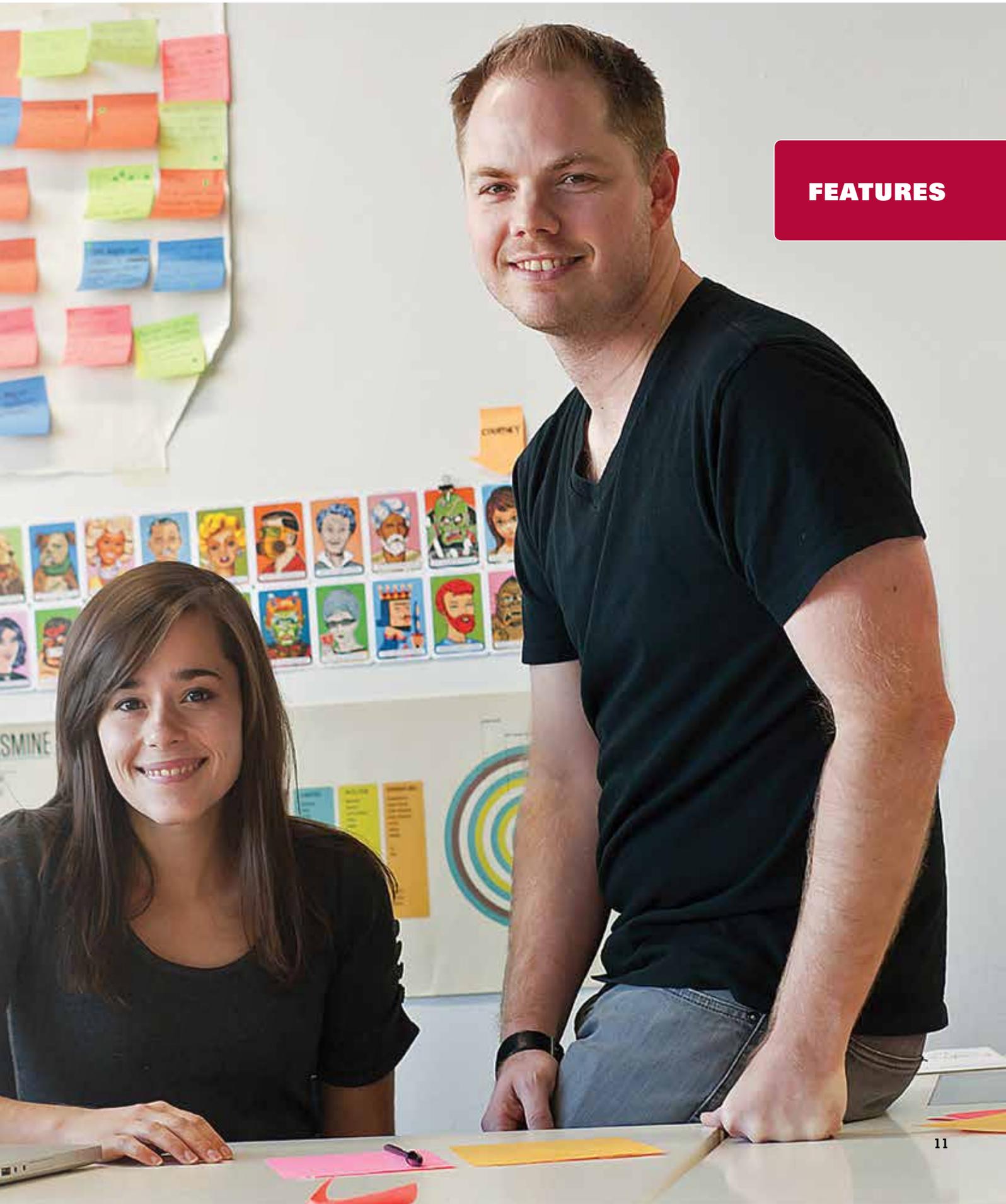
BY RIC BURROUS

Less than two years after picking up their degrees from the IU Herron School of Art and Design's visual communications (VC) program in May 2010, Dustin Lynch and Courtney Kuhstoss Moore have successfully launched Attic Design Collective.

The two forged a game plan in their junior year that is now a reality—they've staked out a place in the public health communications sector, and built new ties to Herron and to a growing number of IUPUI-based departments and programs, many in the IU School of Medicine.

"Life can take you down some roads you don't expect," says Lynch with a smile.





**FEATURES**



Helen Sanematsu (Herron) and Sarah Wiehe (Medicine), left and right above, are faculty members who work closely with Attic Design Collective on projects that enhance community health.

## COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

Attic Design Collective has become a “go-to” firm for high-value, reasonably priced communications plans that help improve the quality of life for Indianapolis neighborhoods.

Lynch and Moore often work in tandem with one of their favorite Herron faculty members, Helen Sanematsu. Sanematsu is a familiar face in local public health programs, and she is convinced that one of the problems such programs face is lack of communication with their corner of the world. And that same problem applies to academic-based programs such as those with the School of Medicine.

“I’ve worked on several projects with (the School of) Medicine in the last few years, and knew that Courtney and Dustin would be able to help them,” Sanematsu says, adding that she knew these collaborations also would help Attic Design establish itself.

For their first project, Lynch and Moore worked with the Indiana Coalition to Improve Adolescent Health and the Adolescent Health Department at the IU School of Medicine.

“At first, they wanted us to do some flyers, but it was clear to us pretty quickly that they needed more,” says

Lynch. Despite being a new firm, the two took a leap of faith and counseled their clients to go in another direction: a small, pocket-sized guidebook with basic, useful tips for young kids called *The Little Book about a Whole Lot of Stuff*. The idea clicked with their clients and, with the help of two fellow VC alums, the book hit the marketplace about four months later.

“People at the State Department of Health loved the book and were interested in what we could do for another project, so we did that one, too,” says Lynch. “Those two projects helped people realize we could do more than flyers or brochures.”

*The Little Book about a Whole Lot of Stuff* also has accentuated the value of project evaluation. “We learned that the book works best among suburban high school kids,” Moore says. “For us, the key is to find what messages our clients want to convey, figure out the best way to do that, and then see if it connected as we all wanted.”

That means listening—closely—as clients lay out their desired outcome. “You want to be able to help them reach their goals, and sometimes that means you have to show them that their first idea isn’t always the best

way to do that,” says Lynch.

“If you know your client, you can accomplish a lot and build a trust that you’ll get out the message they want, and get results,” adds Moore.

That’s an example of what Sanematsu believes that clients on the campus and in the community value. And it’s the biggest reason she continues working with her former students. “They’re so good at it that they have become my de facto lab, my research team,” she says with a chuckle. “I love working on public health projects, but I don’t have giant NIH (National Institutes of Health) grants to support my investigations, so they fill a real need.”

## BEGAN AS A FANTASY

Attic Design Collective began “as a fantasy for us when we were still juniors at Herron,” says Lynch, adding that the first time they worked together was on a class project. Neither was sure how a real-world business would work.

“We didn’t seem to have anything in common, generationally, professionally, or otherwise,” says Lynch. “But it turned out we complemented one another.” Moore





# BEST JOB 'I'VE EVER HAD'

DENTISTRY GRAD SHAPING NAVAL HEALTH CARE

BY RIC BURROUS



As a young girl growing up in the rolling hills of southern Indiana, Elaine Wagner wasn't likely to hear the call of the high seas. But life can take you in directions far removed from childhood dreams and expectations.

Wagner—then known by her maiden name, Elaine Campbell—turned a youthful interest in the sciences into a career arc that includes graduation from the IU School of Dentistry (IUSD) in 1980, brief stints at the Riley Hospital for Children and in private dental practice, and ultimately a stellar career in the United States Navy, which started in 1983.

She is now Rear Admiral Elaine Wagner of the U.S. Navy, and holds three major posts in the service. She is the 36th chief of the 100-year-old Navy Dental Corps, and also is the commander of Navy Medicine East

and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

Those three areas of responsibility keep Wagner busy, involved constantly in big-picture decisions—and best of all, engaged with other professionals. And that fulfills what she sought when she joined the Navy.

### **BIG LEARNING CURVE**

"After graduation, I went into private practice by myself and found it lonely," says Wagner, who missed the professional interaction she had enjoyed at school and at Riley as a pediatric dentist. She looked at other options, and the U.S. Navy seemed a good choice. But fitting into Navy life didn't come quickly or easily.

"It was a relatively big learning curve," she admits with a chuckle. "I was familiar with the way hospitals worked and how things fit together,

and it turned out there were a lot of similarities in the Navy." That included a growing focus on "efficiencies and outcomes," two key principles she learned at dental school and at Riley.

Her dental school education paid another dividend. "My time in school at IUPUI gave me the ability to adapt on the fly," Wagner says. "I had a lot of talented, smart mentors at school who taught us how to think through problems and situations. I've used the things I learned from them throughout my career."

The admiral admits that several of her character traits have served her well throughout her rise through the Navy's ranks. "I'm a detail-oriented person, kind of compulsive," she laughs. "My skills and that approach work well in dentistry, and they also work in Navy leadership."



Chancellor Charles R. Bantz and Admiral Wagner listen to opening remarks during the 2012 School of Dentistry Commencement ceremony.

Wagner is grateful for her academic training—and that she chose IUPUI. “I went to a big high school (Bloomington South), then chose a smaller university in Butler,” Wagner says. “I was familiar with IUPUI and especially with the quality of the school. And it helped that Indianapolis is one of my favorite places! The best option turned out to be the closest one.”

During more than 29 years in the service, Wagner has served at posts throughout the United States—from the far west (San Diego), to the northeast (New England), to the southeast (Jacksonville and Beaufort, S.C.), with several stops in the Washington, D.C., area along the way. It’s been a busy career path that has included six moves in one seven-year period for her and her airline pilot husband, Greg.

### CLIMBING THROUGH THE RANKS

Each stop enhanced her knowledge and expertise, and contributed to her climb to her promotion to admiral. The



impact of those experiences made Wagner a valuable administrator and afforded her many opportunities. “The higher you get up the ladder, you realize how much of a difference you can make, and for a greater number of people,” Wagner says.

She is particularly pleased that the Navy is committed to advancing medical training for all health-care personnel. “We have a lot of unbelievably bright officers who have accepted our scholarship offers, and it is really changing the nature of dentistry

in the Navy,” Wagner says.

Last spring, Wagner returned to Indianapolis to speak at the dental school’s Commencement ceremonies. “I was thrilled to have that opportunity at my alma mater,” Wagner says. And she was just as pleased by what came next.

“Even better, I got to swear in two young men from last year’s class into the Navy—that was the icing on the cake!”

Wagner also has adjusted well to expanding her personal

horizons to include medical as well as dental operations, which includes Portsmouth, the oldest continuously running hospital in the Navy’s medical system.

“There is a lot to learn about running an operation of that size, but it’s been tremendously rewarding for me,” she says. Wagner has been impressed—but not surprised—with the level of care her staff offers at the historic facility. “Everyone here understands how important it is to provide the very best care we can for our personnel—for our wounded warriors and for their families,” she adds. “The feeling of caring for our people is special! It’s a constant source of satisfaction and pride around all our facilities.”

Wagner is amazed at the arc her career has followed. “I never in a million years would have thought I would end up where I am,” she laughs. “You don’t get anywhere in the Navy by yourself—I’m very grateful for the opportunities that I’ve had!”

She isn’t ready for it to end anytime soon, either. “I hope I don’t go anywhere else for a while, because I love this job! It’s the best job I’ve ever had.”



(Clockwise from above right) Admiral Wagner (center) and fellow officers stand at attention during a U.S. Navy event; Wagner (left) and a Navy health-care facility expert discuss prosthetic limbs that are part of recovery efforts for Navy personnel; and Wagner greets two 2012 dental school graduates into the Navy.





# VIRTUAL PHILANTHROPIST

## MICROSOFT INTERN EXPLORES APPS FOR VETERANS

BY **RIC BURROUS**

Not many people with career aspirations in the field of information technology and the digital world turn down an offer from Microsoft. Then again, Joan Savage isn't your customary digital devotee.

A little less than two years ago, Savage was offered a prestigious internship at Microsoft's Redmond, Washington, headquarters, when a commitment to a research project funded by the IUPUI Solution Center led the IU School of Informatics graduate student to decline the "offer of a lifetime," which came from Desney Tan, one of Microsoft's top research gurus.

But Tan and the company weren't deterred. They wanted Savage to join another internship program, this time in Beijing in early 2012. So, less than three weeks before she would have to leave for China, Savage found herself in the same spot: tempted by another dazzling opportunity, yet determined to complete her last semester of study

and yet another research grant she tackled at IUPUI.

### SCHOOL STEPPED IN

This time, the school's faculty and administrators stepped in to make sure an IUPUI student took advantage of such a prestigious opportunity. "They told me that they were going to make sure I had a chance to go to Beijing," Savage recalls. "In no time at all, they got every approval I needed and the next thing I knew, everything was signed, sealed, and delivered."

Well, not quite everything. Savage still had to handle loads of logistics, and during the 2011 holiday season, no less. A visa, a passport, plane tickets—all had to be dealt with, and more. Needless to say, "the holiday season was a very stressful time," she laughs.

But she returned to China (she and her family once lived there while her engineer father worked on a project) and joined a talented team of fellow budding digital wunderkinds. "I learned

so much from the researchers and my peers that it was all worth it," Savage says. The team's project will be presented at the international CHI 2013 conference in Paris, April 27–May 2.

Upon her return to the United States, Savage completed her research work and grad school career, picked up her Informatics degree (M.S. 2012) in media arts and sciences/human-computer interaction, and started work for the Roudebush Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, located on the IUPUI campus, as a program analyst.

Working in the world of veterans is meaningful for Savage, who spent four years in the U.S. Navy and is passionate about doing anything she can—in worlds both real and digital—to help her fellow vets. But her Microsoft internship opened her eyes to other career possibilities, too.

Should she tackle a Ph.D. program, perhaps at MIT or IUPUI or elsewhere, as encouraged by her school, VA, and Microsoft mentors? Should she

explore her inner researcher, creating and developing video games, including a virtual world in which veterans could develop coping mechanisms to deal with circumstances that affect their transition back into civilian life? Or should she help Virtual Fireflies, LLC, a company she co-owns, grow into a success story of its own?

### YIN AND YANG OF LIFE

In the digital realm, life is governed by “ones” and “zeros,” a virtual yin and yang—the Chinese symbols for everything and how everything happens. Savage herself is part yin and part yang: She considers herself an introvert, with a strong “artsy side.” By nature, she spends a lot of time contemplating virtual worlds, but she’s accomplished in real-world activities, too. She’s a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She’s an equestrian. And she speaks basic Mandarin and Spanish as well as English, mostly due to living abroad in such far-flung places as Venezuela, Taiwan, and Japan, as well as China and the United States.

Savage worked in Hollywood for a time as an actress, director, and writer. Don’t get her started on a discussion of any aspect of the world of *Star Trek* unless you have a lot of time to spare. But she quickly sets aside fantasy

worlds when the discussion turns to the problems veterans face when they return from dangerous deployments.

She is convinced that video games and simulations could become a valuable tool for veterans to use to deal with the impact of their experiences. “This is a gaming generation,” she says. “Let’s speak to them in a language they understand and appreciate.”

In Informatics, Savage was an assistant to faculty member and mentor Joe Defazio, a relationship that has expanded into a friendship. “We’re both big into the technology of it all, and we’re both interested in helping our veterans in any way we can,” says Savage. In fact, a veterans-related video game she helped create put her on Microsoft’s radar.

### FOCUS ON THE PRACTICAL

Her projects and research at Informatics shared a similar focus on practical matters. For example, as part of her coursework, she helped create the prototypes for apps that help people manage things like prescription medications and shopping lists. And Virtual Fireflies’ focus is on designing and developing interactive simulations and 3-D environments, both in the field of health education.

Savage’s versatility, passion, and knowledge have garnered attention from people in the School of Informatics, Microsoft, and the VA Medical Center, who are encouraging her to consider chasing a Ph.D. at MIT. The support team for this career move includes Hong Tan, a senior researcher at Microsoft Asia, and Dr. Jason Saleem, a research scientist at the VA Medical Center.

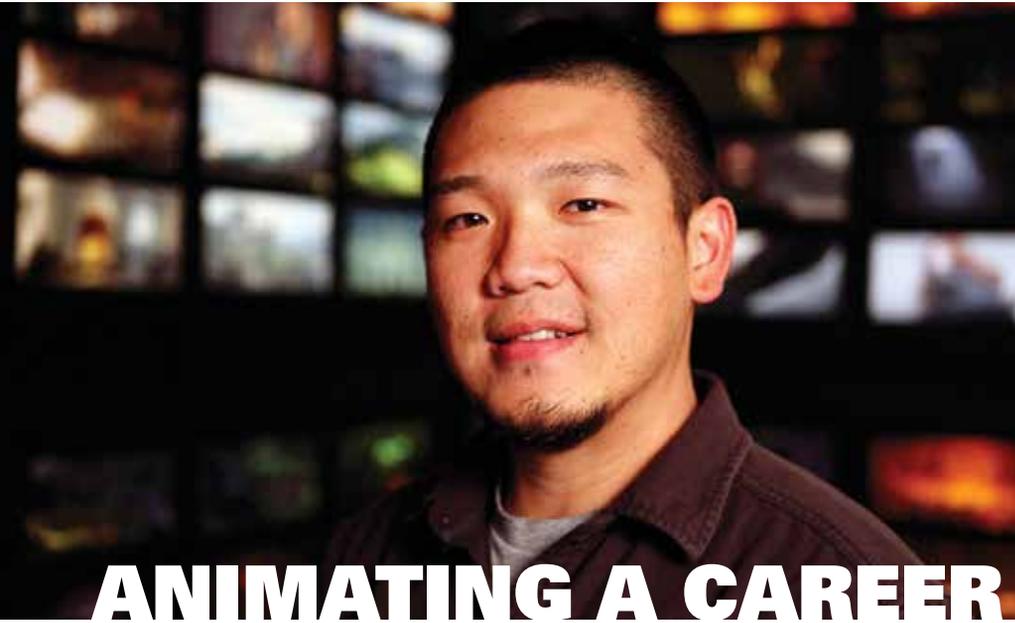
In one of the early steps that led to her Beijing internship, Savage went to a dinner for Mary Czerwinski, an IU Bloomington graduate, member of the Informatics Dean’s Advisory Council, and—most importantly—another senior researcher for Microsoft.

“We hit it off as friends right away. We went nerd, and anytime you do that, I’m there!” laughs Savage.

Savage isn’t sure what her future holds. The options are so varied and attractive that it’s hard to choose. She suspects it will be something that helps people—especially veterans—through online games or simulations. But if anyone offers her the chance to sit in the captain’s chair on the bridge of some future USS Enterprise, boldly going where no one has gone before, well, then, all bets are off!



Joan Savage (front row, center) and her Microsoft internship teammates celebrate in Beijing. Opposite page: Savage recalls hours of work in MARLA (the nickname for the Media Arts Research and Learning Arcade).



## ANIMATING A CAREER

The old adage, “You can’t see the forest for the trees,” has a different meaning for Frank Tai. Creating all manner of trees and forests was the focus of his work on the hit animated 3-D movie *Brave*.

Tai, who left his native Taiwan specifically to study at the IU School of Informatics at IUPUI, used all the animation skills he had honed in his years in the school to help Pixar Animation Studios create the world inhabited by the characters in *Brave*—from princesses to villains.

Tai chose informatics as a career because it allows him to combine his computer skills and artistic abilities. He began his work at Pixar four years ago, after earning a bachelor’s degree (2006) and master’s degree (2008) in media arts and science from informatics.

“I submitted my resume and demo reel while I was in graduate school in 2008,” Tai says. “After a few phone interviews, I got a phone call from Pixar, and they told me that I was accepted into their 2008 Technical Director Resident program.

“Right after I graduated from school, I packed everything and drove all the way from Indiana to California. I remember I felt I was like entering Charlie’s Chocolate Factory when I first arrived at Pixar,” Tai says.

Using 3-D computer software for the process he described as “digital sculpting,” Tai—a sets modeler and dresser for Pixar—mostly worked on the exterior sets for *Brave*, creating the Scotland forested lands and exteriors of the castle.

Working from the numerous photos and videos taken by the movie’s art directors, producers, and supervisors during visits to Scotland, Tai and Pixar’s other sets workers modeled a lot of trees, bushes, and vegetation to create a digital set that looks like a forest.

“We tried to make people believe when they are watching the film that they are in Scotland as much as possible,” Tai says.

Tai’s work on his first Pixar assignment, creating sets for *Toy Story 3*, gave him a boost for his work on *Brave*. “I was very focused on vegetation modeling and set dressing

on *Toy Story 3*. The sets supervisor on *Brave* liked my work on *Toy Story 3* and thought I would have a good eye for vegetation set dressing on *Brave*,” he says.

At IUPUI, Tai took all the 3-D computer animation courses offered in the School of Informatics—learning modeling, shading, lighting, and how to animate. His graduate studies and research focused on animation. And he augmented his preparation with art classes in the Herron School of Art and Design.

His third film project will be the highly anticipated *Monster University*, a prequel to the 2001 hit *Monsters, Inc.* that will be released in 2013.

Albert William, an informatics research associate in Media Arts and Science, is impressed with Tai’s willingness to help the next generation in the school by providing direction and feedback to student portfolios. “Frank’s work at Pixar is a continuing inspiration to all of the students in the School of Informatics. His work ethic, combined with his talents, helps students understand what it takes to succeed in the industry at a very high level.”

A typical computer-animated film takes about four years to complete, which makes its own demands on those behind the scenes.

“You really have to be passionate about what you do, because people often feel quite frustrated when they don’t see any results in a short period of time,” Tai says. “Filmmaking, especially computer-animated film, is an extremely slow process, and it (requires) a lot of determination and time.”



Tai (right) joins in a work session discussion of a Pixar project.

# LIFE AND LEARNING

## STUDENT LIFE CREATING NEW EXPERIENCES

BY RIC BURROUS

Like a kaleidoscope, the look and feel of campus life at IUPUI is constantly—and rapidly—changing. Every day, there are new student organizations, new social and cultural programs, and new opportunities for growth and development for the 30,000-plus students who have found an academic home in the heart of Indianapolis.

Overseeing it all is Vice Chancellor Zebulun Davenport and his Division of Student Life management team, who are determined to create a vibrant college experience for IUPUI students that takes full advantage of a major urban hub of economic, social, entrepreneurial, and cultural activity.

Davenport, who has been at IUPUI since the spring of 2011, says it's an exciting time to be part of the growth of Indiana University's major urban campus. "So much is happening here right now, in our city and on our campus, and that gives us (Student Life) a chance to create something special for our students," he says.

All of Student Life's departments are part of the evolution of life on campus

for IUPUI students. But four of them (Student Involvement, directed by Chad Ahren; Campus Recreation, led by Matt Rota-Autry; Educational Partnerships and Student Advocacy, directed by Amy Wylie; and Housing and Residence Life, led by Aaron Hart) represent significant changes for students.

University Place is being turned into on-campus housing for more than 500 freshmen (see inside back cover). Campus Recreation opportunities continue to grow rapidly. Student Involvement is adding new organizations and programs. And Student Life's newest unit, Educational Partnerships and Student Advocacy, is breaking new ground for students and their families.

"The more opportunities we create for students to develop themselves, the more they want to get involved, to engage with each other," says the vice chancellor.

All of Student Life's core directors have embraced Davenport's primary goal: to consider themselves educators. "Only our classrooms and laboratories



are different kinds of spaces," Davenport says. "Campus life helps students develop leadership skills, encourages critical thinking skills and self-discovery, and stimulates social and cultural awareness. It's part of the total development of each student."

The Student Life leaders all expect the new housing in The Tower (the temporary name for the former hotel) to bring major changes.

"When you're adding 560 students to the heart of campus, it's nothing but good from our perspective," says Hart. "We'll have more activity at the Campus Center, growth in retail sales there, growth in student activities, and an increase in school spirit."

Ahren also thinks the additional 560-plus freshman living in the heart of campus will encourage the "explosive growth in Greek life" at IUPUI. Since 2008, he notes, fraternity and sorority



membership has increased by more than 300 percent. What makes Ahren even happier is the way students are managing their chapters.

“Greek life provides an environment for learning,” Ahren says. “Our students learn how to relate to one another and to other organizations, to overcome obstacles, to collaborate in achieving goals, and to deal with a wide range of stakeholders.”

Rapid growth is also shaping a bright future for campus recreation, according to Rota-Autry. A recent reduction in student recreation fees launched a rapid rise in participation, nearly tripling the number of students involved.

“We’re still offering the same intramural sports, we have been, but now we’re able to expand to new sports and activities that are drawing interest,” says the recreation director, who also is encouraged by flourishing workout programs. “Students are focusing more on improving their health, working out longer and more often.”

Educational Partnerships and Student Advocacy is expanding IUPUI’s horizons in off-campus services, and parent-and-family programs. EPSA provides parents and other family members with resources that help their students remain in school and reach their academic goals.

“We want to give parents and family members the tools they need to step up when their children encounter difficulties,” Wylie says. “We know that parents want to be involved, and to feel they’re part of IUPUI.” That will foster long-term relationships that can deepen existing relationships, but also help turn parents and IUPUI graduates into future sources of support. Early returns are encouraging, with more than 1,700 people signed up to be part of the effort.

For Davenport, the goal is clear. “We want to create the space, and allow the students to do what they do *inside* the space,” he says.

## SHAPE OF THE IUPUI STUDENT BODY: BREAKING DOWN IUPUI’S ENROLLMENT

CATEGORY	2002	2007	2012
<b>Enrollment</b>			
Total IUPUI enrollment	29,025	29,854	30,451
Percentage of minority students	14%	15%	18%
Percentage of international students	3%	4%	5%
<b>New freshmen</b>			
Average SAT scores	989	996	1,017
Percentage in top 25 percent of high school class	28%	40%	44%
Average high school rank	59	67	70
Valedictorians and salutatorians	9	40	47
Percentage from nine-county Indianapolis area*	72%	52%	55%
<b>First-time freshmen students</b>			
Fall semester, full-time	2,243	2,744	3,049
All other freshmen	1,047	555	632
<b>Transfer students</b>			
Intercampus transfers	1,145	938	837
Ivy Tech-Indianapolis transfers	410	563	815
Other non-IU transfers	2,092	2,082	1,969
New graduate and professional students	2,228	3,046	2,855
<b>Gift aid</b>			
(Listed in millions)	\$41.6	\$85.9	\$133.2

\*Figures provided by the IUPUI Office of Undergraduate Admissions



# UNIVERSITY PLACE

## BECOMING MULTI-USE FACILITY

After nearly three decades as a hotel and conference center in the heart of the IUPUI campus, University Place is assuming new roles and will get new names for each part of the facility in 2013. Less than a year from now, it will be a residence hall named “The Tower,” home for nearly 600 IUPUI freshman students. It also will be a key part of classroom life at IUPUI.

Hine Hall, named for former Chancellor Maynard K. Hine, added 15 new classrooms, enhancing IUPUI’s academic mission. Hine Hall (formerly “The Academic Hall”) became available at the start of the spring semester, and is easing the campus’s growing need for educational assets. The Tower will expand on-campus housing by nearly 50 percent by the beginning of fall 2013.

The Tower will feature double- and triple-occupancy rooms with private baths—and a traditional on-campus

housing experience that will help incoming freshmen adjust to the demands of college life. It is expected to significantly augment campus life, thanks to its proximity to the Campus Center, University Library, the Natatorium, and the rest of the campus’s heart.

The facility will include the campus’s first dining hall, laundry facilities, a workout room, and spaces for student activities and study. The dining hall, located in what is now Scholar’s Hall, is expected to open full time in August to the IUPUI campus community and general public—not just to residents.

“The converted facility will provide much-needed assets to the campus that address high-priority needs for our students, faculty, and staff,” says Chancellor Charles R. Bantz. He noted that studies show that students who live on campus have higher retention

rates and grade-point averages.

Several existing facilities will retain their current roles, including the auditorium and the grand ballroom, both of which will be available for special events. Meeting rooms will be available for special events and lectures that don’t require the capacity offered by the auditorium and the ballroom.

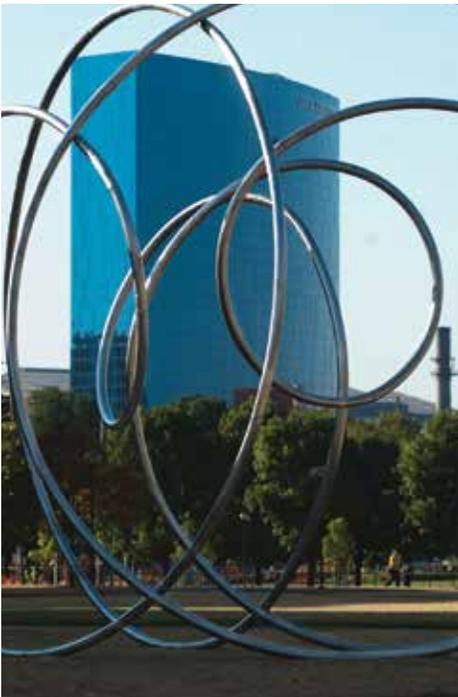
Two primary on-campus food venues, Our Den and Chancellor’s, will be redesigned for future food-service demands. Until the work is completed on those ground-floor facilities, The Bistro will fulfill public dining demands on the second floor. Once the first-floor work is completed and the restaurant reopens next summer, the space temporarily filled by The Bistro will become lounge space for Housing and Residence Life use.

# IUPUI

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
INDIANAPOLIS

**Office of Alumni Relations**  
340 West Michigan Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Huntington, IN  
Permit #832



The Herron School of Art and Design is deeply involved in much of the public art in or near the IUPUI campus. Among the pieces featured along the Indianapolis Cultural Trail (which includes IUPUI) and along historic Indiana Avenue are (clockwise from upper left): *East Gate*, *West Gate* near University Library (with the J.W. Marriott Hotel visible in the background); *Looking through Windows* by

Herron grad Michael Kuschnir (right), near the Urban League headquarters; *The South Tower* by Herron alumnus Don Gummer, near Military Park; *Moving Forward* by Brett Harbour; and *Open Eyes* by Gummer (visible through the piece), located beside the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute on campus.