



## SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
IUPUI

# FYI – SPRING 2014

### Alumni

**Josh Kaufman** (BA, philosophy 2003) is the winner of NBC's music competition *The Voice*. Kaufman, who was coached by R&B star Usher, also won a Sony recording contract. Kaufman is an Indianapolis resident.

### Grants

Four Liberal Arts professors are among 34 faculty members across six IU campuses to receive grants through Indiana University's New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities program.

- **Julie Belz** (English), Exploratory Travel Grant, "Re-conceptualizing Intercultural Communicative Competence."
- **Dennis Bingham** (English), Exploratory Travel Grant, "Bob Fosse and the Revisionist Film Musical."
- **Susan Hyatt** (anthropology), New Frontiers Grant, "Between the National and the Local: The British Community Development Projects and the Creation of New Knowledge."
- **John Kaufman-McKivigan** (history), New Currents Grant, "Frederick Douglass's The Heroic Slave and the American Revolutionary Tradition: A Scholarly Symposium."

### Awards

**Bessie House-Soremekun**, director of the Africana studies program and professor of Africana studies and political science, was presented with the Global African American Activist Ambassador Award from the African American Restoration Movement of Indianapolis and the Globe Changers Movement. She was recognized for her investment in multicultural networking and for exhibiting hope and faith in the future for African Americans.

### Students

The IUPUI student literary journal, **genesis**, received honors from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association Awards for its fall 2013 issue. The publication won Literary Magazine of the Year, 1st place for best cover design, and multiple awards for stories, essays, and poems.

### Awards

**Obi Nnaemeka**, professor of French, women's studies and Africana studies, received The Amistad Award in recognition of her distinguished service to human rights and outstanding contributions to women and African studies from the Center for Africana Studies at Central Connecticut State University.

### Awards

**David Sabol**, senior lecturer in English, was named a winner of the Glenn W. Irwin, Jr., M.D., Experience Excellence Award for 2014. The award recognizes service "above and beyond the call of duty."

### Awards

The **Africana studies** program received the Mary McLeod Bethune and Carter G. Woodson Award for Outstanding Service in the Promotion of Social Responsibility in Africana Studies at the 38th National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference held March 2014 in Miami, Florida.

### Publications

Associate professor of museum studies and director of the museum studies program **Elee Wood** is the co-author of *The Objects of Experience: Transforming Visitor-Object Encounters in Museums* (Left Coast Press) with Kiersten Latham. The book introduces the concept of the Object Knowledge Framework, a tool for using objects to connect museum visitors to themselves, to others, and to the world.

### Students

**Mariana Lopez-Owens**, a Liberal Arts senior majoring in Spanish and international studies, was named the most outstanding female student at IUPUI for 2014. Her selection was announced at the Top 100 Outstanding Students Recognition Dinner on April 11. Three School of Liberal Arts seniors joined Lopez-Owens in the Top 20: **Krystiana Kosobucki** (English and philosophy), **Kayla Najera** (communication studies, sociology minor), and **Emily Potts** (Spanish and biology).

### Creative Activity

**Jane Schultz**, professor of English, has been appointed a consultant for a new PBS series entitled "Mansion House." Mansion House was a Civil War Hospital in Alexandria, VA; the series will cover the daily challenges of the hospital and its staff from late 1862.

### Awards

**Rosa Tezanos-Pinto**, associate professor of Spanish, received the Joseph T. Taylor Award for Excellence in Diversity from Chancellor Bantz at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph T. Taylor Symposium in February. The award honors those who have worked to make IUPUI a welcoming and inclusive environment.

### Creative Activity

**Thomas Davis**, professor of Religious and philanthropic studies, has written a new novel, *The Devil Likes to Sing* (Cascade Books). The book tells the story of Timothy McFarland, a failed theology student who begins writing fiction. Feeling he's a hack, McFarland strikes a deal with the devil who offers to shape him into a success.



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### Awards

**Claudia Grossmann**, senior lecturer in German, received the 2014 Susan Buck Sutton Faculty Award for Study Abroad. The award honors faculty and staff who make significant contributions to study abroad programs at IUPUI.

### Awards

Four Liberal Arts faculty and staff received Student Council Awards for 2013-2014, selected by the Council Selection Committee from nominations made by Liberal Arts students.

- Outstanding Academic Advisor–**Elizabeth M. Goering**, director of graduate studies and associate professor of communication studies
- Outstanding Mentor/Motivator–**Peter Seybold**, associate professor of sociology
- Outstanding Staff Member–**Noah Christopher Buonanno**, office manager of Confucius Institute
- Outstanding Student Organization Advisor Award–**Amy Lynelle**, associate faculty in French

### Civic Engagement

**Modupe Labode**, assistant professor of history and museum studies, and her spring 2014 Museum Methods class, presented the exhibit *Split but not Separated: Recapturing the Legacy of the Near Southside at the Concord Neighborhood Center*. The exhibition was inspired by a 2010 research project by IUPUI anthropology students who collected oral histories, photographs and other memorabilia from African American and Jewish elders who had grown up together on the Near Southside.

### Grants

The Council for Economic Education, a national organization, awarded a grant to the **IUPUI Center for Economic Education** to lead training workshops for middle and high school teachers. The Center, under the direction of **Mohammed Kaviani**, will use Virtual Economics 4.0, the nation’s most comprehensive educational resource for teachers of economics and personal finance.

### Publications

**Patricia Wittberg**, professor of sociology, is the coauthor of the new book, *New Generations of Catholic Sisters*. The book examines the religious life of women who entered American religious institutes since the Second Vatican Council completed in 1965.

### Alumni

**Sheila Gilbert**, **Charity Counts**, and **Brian Denton** won Liberal Arts Alumni Awards for their achievements and service. Gilbert (BA, sociology 1978) received the Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Service Award for her work with the poor as the national president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP). Counts and Denton received the Early Career Achievement Award. Charity Counts (MA, museum studies 2008) is the associate vice president of exhibits at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis. Denton (BA economics, 2002; BA German/political science, 2003; MA economics, 2005; BS mathematics, 2009) works as a computational statistician for Eli Lilly and Company and serves on the Liberal Arts Dean’s Advisory Council.

### Appointments

**Jennifer Thorington Springer**, associate professor of English, is the new director of the IUPUI RISE Program. The RISE Program builds on IUPUI’s rich history of experiential learning, and challenges undergraduates to complete at least two of the following experiences: research, service, experiential learning, international experience.

### Students

**Emily Potts** (BA Spanish/biology, 2014) was one of two student speakers for IUPUI commencement. Potts was a Bepko Scholar with a significant commitment to civic engagement. She served as the Associate Executive Director of the 2012 and 2013 Regatta Steering Committees and as a vice president for the Student Organization for Alumni Relations (SOAR). She also currently sat on the Board of Managers for the IU Alumni Association as the student representative. During her remarks she urged fellow graduates to live lives of service to society.

### Civic Engagement

The **IUPUI Center for Economic Education** was a host for the 2014 Indiana Economics Challenge. Carmel High School advanced two teams to the national championship in New York City where they finished in second and third place. Fed Chair Janet Yellen asked questions of the student participants via video during the event, and the national champions rang the closing bell on Wall Street.

### Creative Activity

Janice Bankert-Countryman, faculty in communication studies, organized “Continuing the Party,” an exhibit in the IUPUI Cultural Arts Gallery that ran in the month of May. The display of 75 sculptures, paintings and photographs honored women who had impacted the lives of others. Featured in the exhibit were student works created by Bankert-Countryman’s “Introduction to Women’s Studies” class and contributions from faculty, staff, and the community. The exhibit was inspired by Judy Chicago’s “The Dinner Party” art installment.

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