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Message from the Dean

In the last couple of weeks the transformation of the lobbies of the 2nd and 3rd floors of Cavanaugh Hall has begun. Carpet and furniture have arrived, including tables, chairs, and white boards to help students work collaboratively. Some computer tables and chairs are in place, providing important work stations that seem to be in constant use. This summer, while Cavanaugh is closed to classes, we will begin the renovations on the lobby ceilings and complete several other details that will make the spaces welcoming and enjoyable.

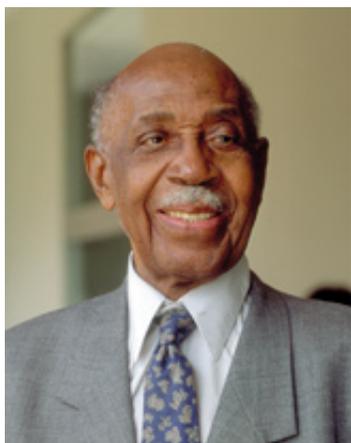
The funding for these renovations is from a variety of sources including the Liberal Arts Student Council, the Registrar's Office, the IUPUI Learning Environments Committee and the School of Liberal Arts. Additional support is being provided by alumni and friends of the school. We are very grateful to everyone involved and look forward to inviting you to enjoy the

finished project soon.

And please remember that this is only the beginning. Over time, we plan to transform ALL of the lobbies, basement through the 5th floor. Cavanaugh Hall shows its age in many places, and we're working on fixing that. Cavanaugh 001G and 417 were renovated this fall and spring. Coupled with the skybridge (artery) to the Campus Center, we continue to improve our surroundings.

Best wishes for a great end to the semester.

Robert W. White
Dean, IU School of Liberal Arts



University College Building To Be Named for Dr. Joseph Taylor

The building housing IUPUI's University College will be named for **Dr. Joseph T. Taylor**, announced IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz, who proposed the commemorative renaming in honor of the man who served as dean of the Indianapolis Regional Campus from 1967 to 1970 (pre-IUPUI) and as the first dean of the newly established IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI (1970-1978).

"Because he was instrumental in implementing the merger that led to the establishment of IUPUI, it is fitting that his name be attached to one of the original buildings," Bantz said. "As an African American, Dr. Taylor was a pioneer at every stage of his academic career. He infused that can-do spirit and ability to break new ground into the very core of what has made IUPUI successful today."

The recommendation by IUPUI to name the building for Taylor, located at 815 W. Michigan Street, was approved last month by the Indiana University Board of Trustees. [[More information](#)]



Curtis Chosen as Carnegie Scholar - Will Study African American Connections to Foreign Muslims

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has named Millennium Scholar of the Liberal Arts and Religious Studies Associate Professor **Edward Curtis** a Carnegie Scholar.

The Corporation will provide Curtis with a grant of approximately \$100,000 to study African American Muslim connections to foreign Muslims and Islamic institutions in Muslim countries. "When policymakers think of black Muslims traveling and studying in Muslim countries," said Curtis, "they often conjure fearful images of a black American in some terrorist training camp."

Curtis's project will counter the idea that foreign Muslims lead African Americans toward radicalism. "The typical African American Muslim abroad is going on pilgrimage to Mecca, studying Islamic piety in Senegal, and speaking out for women's rights in Indonesia," he said.

In exploring the influence of foreign Muslim ideas, traditions, and culture on Muslim African Americans, Curtis's Carnegie-funded research project will show how Muslim African Americans have transformed Islam into a genuinely American religion. "The project could not be more timely," he adds. "Some Hoosiers are worried about Andre Carson's Islamic faith and are anxious about Barack Obama's father, who was Muslim. This issue is at the center of our public life." [[Press Release](#)]



Gondola Awarded Fulbright, Will Study African Youth "Cowboy" Subculture of the 1950s

A Liberal Arts professor will spend the next academic year building an oral history of the 1950s African youth who, influenced by western movies, created a subculture that reflected Hollywood's version of the old American west.

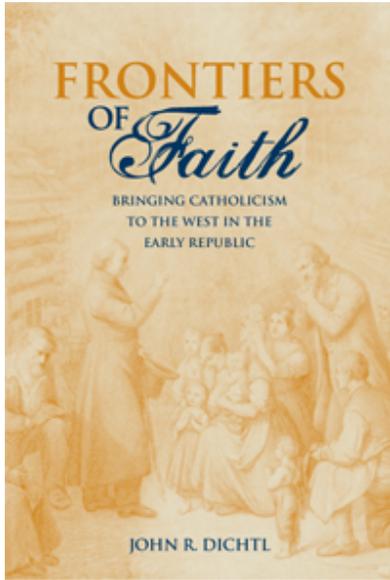
As a Fulbright Scholar in Kinshasa, the capital and largest urban area of the African nation of Congo, **Professor Didier Gondola** will conduct interviews with former members of the youth gangs known as the "Bills," and hopes to determine links to modern day Kinshasa culture.

The Fulbright Scholarship, which includes a stipend, a travel allowance, and monthly allowances for the professor and his dependents, will allow the IUPUI professor to advance his research into the group he calls "Tropical Cowboys."

Gondola, associate professor of history in the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, teaches the social history of Central and West Africa, slavery and slave trade, ancient Africa and West African kingdoms, colonization and colonial changes, popular cultures and gender issues in colonial and postcolonial Africa.

[[Press Release](#)]

Book Explores Catholicism in Nineteenth Century Ohio Valley



A new book by **John R. Dichtl**, Executive Director of the National Council on Public History and Adjunct Professor of History at IUPUI, uses extensive correspondence, reports, diaries, court documents, apologetical works, and other records of the Catholic clergy to show how Catholic leadership successfully pursued strategies of growth in frontier regions while continually weighing major decisions against established Protestant doctrine.

Frontiers of Faith: Bringing Catholicism to the West in the Early Republic (University of Kentucky Press, 2008) examines how Catholics in the early nineteenth-century Ohio Valley, despite the evangelical success of the Protestant faith during the Second Great Awakening, expanded their church, strengthened their connections to Rome, and sought fellowship with their non-Catholic neighbors. The book, according to its publisher, helps restore Catholicism to the story of religious development in the Early Republic and emphasizes the importance of clerical and lay efforts to make sacred the landscape of the New West.

[\[Publisher information\]](#)

Curtis Tournament Participants "Think Peace. Speak Peace."

"Think Peace," was the theme of the day when students, faculty, staff, and others gathered on Saturday, March 29, for the first annual Robert and Dana Curtis Memorial Oratorical Tournament. The competition, founded by **Professor Emeritus Richard Curtis and wife Beth** in memory of his brothers, **Robert and Dana**, challenged IUPUI undergraduates to think, write, and speak about their ideas for peaceful resolutions to conflicts across the globe.



Nate Bullock took first place with his speech about Somalia, "I'm sure that many did not know why the country is experiencing difficulties or, more importantly, what they could do to help. At its core, persuasion is about identification. I wanted people in the audience to identify with the plight of the Somali people."

Second place went to **Lidelia Vazquez** for her opinions on solving the conflict in Burma. In third place was **Shehzad Qazi**, who spoke of the current conflicts going on in Kashmir. Fourth place went to **James Reddic** for his ideas on stopping domestic violence, gangs, and other hostility in America. **Jacob Deepak** was the fifth finalist, with his ideas for resolving the current conflict in Tibet. And the sixth finalist was **Derek Rush**, who said his goal is to hinder the violence caused by cults such as Scientology.

Pictured: Left: Dr. and Mrs. Richard and Elizabeth Curtis. Right: Nate Bullock with Professor Kim White-Mills and Dean Robert White.

[\[Full story\]](#)

[\[More event photos\]](#)

Three Students Receive Civic Engagement Medallion

Out of the ten William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallions given by IUPUI this year, three have gone to Liberal Arts majors. **Caridad Ax** (Political Science), **Vanessa Fry** (English & Communication Studies), and **Caroline Wade** (Communication Studies) were recognized for depth and diversity of commitment in serving their communities at the 4th Annual Showcase of Civic Engagement on Friday, April 11th. *Student descriptions from the event follow:*

"**Caridad Ax** is not only at the top of her class academically, she has been a Masarachia Scholar and has played a leadership role in civic engagement through her work with the United Way, Martin Luther King Day of Service, United Senior Action, and, most recently, with the Democracy Matters Program. Caridad has also been appointed to the Norman Brown Diversity and Leadership Program, a university-wide initiative to attract and retain under-represented students."

"**Vanessa Fry** was recognized by the Youth Philanthropy Initiative in Indiana as their Youth Hoosier Philanthropist. She has been a First-Year Learning Community Student Mentor, a Sam H. Jones Scholar and team leader, math and science tutor at George Washington Community School, and an O-Team Leader for Orientation Services. Vanessa has also served as a member and president of Lamda Pi Eta Honorary Society for Communication Studies students."

"**Caroline Wade**, throughout her time as a student at IUPUI, has exhibited strength as a leader and motivator of her peers. As a Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholar, she currently mentors IUPUI students who tutor middle school students in literacy. Caroline was a key planner in the literacy tutoring program called RISE: Rallying IUPUI and George Washington Student Excellence."

The William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion was established to distinguish graduating seniors who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to their communities, exhibited personal and academic growth, high levels of integrity, and significant community impact as a result of their civic engagement experiences during their college years.

Events

April 24, 2008 - Thursday - The Indianapolis Peirce Seminar

Peirce and James on Experience

Henrik Rydenfelt, University of Helsinki

Pragmatism is, widely speaking, a tenet according to which the meaning of intellectual conceptions is to be clarified by an investigation into their "practical effects." To find such practical effects, pragmatists - especially classical American pragmatists - have usually referred us to consult what occurs, or at least conceivably could occur, in experience. But what exactly counts as experience? Drawing from their philosophical correspondence, this paper attempts to explicate some key differences in Charles Peirce's and William James's conceptions of experience. Particular attention will be paid to four themes: (1) the private vs. public nature of experience, (2) particularity and generality in experience, (3) James's concept of "pure experience", and (4) Peirce's view of experience as the "influence of the world of fact". Henrik Rydenfelt is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Helsinki currently writing his dissertation on Nietzsche's epistemology and metaethics. A member of the Helsinki Peirce Research Centre, he has actively participated in the study of Peirce's manuscripts, especially his philosophical correspondence.

The Institute for American Thought, ES 0014, 6:00 pm

The *Institute* is located in the basement of the Education & Social Work building on IUPUI's campus. Visitor parking is available in the Sports Complex Parking Garage located across the street from the Institute on 875 New York Street.

Information: [Cornelis de Waal](#)

April 24, 2008 - Thursday

Geography Department Graduate Student Poster Display

The Geography Department showcases more than a dozen projects by students in the Department of Geography's Geographic Information Science programs.

University Place Hotel Terrace, 2nd floor, 6:30-8:30 pm

Information: [Joyce Haibe](#)

April 25, 2008 - Friday

Confucius Institute, Inauguration Ceremony

Events begin at 10 am with an open house. The inauguration, at 1:00 pm, is followed by a symposium, "China: From Confucius to Globalization."
Cavanaugh Hall First Floor and Lecture Hall 102

April 25, 2008 - Friday

The Medical Humanities Program present the Health Studies Seminars:

Empathy in Medical Education

Emily Beckman, Ph.D. , Adjunct Faculty in Medical Humanities - Health Studies

Through the presentation and analysis of literature and film, conversation among medical students and healthcare practitioners might help recover personal empathy by not only evoking emotion and conscience, but also by deepening moral imagination. This talk will discuss specific examples of literature and film that might bring about the development of empathy while suggesting a connection exists between imagination and empathy.

Center for Bioethics, HITS Building, 410 W. 10th Street, Suite 3100, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

These events are free of charge and open to the public but seating is limited.

Contact: [Vanessa d'Amico](#), (317) 278-1669

May 7, 2008 - Wednesday

Retirement Party for Professor Giles Hoyt

Cavanaugh Hall 508, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

RSVP: [Dana Casey](#)

May 8, 2008 - Thursday

Liberal Arts Graduating Seniors Reception

An evening celebration reception to recognize the graduating classes of December 2007, May and August 2008.

Woodstock Club, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Information: [Yvonne Owens](#), (317) 274-5063

May 11, 2008 - Sunday

Liberal Arts Graduation Ceremony

Follows the IUPUI Ceremony.

Indianapolis Convention Center, 500 Ballroom, 5 pm

Information: [Don Fisher](#), (317) 274-3976

May 15, 2008 - Thursday

Retirement Party for Professor Sharon Hamilton

University Place Hotel Ballroom, 4:00 - 6:00 pm

RSVP: By [email](#) or 317-274-4627

For more event information visit the Liberal Arts [web calendar](#).

This email was sent by: **IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI**
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