IU briefs: Science open houses; project to help teens in Ghana; reporting on drug trade

Compiled by Jon Blau | 0 comments

Science open houses Oct. 26

Indiana University’s science departments will host their annual open houses Oct. 26, including the departments of chemistry, physics and astronomy, geological sciences and mathematics. The open houses will begin at 9 a.m., with physics and astronomy, geological science and mathematics events in Swain Hall and chemistry in the Chemistry Building.

Each open house is free and will include activities such as chemistry magic shows from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outdoor physics activities feature the Coriolis Force Merry-go-Round, dry ice bowling and the Bernoulli Blower. Geological sciences will host a fossil dig, geode smashing and “drive-your-own Mars rover.” “Dr. Rock” will identify rock or mineral samples, so visitors are encouraged to bring interesting rocks.

Ghana project to engage at-risk kids

Researchers at IU will use after-school sports programs to help children in Ghana lower their risk of falling into substance abuse or contracting a sexually transmitted disease.

A two-year federal grant will help fund the Indiana University team and its partners as they teach youths ages 10-16 in the African nation the rules and leadership aspects of sports such as basketball, soccer and volleyball. There will also be informal “Time Out for Healthy Living” sessions to engage kids who are in an environment where alcohol abuse and the chances of HIV infection are increased. A group of 16 coaches and staff will be trained this summer in Bloomington during a two-week workshop.

The project team includes Sarah Young, associate professor in the School of Public Health, colleague Craig Ross, Cecilia Oben from the department of applied health science, Debby Herbenick, co-director of the school’s Center for Sexual Health Promotion, and Samuel Obeng, director of the African Studies Program at IU Bloomington.

Reporter to discuss drug trade Monday

An investigative reporter on the international drug trade will speak on her experiences during a lecture Monday, sponsored by Indiana University’s School of Journalism, the Center for the Study of Global Change and others. “Digging Deep in the Drug Trade: Investigative Reporting Abroad” will be the topic for Fariba Nawa’s 7 p.m. talk at the auditorium in Ernie Pyle Hall, 940 E. Seventh St.

Nawa wrote the book “Opium Nation: Child Brides, Drug Lords and One Woman’s Journey through Afghanistan.” She covers immigrant communities in the U.S. and has reported from around the globe, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Iran, Pakistan and parts of Europe.