

Indiana University Individualized Major Program

imp independent

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association Vol. 1, Fall 2005

From the director's desk

Keeping alumni connected to Indiana University

The IMP is proud of our current students and we know a good deal about them. But we don't know enough about our alumni. And we suspect that you may not know much about us or at least about current developments in the program. This newsletter is the first (but not the last) effort to get in touch with you and to keep in touch.

When I became director of the IMP eight years ago, it did not take me long to realize that the strength of this program — our self-motivated students and their range of interests — had a potential downside: a sense of isolation, a lack of community. Not only did our students not know one another very well, they didn't have much contact with the faculty (except, crucially, with their sponsors). Nor did the faculty have much contact with one another.

Reading the rest of this newsletter will give you a good sense of what we have tried to do over the last several years to provide stronger connections among all of us involved in the program: faculty presentations, student-faculty parties, end-of-the-year dinners at Le Petit Café (attended by more than 90 faculty, students, and staff this year), a Creative and Performing Arts Exhibition highlighting the talents of students majoring in musical theatre, contemporary dance, and fashion design (see our Web site for more photos of the performance); and our own graduation ceremony, a very festive event attended this year by 200 students, faculty, friends, and relatives and highlighted by the reading of student biographies and the presentation of individualized certificates to each student.

In addition, we have a Student Activities Committee to plan and implement programs of interest (e.g., a movie followed by discussion; a tour of the Kinsey Institute); bulletin boards inside and just outside the office door, complete with pictures of each student and his or her sponsor; small-group lunches in the Tudor Room

of the Indiana Memorial Union, hosted by assistant director Paul Aarstad and me, with each new IMP sponsor and each new IMP Faculty Committee member. We now have a mid-career review for all students: a meeting at which the student, sponsor(s), and either Paul or I meet to assess the student's progress and to sharpen the focus for the upcoming final project. As of five years ago, I now have an office of my own adjacent to secretary Nancy Vazquez's office; that enables me to have more frequent contact with students than was possible when the director had no office on the IMP premises. All of this, I think, has contributed to

a healthy sense of connection; the morale among students, staff, and faculty is high, as is the quality of student final projects.

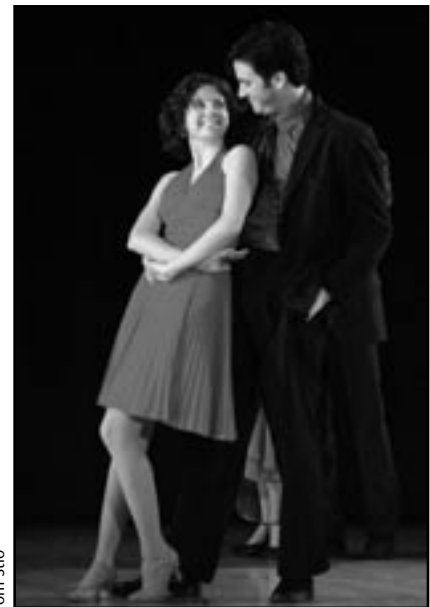
I recently sent out a request to all IMP alumni for whom we have current e-mail addresses, asking for updates on your lives; see the Alumni Notes for the responses we received before printing the newsletter. But we would like to hear from more of you. So please send us your current contact information and a brief description of your life after IMP. You will be hearing from us regularly from now on; I look forward to hearing from you.

— Ray Hedin

Inaugural Creative and Performing Arts Exhibition a success

The IMP held its first Creative and Performing Arts Exhibition on Feb. 20, 2005. Students in musical theatre who performed were Galia Arad, Erin Daugherty, Kaitlyn Delaney, Rick Desloge, Colin Donnell, Margot Gendreau, Codey Girten, and Belinda Quimby. Fashion design students who presented their creations were Kate BonDurant, Carol Coelho, Katherine Collison, Heather Elrod, Lauren Feldman, Brea Gallamore, Jill Hutcherson, and Alexi Tavel. Dancers and choreographers from the dance performance major were Ricardo Alvarez, Brittany Crosby, Jamie Dowd, Abby Rich, Amanda Tanguay, Sarah Wilkins, Dana Wolk, and Brandi Woolsey.

The exhibition also included performances by music business students Ron Placone and Pablo Svirsky, who appeared with his group Three Rivers Jackson. The performance coincided with Arts Week and took place in Willkie Auditorium.



Tom Stio

Amanda Tanguay and Colin Donnell dance to "This Time the Dream's on Me" at the Creative and Performing Arts Exhibition.

Program news

IMP 2005 graduation

The third annual all-IMP graduation was bigger and better than ever! On the morning of Commencement, seniors, their family, and faculty sponsors (more than 200 people in all) gathered in the Frangipani Room. The ceremony included addresses by IMP director Ray Hedin, Professor Emeritus of English and IMP Faculty Committee member Don Gray, and students Sangeeta Sakaria (human biology) and James Bourke (peace studies: philosophies of non-violence and their application). Graduating seniors received certificates of completion of their majors from Professor Hedin. This popular event is part of the College of Arts and Sciences' overall effort to improve the senior-year experience.

HHC provides funds

The Hutton Honors College is making a new, annual award of up to \$500 available to all IMP students who are in their senior year whose overall GPA is 3.3 or above and whose GPA in their IMP major is 3.7 or above. The grant is available only to IMP and fine arts majors and recognizes the creativity and initiative of students in the IMP.

The following students received grants during spring 2005: Michelle Becker, Jamie Crawford, Zachary Everson, Bridget Fallen, Mike Jefferson, Hillary Melchior, and Katherine Mobley.

Annual dinner

For the last three years, IMP students and faculty have gathered at Le Petit Café for a celebratory, end-of-the-year dinner. It's a great opportunity to socialize and enjoy good food and drink!



Sangeeta Sakaria (human biology) displays her certificate at the 2005 IMP graduation.

Student honors

Phi Beta Kappa

- Spring 2004: Sangeeta Sakaria, human biology
- Fall 2004: Holleh Husseinzadeh, human biology; Sara M. Myers, history of the English language; Michael Underwood, creative mythology; Matthew Kyle Yates, global governance; Karen Ware, Native American studies: analyzing art and culture; Dustin Schimp, psycholinguistics
- Spring 2005: Kathleen Claussen, comparative social policy and ideology; Jamie Crawford, experiential education; Elizabeth Smucker, creative writing

The **IMP Outstanding Senior Project Award** for 2004–05 was shared by Abigail Anderson and Colin Donnell (with honorable mentions to Steven Cornett and Nicole West). Anderson's final project for her major in forensic sciences was an analysis of the investigation into the 2003 death of Teresa Farrell, leading to the conviction of Michael Fultz for her murder. Donnell, a major in musical theatre, appeared as the lead in IU's spring 2005 production of *Pal Joey*. The Outstanding Senior Project Award for 2003–04 was given to six students in the dance performance program whose shared performance series, *Revival: A Rebirth of Dance*, was a triumph of teamwork and technical skill. The students, Leah Barak, Megan Bowton, Erin Pritchard, Brittany Snyder, Salena Watkins, and Sarah Wilkins, mounted three separate shows.

The **Richard D. Young Award**, which honors the memory of the IMP's founder by recognizing students' overall academic achievement and commitment to social issues, went to James Bourke for 2004–05. Bourke's project for his major, peace studies: theories of non-violence and their application, was an analysis of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Young Award for 2003–04 was shared by Kyra Busch and Kunal Desai. Busch's final project for her major in environmental and social justice was a paper titled "One Student's Journey Towards Fair Trade." The paper drew on her experiences with urban farmers' markets in Thailand and New York City. Desai's final project for his major in development, conflict, and humanitarianism took him to sub-Saharan Africa, where he worked as an AIDS educator. His final project was a paper titled "Culture, Politics, and AIDS: A Case Study of Senegal."

Student profile

Internship abroad expands research

Kathleen Claussen is a senior majoring in comparative social policy and ideology. During summer 2005 she completed an internship with the European Parliament in Brussels and a study trip to Kosovo, carrying out work for the European Center for Minority Issues. Claussen's final project is a research paper on issues of European social policy that will draw on her experiences in Brussels and Kosovo.

Claussen's numerous honors include a Wells Scholarship, the Palmer-Brandon Prize of the College of Arts and Sciences, research grants from the Hutton Honors College and the University Graduate School, Phi Beta Kappa membership, and the 2005 Thomas L. Barton Award for Performance in Urban Geography.

While attending high school in Bethlehem, Pa., Claussen first became interested in community development and service work through her leadership of a statewide youth empowerment and lobbying group. At IU she started the CASE Program, in which IU students meet through videoconference with students around the world to discuss global citizenship, the purpose and meaning of service and civic engagement, and the importance of getting involved in democracy.

After graduation, Claussen looks forward to another year of research in Europe before attending graduate school.

Alumni notebook

Before 1980

Susan E. Flynt Yip, BA'79, BA'84 (costume design), is communications/development manager for Merced Housing Texas, a not-for-profit that provides affordable housing and social services to low-income Texans. She lives in San Antonio with her husband, Lew, and their daughter, Cassie England.

1980s

Tom Bewley, BA'84 (theater production), is director of development, major gifts, for Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Prior to returning to Bloomington, he spent 13 years as an administrator at Interlochen in Michigan.

Anita J. (Busse) Day, BA'84 (creative communications/fashion advertising), is a founding board member of Outrun the Sun, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the risk factors of melanoma and other skin cancers and to raising funds for melanoma medical research. She lives in Indianapolis.

Alex Hodge, BA'84 (audio technology), completed a master of education degree from Northern Illinois University while serving in the U.S. Air Force. After retiring from the Air Force in December 2004 at the rank of lieutenant colonel, Hodge enrolled in the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he is majoring in professional music.

Steven M. Ross, BA'88 (business, psychology, and speech), is a director and principal of MCM Capital in Cleveland and serves on the boards of the Ohio Moulding Corp. and Primary Packag-

ing. Ross serves on the board of trustees for the Goodrich Gannett Community Center, the Children's Hospital at the Cleveland Clinic, and the Cleveland Music School Settlement. He also serves as president of the Hawken School Alumni Association.

1990s

Paula Neeley, BA'91 (Afro-Brazilian culture and dance), has worked as a stage manager for theaters in New York and Chicago. She lives in Angra dos Reis, Brazil, where she works in human resources, a "close companion of stage managing."

Steven Ragatz, BA'92 (performing arts) is a six-year veteran of the French Canadian circus *Cirque du Soleil* and creative director for Academic Edge educational multimedia.

Geoff Williams, BA'92 (screenwriting), is a freelance journalist living in Los Angeles. His third book will be published by Rodale in May 2007.

Melissa Coburn, BA'94 (anthropology of dance), completed a PhD in comparative literature at Purdue in 2002 and is an assistant professor of Italian at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. In her graduate studies, she explored inter-arts theory (dance and literature). She hopes to work with a dance professor to offer a course soon in representations of the body.

Andrea (Fleckenstein) Robinson, BA'94 (juvenile justice), has worked in global product communications at Eli Lilly for two years and plans to return to IUPUI for a degree in journalism. She and her husband live in Greenwood, Ind., with their

two sons, Cody and Camron.

Valerie Fairchild, BA'97 (advertising and public relations), received a JD/MBA from DePaul University in 2000 and is associate general counsel for a global IT consulting company in Chicago.

Gwenyth (Goodnight) Haney, BA'98 (historic textile and costume collections management) received an MA in museum studies from Syracuse University in 2002. She is the executive director of the Nettle Creek Valley Museum, located in Hagerstown, Ind.

Reed Schwandt, BA'98 (applied math and finance), received an MBA with honors from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his work as a chartered financial analyst, he has volunteered as a tutor for the Kaplan/N.Y. Cares Good Sports program in New York, the YMCA and Child Abuse Prevention Center in California, and Say Yes to Education in Philadelphia. He lives with his wife, Renee, in Stamford, Conn.

2000s

Danial J. Kibble, BA'01 (public relations), works for IUPUI alumni relations and lives in Indianapolis.

Brian McMullen, BA'01 (graphic design: theory and practice), is art director of *Cabinet* magazine (www.cabinet-magazine.org) and has recently written and designed several projects for *McSweeney's* and *The Believer*. He lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife, Katie.

John Armstrong, BA'02 (musical theatre), was cast in the national tour of *Seussical: The Musical* and successfully auditioned for IU's acting MFA program in Bloomington. Since returning to Bloomington, he has appeared in *Dracula*; *Happy Birthday*; *Wanda June*; *Pal Joey*; and, most recently, in the Brown County Playhouse production of *Forever Plaid*.

Cynthia Schultz, BA'02 (Internet training and multimedia

design) is the senior director of communications for the Indiana University Alumni Association and lives in Bloomington, Ind.

Lydia Burris, BA'03 (illustration of mythology), is pursuing an MFA from the Norwich School of Art and Design in England. After she completes her program in September 2005, she hopes to find work in England or elsewhere in the European Union.

Joseph Galvin, BA'03 (performance of percussion instruments from diverse cultures with a concentration on drum construction), was initiated into Santeria while traveling in Cuba, first as an OmoAña, or religious drummer, and later as a priest known as a Santero or Bablosa. Returning to Bloomington, he began a master's degree in world percussion at the IU School of Music.

Andrew Lebon, BA'03 (musical theatre), recently finished a yearlong run as Jud Fry in the First National Tour revival of *Oklahoma!* and has played various roles in musicals at Millbrook Playhouse in Pennsylvania and the Papermill Theatre in New Hampshire.

Maral Papakhian, BA'03 (captive animal social ecology: basic and applied), lives in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband, Alex, who is attending Harvard Law School. She works as an office manager for a social science research institute and volunteered for six months at the Stone Zoo in Boston.

Kaitlin F. Willihnganz, BA'03 (theatrical linguistics), is a writer and freelance editor. She lives in Bloomington, Ind.

Michael Bridavsky, BA'04 (music and film production), is the technical director for the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. He also owns and operates Russian Recording, an independent recording studio in Nashville, Ind.

Stacy Fass, BA'04 (public health and social affairs education), works as community out-

(continued on back page)

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Alumni notebook

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reach coordinator with the National Alliance for Autism Research and manages its New York City fund-raising campaign. This year, she will also take on its North New Jersey campaign, the Giants Stadium walkathon.

Jen Green, BA'04 (international relations), has completed her second semester at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where she helped restart the law school's International Law Society. She climbed Kilimanjaro in early August before returning from her summer employment with Collins Newman and Co., the top law firm in Botswana.

Erin Pritchard, BA'04 (dance performance), lives in Indianapolis, where she performs with the Indianapolis Civic Theatre and the Motus Dance Theatre and works for McNamara Florists.

Gwyn Zawisza, BA'04 (arts administration), is currently pursuing a master's degree in public affairs and issue management at Purdue University, where she also works in public relations for the Purdue Musical Organization.

Charles Norton, BA'05 (Caribbean culture and world literature), joined the Peace Corps and is serving in an agro-forestry program in Cameroon.

IMP Independent

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Individualized Major Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ialumni@indiana.edu.

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