Groups honors outstanding alumni at reunion

This year, the Groups Alumni Association was officially recognized by the IU Alumni Association at the Executive Council’s meeting in Bloomington. A Groups reunion and charter ceremony were held in Indianapolis. Now alumni are receiving their first official newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about these events and the people who are making it all happen — the alumni of Indiana University’s Groups Program. You’ll find numerous articles within, plus a photo spread, to bring you up to date on the organization that may have been your first encounter with IU. Welcome to The Covered Bridge!

Sassafras Award goes to four

The Sassafras Award, the Groups Alumni Association’s award to recognize its distinguished alumni, was given to four graduates of the Groups Program at the GAA charter ceremonies, held in Indianapolis on July 17. The awards, featuring green sassafras leaves, were named for the sassafras tree that is indigenous to Indiana. The charter ceremonies program noted: “Since the settling of the state, sassafras wood has been used to warm Hoosier homesteads and its dried roots have been brewed to make that most native of all Indiana libations, sassafras tea. The distinguished Groups alumni who receive this award have been selected because their distinguished careers in the areas of arts and entertainment, business, community service, and education exemplify the core or root values of the Groups Program.”

Nathaniel Jones (’69), BS’73, MS’77, won the award for his work in education. Jones, a native of Indianapolis, earned BS and EdS degrees from Indiana University and a master’s degree in education from Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. Jones’s other honors include being awarded the state of Indiana’s Sagamore of the Wabash, Educator of the Year by the Center for Leadership Development, and the national Milken Educator Award. He has also been named one of the 100 Top Executives in North America and was featured in the 2003 edition of Who’s Who in Black Indianapolis. Currently, he is the superintendent of schools for the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township, the first African American to hold this position.

Louis Lopez (’73), BA’77, won the Sassafras for community service. Lopez, a native of Gary, earned a BA in liberal arts from Indiana University and a master’s in public administration from the City University of New York. In addition to serving on the staffs of three Indiana U.S. senators and in the administrations of two Indiana governors, Lopez’s honors include being named Outstanding Young Man of America (1985) and appearing in Who’s Who Among Hispanic Americans (1987). Currently, he is the director of the Indiana Program for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Dawn Ridley (’86), BA’91, won the Sassafras for her business activities. Ridley, a native of Evansville, earned a BA degree in African-American studies and psychology from Indiana University and an MBA from Clark Atlanta University. She has held sales and marketing positions with the Atlanta Braves and the Atlanta Commission for the Olympic Games, which named her assistant manager for the Olympic Suite Program for the 1996 Olympic Games. She is vice president, corporate marketing and business development, for PlayersInc, the licensing and marketing subsidiary.

Kenneth L. Ware, the Covered Bridge
Groups reunion
(continued from page 1)
of the National Football League Players Association.

Kenneth L. Ware ('69), BA'76, MA'78, won the award for his contributions to arts and entertainment. Ware, a native of Indianapolis, earned three degrees from Indiana University Bloomington: BA in the Independent Major Program, with a concentration in music therapy, in 1973; MA in folklore in 1977; and PhD in folklore in 1989. A prolific composer, his compositions include “Dreams Deferred,” 1999 (text by Langston Hughes); nine original compositions written for soprano and female and male recitative, “Prelude to Swing Plus 50,” 1987; and 12 original compositions written for dance, choir, saxophone, trumpet, piano, synthesizer, bass, drums, and percussion. Currently, Ware is a computer technology consultant for OIC and the Department of Education, Indianapolis, and an instructor of computer applications and black music history at IUPUI.

Vernon G. Smith receives Covered Bridge Award
State Rep. Vernon G. Smith, BS’66, MS’69, the keynote speaker for the charter luncheon, received the Covered Bridge Award, the highest award given by the Groups Program. The presentation was made by James Sims (’75), BGS’97. According to the charter ceremonies program, the award is so named because “Indiana’s rustic red-hued covered bridges are portals to the world for many Hoosiers and rural reminders of their state university’s colors. The Groups Student Support Services Program, like these humble structures, hewn out of the state’s woodlands, provides a sturdy bridge out of poverty and hopelessness for many gifted first-generation, low-income, and physically challenged Hoosiers who aspire to achieve the American Dream and join the distinguished list of Indiana University graduates.”

While a student at Indiana University, Smith, a Gary native, was a member of the university’s recruiting task force that visited eight high schools in Gary and East Chicago in the spring of 1968. The 43 African-American and Hispanic students that they recruited became the first class in the IU Groups Program and were, thereafter, dubbed “Group 43.”

Vernon G. Smith, left, presents the Covered Bridge Award to Rep. Vernon Smith.

Smith continues to champion causes that uplift Indiana’s minority youth. He is the founder and president of IU Dons Inc., an organization that encourages African-American teenagers to aspire to earn a college degree. Currently, Rep. Smith serves as chair of the Indiana Commission on Social Status of Black Males.

Delia McClam congratulates Rozelle Boyd for a lifetime of achievement.

Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Rozelle Boyd
Rozelle Boyd, MA’64, a native of Indianapolis, was awarded the Groups Program’s first Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering efforts as the first director of the Groups Program.

Delia McClam, BS’72, MS’75, a member of Group 43, presented the award. Etched into the award’s mounted rectangular glass front is an image of one mountain climber reaching back to give a helping hand to a fellow climber below. This etching captures the mentoring spirit that Boyd freely gave to Groups students during his administrative career at IU. He began his university career as associate dean of the University Division and as founding director of the Groups Student Support Services Program. Later, he was appointed director and dean of a freshman–sophomore division of Indiana University that annually enrolls upward of 12,000 students.
From humble beginnings to lofty achievements

For those who will be reading about the Groups Program for the first time, let me give you a brief background about this program, which is celebrating not only the founding of the Groups Alumni Association, but also 36 years of service on the IU Bloomington campus. Let me also make note of the fact that, throughout this newsletter, alumni are identified by the date they entered Groups in parentheses after their names, followed by IU degrees/dates.

Established as a pilot project in fall 1968, the Groups Program was Indiana University’s attempt to address low college attendance rates among students in Indiana who would be the first in their families to graduate from college, who were from low-income backgrounds, and who were physically challenged. In that first year, the program enrolled 43 students, all recruited from Gary and East Chicago. Today, the program admits more than 250 students each year to the Bloomington campus. They come from large cities and small towns throughout the state of Indiana. To date, more than 9,000 students, drawn from Indiana’s African-American, Hispanic, White, Asian, Native-American, and immigrant populations, have participated in the Groups Student Support Services Program. Groups alumni have gone on to develop successful professional careers and become influential contributors to

(continued on page 4)

Janice L. Wiggins receives Sagamore of the Wabash Award

Janice L. Wiggins, the current director of the Groups Program, was the surprised recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest honor that the state of Indiana can bestow upon one of its citizens. State Rep. Carolene Mays, of Indianapolis, made the presentation of the framed document signed by Gov. Joe E. Kernan. The plaque reads, in part:

“Whereas, Janice L. Wiggins has endeared herself to the Citizens of Indiana, one distinguished by Humanity in Living, her Loyalty in Friendship, her Wisdom in Council, and her Inspiration in Leadership:

“Now, therefore, recognizing her greatness and desiring to avail myself of her council, I do hereby appoint her a Chief-tain upon my Staff with the rank and title of Sagamore of the Wabash.”

In a letter that accompanied the award, Gov. Kernan wrote: “Thank you again, Janice, for the contributions you have made to your state. Indiana is better off today because of your dedication to it and your fellow Hoosiers.”
Director’s report  
(continued from page 3)

their communities.

As we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the GSSS, we are extremely excited about receiving our Groups Alumni Association charter from the Indiana University Alumni Association. It was a long time coming. A year ago the staff and I were having lunch with La Verta Terry, a former director of Groups, and our conversation shifted to forming a Groups alumni association. La Verta told me that she and Rozelle Boyd, the first director of the program, had been unsuccessful in their attempts to establish an alumni chapter. I assured her that their dream would become a reality.

The first step in this arduous task was the establishment of a dedicated task force composed of Groups Program staff, alumni, and IUAA personnel. William H. Wiggins Jr., professor emeritus of African American and African diaspora studies, and Patricia Carlton-Nyangira (’88) co-chaired this group, whose other charter members are, in addition to myself, Clarence Boone Jr., Ulysses C. Burnett II, Roger Gildersleeve, Harold Hanks-\nough Jr., Wakisha Malone, Tiffany Mann, Delia McClam, Dionne McKaskle, Lloyd E. Sally, James Sims, Lindsey A. Smith, and Janice Tharp. After more than a year of Saturday morning meetings, this task force — thanks in no small measure to the counsel provided by IUAA administrators Clarence Boone Jr., national director of the Neal-Marshall Alumni Club, and John Hobson, senior vice president and chief operating officer, and the dedicated commitment of the task force members (some of whom had to travel several hours to attend the meetings), a Groups Alumni Association constitution was drafted and presented to the IUAA Board of Managers for approval. On June 17, during a luncheon celebrating the 150th anniversary of the IUAA, Ken Beckley, president, presented a handsomely framed GAA charter to us.

In addition to the establishment of an IUAA alumni chapter, here are some other noteworthy accomplishments that have occurred with the program over the last eight years. These accomplishments have been built upon the strong foundation laid by former directors Rozelle Boyd, La Verta Terry, and Carolyn Callo\-way-Thomas.

• Time Magazine, September 2001, cited the Groups Program as one of Indiana University Bloomington’s three “highly effective programs [that] help first-year students make a successful transition into college life.”

• In 1998, Groups established the Al-pha Delta Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, an organization that recognizes academic achievement in American colleges and universities. Currently, about 150 students and honorary members (alumni, faculty, and staff), have been inducted into the chapter.

• We’ve hired two Groups Program alumni. Vincent Isom (’86), BS’91, MS’93, is the program coordinator for Upper Class Initiatives, and Kimberly (Ross) Jenkins (’93), BS’99, is an academic adviser and science tutor.

• For the last seven years, the program has had more than 80 percent persistence rates in its freshman and sophomore classes.

• We redesigned the intense learning Summer Experience Program in three core academic courses — critical writing, math, and critical reading/reasoning — to last six weeks instead of eight.

• IU established the Groups Merit Awards with scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $4,000 for students with cumulative GPAs of 3.0 to 4.0 and an incentive monetary award of $500 for students who attain a GPA of 2.8 to 2.9.

• In 1998, Groups established the Study Abroad program and numerous internships. More than 150 students have participated in these. Groups students have visited Australia, Ghana, England, Finland, France, and Spain. They have held internships with the General Electric Corp. in Amsterdam, Holland; Marathon Oil Co. in Findley, Ohio; and the Medical Academic Advancement Program at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

• In May and August 2004, 115 Groups students graduated.

• For more information about the Groups Program, please contact us at (812) 855-0507 or visit our Web site at www.indiana.edu/~groups.

— Janice Wiggins
The Groups Alumni Association’s charter ceremony activities, whose general theme was "With all deliberate speed": 36 years of supporting first-generation and low-income Hoosiers’ aspirations to become Indiana University alumni,” began at noon with a reception in the spacious lobby of the Indianapolis Urban League.

Attendees included a delegation from the IU office of the vice president for student development and diversity staff; members of the African American Landmark Committee; officials from the Historic Landmark Foundation of Indiana, the Indianapolis Urban League, the Indiana University Alumni Association, and Hoosiers for Higher Education; city and state elected officials; community leaders; and Groups Program staff, recommenders, students, and alumni. Everyone signed the registration book and picked up their table assignments before heading to the open bar. An instrumental quartet, led by Harold Hansborough Jr. ('83), provided the musical ambiance for the more than 120 guests, who greeted old friends and classmates and reminisced. They looked at photographic displays on loan from the Neal-Marshall Center’s permanent exhibit of the African American Experience at Indiana University and the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana’s selected display of Indiana’s African-American public schools.

Among the Groups alumni who signed the registration book were Matthew Booker, Pat Carlton-Nyangira, Gary Cushinberry, La Donna Dunn, Jose Espada, Nichelle Hayes, Sachiko Higgins-Kente, Jackie Jones-Gibbs, Earl Knight, Crystal Livers-Powers, Wakisa Malone, Dione McKaskle, Michael Phelps, Iris Rosa, Mark Russell, Lloyd Sally, Doris Sims, Lindsey Smith, and Forrest Walker.

At 1 p.m., the guests gathered in the banquet hall, designed by Pat Carlton-Nyangria ('82), charter committee co-chair. The tables were covered with white table cloths, with settings of maroon cloth napkins, crystal glasses, and silverware, between which were placed a six-fold historical brochure of the Groups Program, a printed program, and, in keeping with the significance of the occasion, a menu printed on handmade paper. The menu and the historical brochure were designed by James Reidhaar, an IU graphic designer, and intern Michele Harvey. At the head of each setting, two commemorative mementos were placed: a commemorative button, featuring a red-hued Indiana covered bridge with the caption “Groups Alumni Association/Indiana University/Chartered June 19, 2004” and the motto “Ensuring the Future,” and a four-inch-square marble paperweight, encased in a red mesh pouch, upon whose metal top was engraved the date of the GAA’s founding.

After Donald Griffin Sr. ('69), BS’78, pastor of the Bedford, Ind., Second Baptist Church, gave his invocation, the guests enjoyed a gourmet lunch of chicken with leeks and shiitake mushrooms (breast of chicken lightly dusted with flour and paprika, sautéed and simmered in a sauce of shiitakes, capers, leeks, and kalamata olives) or London broil (thin-sliced sirloin of beef topped with sautéed mushroom-sand roasted garlic demi glaze); potatoes; rice pilaf with caramelized onions and spinach; spring vegetable sauté; a salad of mesclum greens with oranges and strawberries and a creamy citrus dressing; and dessert choices of chocolate ganache, fresh fruit tart, and white chocolate mousse cup.

Floyd Worley ('88), BA’92, JD’95, policy director for education and minority affairs for the state of Indiana, who served as master of ceremonies, welcomed the group after dinner.

Other speakers included Rep. Carolene Mays, who brought greetings from the governor; Kisha Tandy, BS’97, assistant curator of social history at the Indiana State Museum, who reflected on the importance of preserving Indiana’s African-American public schools; Rep. Vernon G. Smith, whose keynote address stressed the importance of earning a college education, especially for African-American males; and, as he delivered his speech, Rozelle Boyd, president of the Indianapolis City–County Council, who injected spontaneous greetings to Iris (continued on page 12)
Congratulations!
Groups charter event brings alumni, staff, and friends together again.
Photographs courtesy of Judy Andrews; Jeremy Hogan and the Bloomington Herald-Times; and Chris Meyer and the IU Home Pages.
New Groups Alumni Association catches attention in the news

The establishment of the Groups Alumni Association generated three news articles.

- The July 24, 2004, Bloomington Herald-Times “Orchids and Onions” column’s orchid to the Groups Program read: “To IU’s Groups Student Support Services Program, which has aided more than 9,000 first-generation, low-income, and physically handicapped Indiana high school graduates attend and, in many instances, graduate from Indiana University. It has now established the Groups Alumni Association, which will ensure the Groups Program will continue to assist further students. And to Janice L. Wiggins, Groups director, who was honored with a Sagamore of the Wabash recently in recognition of her 25 years of service to IU and the Bloomington community.”

- The September/October 2004 issue of the Indiana Alumni Magazine featured two articles on the Groups Program. The first article, titled “Groups Alumni Affiliate with IUAA,” was illustrated by a colorful green chart that outlined the five-steps that the GAA task force had to follow in order to receive its charter. The item noted: “During its meeting in June, the IUAA Executive Council welcomed the Groups Alumni Association as its newest affiliate group. … Affiliate groups — such as the Asian Alumni Association, the Marching Hundred Alumni Council, and Woodburn Guild — are established by alumni with common interests.” The second article, titled “30 Under 30 to Watch,” included Jason Seward (’93), BA’97, in the list of 30 IU alumni under 30 years old who have distinguished themselves. The article noted that “… in 2002, Seward launched the Millennium Momentum Foundation Inc., an L.A.-based organization dedicated to increasing the number of young adults in the fields of public administration, policy, and public affairs.” Seward, the 29-year-old president and chair of the foundation’s board, said: “I sleep well every night knowing that when the door of leadership was opened for me, I effectively positioned myself to keep it open for other young professionals who seek the same opportunity across the nation.”

- The Aug. 24 issue of The Indianapolis Star’s “City & State” section published the most extensive of the three articles, under the title “Program Gives Students Earlier Orientation.” Tran Kim’s article was based on extensive fieldwork. In addition to interviewing numerous Groups alumni and students, she attended the GAA charter luncheon and traveled to Bloomington on two occasions to interview members of the summer orientation class of ’04 and to attend the Groups Program’s Summer Theater Production. The article features three color photographs taken during this annual concluding performance. Two of them feature students — Crystal Hastings performing a scene from the musical Duet and Tonisha Nichols and Tony Cusic acting out a scene from the musical Purlie. The third features director James Mumford taking a curtain call at the conclusion of the performance. Kim wrote of Mumford and his plays: “Part of the confidence-building regimen is the option to participate in the Groups Summer Theater Production. Directed by James Mumford, the director of the African American Choral Ensemble, this elective strives to build students’ self-esteem through performance. For some of these students, this is the first opportunity they’ve had to be on stage.” The article also includes a side bar listing the six criteria that high school graduates must meet to be eligible to participate in the Groups Program.

Look for future items about Groups “In the Media” in The Covered Bridge.

Former directors attend charter luncheon, awards festivities

Groups alumni and friends particularly enjoyed visiting with the past three directors of the Groups Program, who participated in the charter luncheon ceremonies.

Rozelle Boyd, who directed the program from 1968 to 1981, offered reflections on his tenure as director and assisted in presenting the Sassafras Awards. From 1969 to the present, he has served on the Indianapolis/Marion County City-Council. In 2004, he became the first African American elected president of the council.

La Verta Terry, who directed the Groups Program from 1982 to 1991, received hugs and kisses from Groups alumni she had “mothered” during her tenure. She, too, participated in presenting the Sassafras Awards. During her tenure, Sen. Richard Lugar read into the Congressional Record a tribute to Terry’s “dedication and commitment” to “inspire, motivate, challenge, and encourage” Groups students. Now retired, she lives in Bloomington.

Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, PhD’76, who directed the Groups Program from 1992 to 1995, became reacquainted with former students and also assisted with the Sassafras Awards. During her tenure, Calloway-Thomas added to the Groups summer orientation program a mini-conference that required Groups students to read great literary works and discuss them with IU professors. She is now a professor in IUB’s Department of Communication and Culture.
Undergraduate activities

The Groups presence was evident throughout the Bloomington campus during 2003–04. In February 2004, IU Home Pages, a universitywide publication, published an article and photograph (shown at right) showing an IU carpenter hanging one of the 30 framed posters of the Groups Program’s exhibition that was displayed during the 1998 Homecoming celebration of the program’s 30th anniversary. Fittingly, the panels are placed along the wall of the stairwell that leads to the program’s office in Maxwell Hall.

Currently enrolled Groups students have also been the subject of campus and Bloomington publications. The Aug. 27, 2004, issue of the Bloomington Herald-Times featured Groups students in its article on Culture Fest, the welcoming celebration for IU’s freshman class. Zeli-deh Martinez (’00), BS’04, a La Casa staff member, said of the event: “It [Culture Fest] shows the commitment of different culture centers to welcome people here.” The photograph (shown below at right) that accompanied the article identified the Groups students thus: “From left, Indiana University freshmen Sarah Taylor, of South Bend, who plans to study criminal justice and pre-medicine; Roger Weaver, of Indianapolis, who will study psychology; and John White, of South Bend, who will study business…”

Campus publications also featured the extracurricular activities of Groups students. The fall 2004 issue of RS Magazine’s article “Champions of Fun” featured the intramural basketball event Scandalous Game, which won the Division 1 women’s intramural basketball championship in the finals played in Assembly Hall. Lorenza Jara (’01) and Joaquin Jara (’00), a brother and sister from Hammond, were key members of the team. “Winning the championship,” said Lorenza, “was exciting because the majority of our families were there to watch.” The May 1, 2004, issue of the Bloomington Herald-Times article “Hollis Twins Are Two of a Kind for IU” had this to say about Russell and Rodney Hollis, both Groups’00: “[T]he identical twins from Michigan City weren’t big-time recruits when they arrived at IU as walk-ons, but have developed into two of the Big Ten’s top middle-distance runners. Rodney ranks first in the conference in the 800…while Russell ranks 10th.” The article also notes that academically, the brothers are both exercise science majors and “Academic All-Big Ten” selections.

The spring 2004 issue of Connect, an IUB publication that features the activities of learning communities at IU, published an article called “Culture and Contemplation,” which featured the activities of the Groups-sponsored Thomas I. Atkins Living Learning Center, whose “primary intellectual foci are religion, history, ethics, and philosophy.” The primary objective of this center is to educate “all people about African-American culture and history.” Nancy Lorenz, a 30-year veteran of IU’s Residential Programs and Services, and Vincent Isom, Groups staff member, head the center. In January 2004, the center sponsored a bus trip to New York City, which included being part of the audience for a taping of “Showtime at the Apollo” and tutoring fourth- and fifth-grade classes at an inner-city school. More than 50 Groups’04 members live in Atkins this year.

During spring 2004, George Edward Walker (’01) played a major role the
1970s

Diane Jackson-Chapman ('70), BS'73, MS'80, is director of the prevention/intervention department in Georgia’s DeKalb County. She writes: “It has been a blessing for me to reach out and bless others within the public school setting.” She also shared this bit of family news: “[I have] five sons ages 22 to 33: three in college, one a barber and the other an accounts manager for a computer company.”

Iris Rosa, Group 43, BS’73, MS’74, celebrated her 30th anniversary of directing the African American Dance Company with a dance program at Bloomington’s Buskirk-Chumley Theatre. Many AADC alumni returned for the occasion. Rosa’s teaching and dancing career was the subject of an article published in the September/October 2003 issue of the Indiana Alumni Magazine. Rosa lives in Indianapolis.

Charlotte (Andrews) Wright ('69), BS’73, MS’81, is principal of Pulaski-Dunbar Middle School in Gary, Ind. She lives in Gary.

Louis Lopez ('73), BS’77, is the state program director of the Corporation for National and Community Service in Indianapolis. The September/October 2003 issue of the Indiana Alumni Magazine featured him in an article titled “Coming Full Circle.” He lives in Indianapolis.

Thomas E. “Popcorn” Doyle Sr. ('73), BS’78, an Indiana University employee, is a certified Indiana High School Athletic Association basketball and crosscountry (continued on page 11)

Alumni spotlight

Public service is Sims’s byword

Doris (Williams) Sims, BA’79, MS’98, an Evansville native and member of Groups’75, has fashioned a distinguished career in public service. Sims has earned two degrees from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs in policy and administration. Upon receiving her first degree, Sims began a distinguished public service career with the city of Bloomington. During her tenure in Bloomington municipal government, she served as executive director of the city of Bloomington’s housing and neighborhood development department, executive director of the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association, and director of personnel for the city.

In September 2002, Sims’s public service career moved to the state level, when then-Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan appointed her as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce’s Region 10, one of 12 new field offices created across the state. Region 10 is composed of Monroe, Brown, Lawrence, Owen, Greene, Jackson, Jennings, Decatur, and Bartholomew counties. According to a press release, “Sims oversees the delivery of the agency’s programs and services by partnering with local communities and businesses in their efforts to develop, expand, and strengthen the quality of life in Indiana.” In the Bedford Times Mail article “Sims Appointed to Lead Bloomington Field Office,” Kernan issued a ringing endorsement of her that has proven to be prophetic. “Doris,” he told the reporter, “brings a great deal of experience and expertise to the job that, along with the resources and partnerships that will be created by working with IU, will result in countless new opportunities for the entire region.” For the past two years, Sims and her two-member staff have been doing just that for the Hoosiers who live in her nine-county Region 10.

Student news

(continued from page 9)

establishment of the Epsilon Omicron chapter of Pi Sigma Epsilon, the business and sales fraternity, on the Bloomington campus. In addition to being one of the founders, Walker was elected vice president of public relations for the chapter. The national fraternity, located in Milwaukee, encourages business opportunities among university and college undergraduates.

2004 graduates

In 2004, 115 Groups Student Support Services Program students graduated from Indiana University, officially joining the ranks of our alumni. At the end of spring semester, 94 students were listed on the tentative graduation list: 45 from Groups’00; two from Groups’01; 40 from Groups’99; five from Groups’98; and two from Groups’96. Members of the class who are currently enrolled in graduate school at IU are Matthew Booker ('00) (African American and African diaspora studies); Daniel Day ('00) (physical therapy); and Gerald Mitchell ('00) (higher education and student affairs).

Graduates who have begun their professional careers include Samira Jeihoona ('00), who has moved to San Diego to begin working for Eli Lilly; Arnold L. Lane ('99), now in Greenville, S.C., working for General Electric in energy products finance, e-mailed recently to say: “I am just writing to say hi and to see how things are going in Bloomington. … I am still learning the ropes in corporate America and loving the experience. It is still quite different from a university atmosphere, where ideas and opinions flow freely. Here it seems like it’s more conservative.” Chris Beaty ('00), former IU football player, shared this good news in an e-mail to Lou Moir, his Groups adviser: “I’m finally graduated and really excited about that. I never understood how big an accomplishment graduation was until I reflected on all of my academic achievements. … I accepted a job with a company called Premier Athlete and Sports Management. I will be an associate sports agent, which I’m really excited about. I will be learning the logistics of the business and also helping with recruiting prospective athletes. It was an opportunity that I could not pass up, because this is the field I want to be in, and there was no better time, so I jumped at the chance.”
Alumni notebook
(continued from page 10)

official. He lives in Bloomington.

Michael J. Williams (‘80), BS’79, CPubM’91, is chief financial officer for the Indianapolis Department of Public Works. He and his family live in Indianapolis.

1980s

Charles Layne (‘75), BS’81, lives and works in Bloomington.

Steve White (‘78), BS’92, was recently promoted by Comcast Cable Communication Inc. to regional senior vice president of its Southern Division of Kentucky and Tennessee. He and his wife live in Atlanta.

Mark A. Russell (‘82), BA’86, is housing services coordinator for the Indianapolis Urban League. He lives in Indianapolis.

Forrest Walker Jr. (‘80), BS’88, was recently named commodity manager for Waterloo Industries’ international market. Walker represented the Waterloo, Iowa-based firm in Beijing last summer. He and wife, Gina, live in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

1990s

Bonearl Black III (‘95) was recently hired by an EMT basic unit in Gary, Ind. He lives in Gary.

De Carla Livers (‘88), ‘92, is the senior writer and editor for the Black Press Yearbook: Who’s Who in Black Media and managing editor and founder of the Historical Black Press Foundation. Both organizations are in Washington, D.C., where she lives.


2000s

William Knox (‘95), BS’00, is on staff at the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau. He and his family live in Bloomington.

Cherie (Wardell) Commissiong (‘98), BS’02, MS’04 writes: “I am currently employed as an academic adviser in the University Division of Indiana University Bloomington. My future professional goals include pursuing a doctorate in sociology or social psychology. My future career goals include working in any position that will allow me to crusade for the access and equity of underrepresented groups in higher education as well as in other sections of our society. I would also love to teach at the collegiate level and lecture worldwide on issues relevant to underrepresented groups.”

Brandi Vardiman (‘98), BA’03, writes: “I currently reside in Miami, Fla. I am a part of the Teach for America Program. I teach kindergarten. This is my second year with the program.... I visit campus [IU] once a year to recruit graduating seniors for Teach for America. My focus is on African-American and Latino applicants. The program is open to all persons who have obtained a bachelor’s degree. The discipline does not matter. First deadline is Oct. 24, 2004. The second is Feb. 18, 2005. I can be reached via e-mail at bvardima@daschools.net.”

Stephney Anderson (‘88), BA’04, created and hosts “Studio A,” a popular television show that airs on Bloomington’s BCAT network. James Mumford, longtime director of IU’s African American Choral Ensemble, and Maria Lillian Casillas, director of the La Casa Culture Center, were recently interviewed on the program. Anderson was also the keynote speaker for the 2004 Groups Program’s Recommender’s Workshop. She and her cat live in Bloomington.

Barbara Bandera (‘99), BS’04 was the subject of this “shout out” by Gordon Hershey, her counselor: “Barbara ... is the fourth of five siblings who came to IU as participants in the Groups Program. Her whole family is an example of commitment to education. Including her father, eight of her family members (plus one spouse) have attended IU, either in Bloomington through Groups or in South Bend at the IU campus there. Barbara is an extraordinarily talented student, she graduated with just over an A-average, and she explored at least three different majors on her way to a degree (with distinction) in elementary education.”

Matthew A. Booker (‘00), BA’04 writes: “I have recently finished my bachelor of arts degree (majors: telecommunications, African American and African diaspora studies, and sociology). This year I am enrolled in the African American and African diaspora studies master’s program [at IU]. I will eventually enter a PhD program in sociology.”

Gerald L. Mitchell Jr. (‘00), BS’04 writes: “I’m currently seeking a master’s in higher education student affairs [at IU]. And I also aspire to have a PhD in educational policy. My ultimate goals are to become the president of a Big Ten University and a full-time professor researching the mechanics of the underrepresented student and educational policy.”

Milestones

~ Births ~

Noah Franklin, son. Mother: Zakeya Franklin (‘96), BS’01. Roger Gildersleeve is the godfather.

Jalynn Nevaeh Knight, daughter. Parents: Earl E. Knight III (‘97), BS’01, MPA’04, and LaMeca Perkins (‘99). After successfully completing a summer internship, Knight was hired by Cook Inc. in Bloomington.

Mikaili Simone Commissiong, daughter. Parents: Simeon A. and Cherie (Wardell) Commissiong (‘98), BS’02, MS’04. Simeon is an IUB student in telecommunications.

~ Marriages ~

Zelideh Martinez (‘00), BS’04 and Salvador Cabada exchanged wedding vows this summer in Xicotencatl, Tamaulipas, Mexico. The newlyweds live in Bloomington, where Martinez is pursuing a master’s degree in student affairs in the School of Education’s Higher Education Program. Cabada is employed by the city of Bloomington.

~ Retirements ~

Lou Moir, assistant director of academic student support for the Groups Program.

Sylvia Morrisroe, recommender, East Chicago Central High School, East Chicago, Ind.

Warren Ross, recommender, Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis.

Jack Tonk, recommender, Wirt High School, Gary, Ind.

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Milestones
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Carl Ziegler, IU German Professor who, as director of Collins Living-Learning Center, created “Germlish,” Groups’s summer orientation course.

~ Deaths ~

Gladys Lenora Burns, 78, mother of June Cargile, director of the FASE mentoring program. Services were held in Brookfield, Wis.

James L. Davis (’91), BA’95, 31, brother of Mylandar Davis (’95) and Butler University policeman. Services were held in Indianapolis.

Kelly Henchen (’98), BS’02, 24, Chi Alpha Epsilon, ’01, ’02. Services were held in Indianapolis.

Edgar “Peck” Johnson Jr., 74, father of Dawn Ridley (’86). Services were held in Evansville, Ind.

Charter ceremony
(continued from page 5)

Rosa, of Group 43, and other students he mentored during his tenure as the first director of the Groups Program.

Boyd and fellow former directors La Verta Terry and Carolyn Calloway-Thomas joined Wiggins in presenting the Sassafras Award to members of the first class of distinguished alumni. Kenneth L. Ware (’69), the arts and entertainment winner, paused in his acceptance speech to present a copy of one of his musical compositions to Rosa, his longtime colleague. Dawn Ridley (’86), the business awardee, thanked Professor James Mumford for encouraging her to participate in his summer orientation drama production, despite her woeful audition. Louis Lopez (’73) gave an emotional note of gratitude to Terry for all of her “mothering” and encouragement. Nathaniel Jones (’69) paid tribute to Joe Russell, former dean for Afro-American affairs, the late Jimmy Ross, former director of scholarships and financial aid, and Dean Boyd, for being role models of black manhood that he could readily draw upon during his IU undergraduate career.

Wiggins issued a closing challenge to the alumni and friends of the Groups Program to actively support the GAA to ensure that the opportunities they experienced will be available for future Groups Program students.

Ware, who had entertained earlier with a performance of “Kantalever II,” and Mumford, who directs the IU African American Choral Ensemble, closed the ceremonies by leading the guests in a rousing rendition of “Hail to Old IU.”

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