Director’s report

Inaguration performance kicks off busy spring

Greetings from your college home, Indiana University! The big story of the fall semester was the anticipation felt in preparing for our appearance at the Indiana Society of Washington, D.C.’s Inaugural Ball in January. The Singing Hoosiers were present at the swearing-in ceremony.

Spring 2008 was dotted with concerts in nearby Franklin and Columbus, Ind., a tour of Texas with a small group, a proud performance at IU Sing, and the Spring Concert on April 5. I was indeed proud of the IU Sing performance because I was committed to attend the ACDA convention as an officer that weekend and turned the entirety over to undergraduate alumnus of the Singing Hoosiers and then graduate assistant Ryan Endris and the Singing Hoosier leadership. I arrived on campus just in time to see a fully costumed and staged performance that opened the concert both evenings with great pizzazz, good singing, and professionalism.

In the fall we traveled in Richmond and Clarksville, Ind., and returned to North Central High School in Indianapolis for performances to near-capacity audiences. Our homecoming appearance was moved outside in a new format on a very cold Saturday morning, but the reception we received was extremely warm. Our Chimes of Christmas concert was performed before a record crowd during my tenure — nearly sold out.

As I said earlier, the big story is the preparation for our Washington inaugural performance. The invitation came in June, which made getting funding and then hotel reservations a top priority.

(continued on page 2)

A PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE

Singing Hoosiers make history with music during Indiana Society of Washington, D.C. Inaugural Ball, witness 44th Inauguration Day

by Frank J. Van Atta, junior, Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council student representative

To perform for or attend a presidential inauguration is an honor. Yet the Singing Hoosiers’ most recent tour to Washington, D.C., for the Indiana Society of Washington Inaugural Ball was undoubtedly an experience of a lifetime for each and every one of the 52 singers selected to perform. Not only were we in attendance for a historic Inauguration Day, the Singing Hoosiers were able to be a part of this event by sharing what we love — music.

The trip began quite early on Friday, Jan. 16. The first stop on the tour was in Bedford, Pa., for a much-needed rest after a long bus ride. The group left for the U.S. Capitol the next day, and arrived at our hotel in Rosslyn, Va., shortly before noon. The rest of the day afforded all of the students an opportunity to enjoy Washington, D.C.

We toured the many monuments, museums, and other historic sites throughout the city. Many museums and other destinations held extended hours to accommodate the thousands of visitors that had already descended upon the city for the event. A few of the singers even met Garth Brooks and other celebrities who were performing a sound check for Saturday’s concert.

Sunday brought our first performance of the trip at James Hubert Blake High School in Silver Springs, Md. Singing Hoosiers Andrew Morstein and Owen Stevenson are alumni of the school. The day began with a long rehearsal, before the sound check for the concert. The day began with a long rehearsal, for both the concert at Blake High School as well as for the ball. We also conducted a clinic with the high school’s very talented a cappella ensemble led by choral conductor Shirley.

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Director’s report
(continued from page 1)

With initial leadership from Karl Zacker at the IU Alumni Association, the necessary funding to send S2 Singing Hoosiers to Washington on a six-day trip was committed. President McRobbie was instrumental in soliciting various departments across the campus to pledge the money that was budgeted. Jacobs School of Music Dean Gwyn Richards was extremely helpful and, at the same time, hopeful that all the members would be able to make the trip. This was not possible given the limitations of the venue.

Therefore, I had the difficult task of selecting 48 singers and four instrumentalists for the trip. With the help of our newest graduate assistant, former Singing Hoosier current Bloomington Pops conductor, Chris Ludwa, we held auditions after Chimes, and the selection process was completed. An extreme amount of time has been spent since the reception of the invitation on the seemingly endless details. This will be an experience of a lifetime where history will be made. You can imagine each member’s excitement. An article in this newsletter will re-cap the event for you in the students’ own words.

The concert schedule doesn’t stop with Washington, D.C., though. This extraordinary event simply jump starts everything throughout the U.S. during the holidays as a result of their “12 Days of Christmas” video on YouTube. Many have asked and just to clarify: the 10 original members of which eight remain (two new members were added) were all members of the Singing Hoosiers and gave their first performances on road shows. I watched their many 2008 holiday TV appearances — on programs such as NBC’s Today Show and the TNT special Christmas in Washington — with pride. They have resigned from their jobs and will soon record their next album.

Personally, I continue serving the Choral Conducting Department as interim chair and chairman of a search committee charged with hiring two new members of our faculty. Because of the depth and breadth of these responsibilities, I am blessed to have Chris Ludwa as graduate assistant and with the incredible leadership from the members within the Singing Hoosiers lead by Student Manager Anne Litchfield. I could not do all that is to be done without their help.

In closing, we are extremely happy to welcome Jennifer Gentry as our new IUAA liaison. She has not been on the job very long and has already impressed us with her organizational skills and her attention to details. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Singing Hoosiers and our cause with your donations or your moral support. In these lean times, your support is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of Marilyn and the entire Singing Hoosiers family, we wish all well and hope to see you on campus or at one of our concerts soon.

— Michael Schwartzkopf, BME’69, MM’76

Alumnus returns as associate instructor

Dear friends: I have the privilege of serving as associate instructor again this year, nearly 10 years after I served while earning my master’s at IU, as I pursue a doctorate degree in conducting.

Serving Dr. Schwartzkopf and the organization that was the foundation of my musical career is like returning to your hometown to see that the things that mattered most are still there, though evolved. In rehearsal each day — listening, observing, and conducting as needed — I reflect with gratitude, not just upon what the ensemble did for me when I was in my undergraduate music education program, but upon what I see it doing for the current generation of singers.

As a member of the Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council, I continue to be a staunch advocate for the purpose this fine organization serves in the lives of so many educators, doctors, lawyers, and financiers, but I am equally passionate about the need for this experience as a musician. Having sung with other ensembles at IU, I have had some incredible musical experiences. However, I maintain that the experience of the Singing Hoosiers is closer to the reality faced by 99 percent of alumni when we depart from Bloomington.

Lastly, on a sentimental note in light of the news I hear each day on my commute, I realize that rich harmonies, lingering melodies, and heartfelt lyrics are what we need more and more in our world. The songs the ensemble sings may or may not represent the views of the members on any given day, but the fact that 90+ individuals stop their other activities to come together, join their distinct voices in unified vowels, and work toward a common good makes me believe that somehow, someday we will find a new way of living. Each day I sit in rehearsal, I experience the living proof of my optimism.

— Chris Ludwa, BME’97, MM’99

Ludwa is conductor of Bloomington Pops Orchestra, director of Bay View Music Festival, and a proud new father as of Dec. 21, 2008.
Inaugural ball

(continued from page 1)

J. Letcher. The high-school group joined us to sing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. After a very successful clinic and concert, we headed back to Rosslyn to prepare for the inaugural ball.

By the time Monday morning came, the mood throughout the choir was almost surreal. Since the *Chimes of Christmas*, the ensemble had been working arduously at every rehearsal for this historic event. The group departed that morning for the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., for a rehearsal and technical run-through of the performance.

Singing Hoosiers prepared two separate sets for the event: a one-hour concert before the ball began, followed by the singing of the *National Anthem*, as well as a 10-minute performance during the ball itself. The hour-long performance featured many of the Singing Hoosiers’ most popular pieces including *Steppin’ Out*, *Applause*, and even some new favorites such as *The Four Seasons Medley*, and *A Queen Medley*. After the *Star Spangled Banner*, the ensemble performed a 10-minute segment including Indiana favorites such as *Lazy River* and *De-Lovely*. And of course, *Favorite Son* was the perfect way to bring an end to the election cycle. The concert culminated with an audience sing-a-long of *Back Home Again in Indiana*. The star-studded event was full of lavish gowns and many politically and socially influential figures. Sen. Evan Bayh even joined the ensemble for a private speech, as well as the singing of the University *Alma Mater* and *Fight Song*.

The experience was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my performance career, and I am certain many others feel the same way. The trip marked the first road show for some of our newest members. This set a very high standard that each met exceedingly well. Overall, the concert went incredibly and was certainly an event that none of the ensemble will ever forget.

Tuesday brought the addition of millions of people to the Washington area. The swell of humanity nearly shut down the METRO system, and most of the Singing Hoosiers walked to the inauguration. I did not hear a single complaint, though, from all of the members that made the trek to the Capitol building. A random drawing was held for the 26 tickets the choir received, yet, those that did not receive a ticket did not sit idly by. Many of the singers, including Dr. and Mrs. Schwartzkopf, went to the National Mall to watch the event with millions of others on large-screen projectors. The experience of attending the Inauguration of President Barack Obama transcends words. To absorb the energy and mood of the millions in attendance for the Inauguration Day was, in itself, an event. In fact, I stood next to a woman whose grandmother was shot and killed by a police officer during the civil rights riots of the early 1960s. The stories and bonds of those also in attendance made the experience even more meaningful to us — born in the late 1980s and early 1990s, never having known such turmoil in our lifetimes.

It would have been incredible simply to attend the inauguration. Yet, I had the true honor of doing so with 50 of my closest family members. I consider all of the members of The Singing Hoosiers to be part of my family, and experiences like this contribute to our success as an ensemble on and off of the stage. These experiences make us stronger as a group because of the pride that we take in what we do and the respect that we have for one another. Dr. Schwartzkopf did an incredible job preparing us for a performance that was important not only for the Singing Hoosiers, but also for Indiana University and the Jacobs School of Music.

As a music education major, I find no greater joy than sharing what I love to do with others. I know that this was the case for all of my fellow classmates. To state that this experience was that of a lifetime is simply an understatement. The inauguration was of epic importance, and it will remain in our country’s history as one of the most significant ceremonies of this time. To be able to say, “I was there,” is absolutely priceless. The Singing Hoosiers watched history being made, but we also had the prospect to add “our own kind of music” to history.
2008 Distinguished Alumni celebrated

At last spring’s banquet and concert, four alumni* were honored with our Distinguished Singing Hoosiers Alumni Award.

Lisa Williamson
Lisa Williamson, MM’92, PDip,’94, known for the agility of her lyric-coloratura voice and her theatrical artistry, has excelled in a wide variety of musical styles ranging from the operatic repertoire of Donizetti, Puccini, and Verdi to the musical theater of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Lerner and Loewe. She has made guest appearances with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Jacksonville Symphony, Quad City Symphony, the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra during her Carnegie Hall debut, and with the Toronto Symphony, performing with renowned conductor, Erich Kunzel.

Williamson’s operatic performances have included Violetta in La Traviata at the Pine Mountain Music Festival; Susannah in Le Nozze di Figaro with the Evansville Philharmonic; Blanche in Dialogues des Carmélites with Tulsa Opera in their young artists program; and Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus and Musetta in La Bohème with Triangle Opera. Additional performances have included Rigoletto and The Merry Widow with the Asheville Lyric Opera; Mozart’s Requiem and songs of Duke Ellington with The Atlanta Ballet Orchestra; La Bohème and La Traviata with the Bryan Symphony; Die Fledermaus, Pirates of Penzance and Guys and Dolls with Light Opera Oklahoma; and a national concert tour.

In addition to stage, concert, and recital work, Williamson has performed as a voice talent on numerous recordings, including the Broadway-tour soundtrack of 42nd Street and the Branson production of The Will Rogers’ Follies and frequently donates her time in performances that have helped to raise well over half a million dollars on behalf of philanthropic organizations around the country.

Douglas M. Webster
While at Indiana University, Douglas M. Webster, BM’85, was a four-year member of the Singing Hoosiers. He studied under William Shriner and Nicola Rossi-Lemeni, later returning to IUB to study opera stage direction under Rossi-Lemeni. With his first IU Opera Theatre performance in honor of composer Leonard Bernstein’s 70th birthday, Webster began his 20-year association with the music of Bernstein. Now considered the foremost interpreter of MASS, Bernstein’s epic theatre piece, Webster has lead productions as singer, director, and producer across the country including in Washington, D.C., Dallas, Denver, and at New York City’s Carnegie Hall. Internationally, he has led productions in Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, and at The Vatican.

Performing the music of Bernstein in concert, Webster has appeared with the Madison Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Oregon Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Indiana University Bernstein Festival, and on NPR.

Winner of the Joy in Singing and Concert Artists Guild awards, he has performed as a recitalist and soloist with symphony orchestras in 46 states. He regularly performs as soloist with orchestras and has made numerous appearances with the pops shows, BRAVO Broadway!, and The Broadway Baritones. He made his Broadway debut in Les Miserables.

Webster is artistic director for the American Singer Seminar, which currently has alumni performing leading roles on Broadway, National, and International tours, and he is currently on the faculty of the University of Oregon as director of the Opera Theater Program. He has recorded for Telarc (A Disney Spectacular with The Singing Hoosiers), New World, Yamaha, Zephyr, Town Hall, Eco Classics, and Koch records. His performance of MASS at the Vatican is available on Kultur Video.

He and his wife, Liz Byrd, make their home in Fairplay, Colo.

* Rick McCown, BA’74, PhD’80, was also honored as a distinguished alumni in 2008. He was unable to attend the 2008 Alumni Banquet but will be at this year’s festivities to accept his award. His profile will appear in the 2010 newsletter.

Congratulations to our 2009 Distinguished Singing Hoosiers Alumni!

Please join us in honoring these distinguished alumni at the 30th annual Singing Hoosiers alumni banquet on Saturday, April 4, 2009:

- Lawrence D. Eckerling
- Carl Lee Johnson
- Catherine Dupuis
- Dana W. Taylor
- Nicole Parker (first recipient of the new Outstanding Young Singing Hoosiers Alumni Award)
- Rick McCown (2008 DSHAA recipient)

See page 5 of this newsletter for details and reservations!
IU Singing Hoosiers invite you to be a part of the fun!
30th Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner & Concert

Saturday, April 4, 2009

- Reception at 4 p.m., Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center, 1000 E. 17th St.
- Dinner at 5 p.m., Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center
- Concert begins at 8 p.m., IU Auditorium

To order concert tickets only, contact Ticketmaster at (812) 333-9955 or on the Web at ticketmaster.com. For dinner and concert, register online at www.alumni.indiana.edu/groups/singinghoosiers or contact Jennifer Gentry at (800) 824-3044 or jengentr@indiana.edu.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** A limited number of rooms are being held at the Hilton Garden Inn. Ask for the Singing Hoosiers/IUAA block or enter group code “SING” online to receive a group rate of $109 per night. Rooms must be reserved by March 4. Call (812) 331-1335 or (877)-STAYHGI; www.hiltongardeninn.com.

**Make your reservation today — by mail or online!**

**Name** (Please Print) ____________________________________________

**Address** _______________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ______________ Zip ___________

**Year(s) in Singing Hoosiers (i.e., 1990–94)** __________________________

**Daytime phone** ____________________________ **E-mail** ______________

May we have permission to list your address, phone, and e-mail in the Singing Hoosiers roster available at the banquet?

Yes _____ No _____

**FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009:**

**AWARDS DINNER:**
- Please make _____ dinner reservations @ $25 per person = $__________

**CONCERT:**
- **First level** (seating in rows 1–25 of sections B,C, D):
  - _____ adult tickets @ $15 = $_____
  - _____ student tickets @ $12 = $_____

- **Second level** (remainder of the house):
  - _____ adult tickets @ $13 = $_____
  - _____ student tickets @ $10 = $_____

- **Total number of tickets ordered** ______

- **Total cost** $________

Total enclosed $_________________________ (Please make checks payable to Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council.)

**Bill my credit card:** ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

**Account number** ____________________________ **Expiration date** ____________

**Guest names for nametags** (Please Print and include years in Singing Hoosiers, if applicable)

Name ___________________________________________________________________

Name ___________________________________________________________________

Name ___________________________________________________________________

**Registrations must be received on or before March 30, 2009.**

Clip and mail this form and your check to IUAA, Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council, 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408-1521. Or register online at www.alumni.indiana.edu/groups/singinghoosiers.
On Dec. 30, 2007, I received an e-mail on YouTube from a cryptic username, which read: “I am at Atlantic Records. Love to speak. Can you send a phone number?” Who was this? Hesitantly, I replied with my e-mail address and phone number.

I posted the 10-year-old Straight No Chaser videos to YouTube as a way for original members and fans to remember the “good old days.” But after nearly 10 million unexpected hits, I’d received a lot of weird messages — mostly from people wanting to put our music online “for a small fee” or people claiming to have big connections in the music business. Which would this turn out to be?

On Jan. 1, 2008, I received an e-mail, from a name I didn’t know, Craig Kallman: “Hey Randy, Happy New Year. I will reach out today or tomorrow if that is cool. Craig.”

Now with a name to Google, I decided to investigate this Atlantic Records contact, this Craig Kallman. I soon discover he is chairman and CEO of Atlantic Records. As I’m reading his bio, my cellphone rings. It’s him. He brings up the YouTube video, and asks about getting the guys together for a new album. He mentions concerts, CDs, DVDs, iTunes, even our own TV show. We decided the best next step was to meet in person. We planned to have dinner in Los Angeles a few days later.

After hanging up, I immediately called Dan Ponce, the founder of Straight No Chaser who hand-picked the original members of SNC, all Singing Hoosiers at the time. Ponce and I flew to LA and had dinner with Kallman. We liked what he had to say, so we reconvened in New York City a week later with the full group. We sang two songs in the Atlantic Records offices for all the executives. We got the green light that very day, and after finalizing the contract, began rehearsals, recording, and eventually touring.

Here we are just over a year later. Our album Holiday Spirits ended 2008 as No. 1 on Amazon and iTunes, breaking the Top 50 on the Billboard charts, and selling over 100,000 copies. We toured North America, sang the National Anthem at the Vietnam Wall, a Green Bay Packers Game, a Cleveland Cavaliers game, and made national TV appearances on WGN, CNN, ABC, ESPN, Fox & Friends, TNT’s “Christmas In Washington,” Dr. Phil, and NBC’s The Today Show.

“It’s amazing what can happen in a year. Clearly none of this would have happened if not for Craig Kallman taking a chance on us, as well as the entire team of people at Atlantic who worked on our album.

It is even more interesting is to think back to that October, more than 12 years ago, when Dan Ponce decided that IU needed an a cappella group like he had seen at other universities in the Midwest and the Northeast. What if the voices weren’t the right mix? What if we hadn’t all become the best of friends? What if Dr. Schwartzkopf (and IU) hadn’t given us all the opportunities we experienced in our days at IUB? If people hadn’t taken chances on us when we first got started, we would never have experienced the success we had in college, and we certainly wouldn’t have afforded the opportunities that stand before us now.

People like Dr. Schwartzkopf, and our collective experiences while in Singing Hoosiers, have inspired us to really push ourselves. We are so thankful to be doing what we’re doing now. Nearly all of us have left our “day jobs” behind and are spending the next two months in New York City to record our second album, hopefully to be released this summer.
Another year, renewed goals

The coming of January adds up to a time for good tidings, good wishes, good fortune, and good cheer. It’s that time of year when everyone resolves to make excellent resolutions and keep them. In my case, one out of four is not too bad.

I have found it safest to resolve never to make any more New Year’s resolutions. But we, as Singing Hoosiers, may want to take the suggestion of Alfred Tennyson who wrote a few words on the subject that are worth quoting (You may wish to substitute the word sing for ring and sounds for bells): “Ring [sing] out the old, ring [sing] in the new / Ring [sing], happy bells [songs], across the snow; / The year is going, let him go; / Ring [sing] out the false, ring [sing] in the true.”

As we look forward to a New Year, a year of positive change for all, let us also remember the advice of Bobby Burns and “tak’ a cup of kindness yet for auld lang syne.”

I’m looking forward to the coming year with great anticipation and full of great ideas for my family, community, and our Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council. There are several goals the council needs to address and accomplish. One idea approved last year was the encouragement of broader participation in the procurement of funds for the foundation. Several of our members have gone above and beyond. We encourage everyone to participate with the foundation.

A second goal of the council is to review and re-vamp our by-laws and constitution. The IU Alumni Association has asked each of its associate organizations to review those particular documents. To meet the request I have appointed a blue-ribbon committee. They will report to the council at its spring meeting.

Our fall meeting was a great success. The Distinguished Alumni Award Committee announced its selections for the spring awards, student members gave a complete report of current activities and how the “esprit de corps” of the group has been enhanced, and Michael Schwartzkopf reported on the activities of the International Singing Hoosiers and their involvement and commitments for both fall and spring.

As your representative to the Jacob’s School of Music Alumni Council, I shared with the SHAC some of the school’s very exciting building plans and goals. The university has selected architects for the new North Studio Building, a facility to be built north of the current Music Addition. I also announced new tenure and tenure-track faculty appointments; Jeremy Allen, assistant professor (jazz bass), Arthur Fagen, professor (instrumental conducting), Janette Fishell, professor (organ), Jeffrey Gershman, associate professor/associate director of bands (bands/wind conducting); William Gray, assistant professor (choral conducting); Kevork Mardirossian, professor (violin); Brent Wallarab, assistant professor (jazz studies), and Todd Wilson, professor (organ). To each of them we offer our congratulations.

To continue to grow as an organization, we need to have as many of our alumni members attending our spring council meeting as possible. The spring meeting is your opportunity to renew old friendships, make new acquaintances, and offer new graduates a rousing send-off. I hope that we can count on you and your support at our next and future meetings. — Charles Greenwood, EdD’72

From the SHAC president
Before 1960

Bob Trimble, BA'52, MA'58, writes, “I sang in the Singing Hoosiers when it was still called the Indiana University Men’s Concert Choir. George Krueger was conductor, Claire Nunn was our accompanist, and a female quartet performed with us at shows. I had a career as a Spanish professor after earning a PhD in the field and teaching 35 years at Hanover (Ind.) College. I retired in 1994 and have since been translating Spanish literary works of the 19th century — mainly dramas — for publication in English. I have published 14 books, the most recent Charles the Second, The Bewitched by Antonio Gil y Zárate. I always enjoy reading about the Singing Hoosiers. ‘Keep America Singing’ as goes the title of the theme song of the Speshsqua.” Trimble lives in Hanover.

Dick Sowash, BS'55, writes, “The e-mail regarding the Singing Hoosiers revived many fond memories of the days when I was singing in the Singing Hoosiers. Way back in 1953–5, I was in the then all-male Singing Hoosiers. We traveled and performed concerts in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Chicago, but worldwide travel was not in the picture then. A great group of guys and a wonderful director in George Krueger made those years the best.” Sowash lives in Georgetown, Texas.

Pianist Bob Williams, BS'56, MA'64, has a new CD, Can’t Get Hoagy Off My Mind, which features songs by IU alumnus Hoagy Carmichael, LLB’26, DM Hon’72. The CD was released as part of a concert tour sponsored by the IU Alumni Association in early 2008. Williams’s wife, Pat (Hargus), BS’60, acted as narrator during the performances, sharing insights and stories about Carmichael’s life. Bob is a longtime board member and past president of the Singing Hoosiers Alumni Council and a former member of the IUAA Executive Council. Pat is a current member of the IUAA Executive Council. In May 2008, Bob and Pat both received Distinguished Service Awards from the IU Kokomo Alumni Association. The couple lives in Bloomington, Ind. Bob can be contacted at renwill@att.net.

Beverly Stephens Hubbell Mendoza, BS’59, owned and directed the Valparaiso (Ind.) School of Dance and Theatre for 15 years before moving to Los Angeles in 1991. She taught ballet for the Los Angeles School of Music and Art, at Le Studio in Pasadena, Calif., and at Pashkova’s Dance in L.A.’s Tujunga district until 2004.

Mendoza continues to study and perform ballet in California. Her grandson Stephen R. Hubbell Jr., a jazz guitarist and singer, recently received an IU scholarship. In 2009, he will join a legacy of IU graduates that includes Mendoza’s late husband Calvin K. Hubbell, BS’57, JD’60, and late son C. Keith Hubbell Jr., BA’85. She hopes her grandchildren, Frank, 14, and Anthony, 8, will follow. She writes, “I love IU!”

1960s

Ezra H. Friedlander, BA’62, LLB’65, represents the second district of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Fellow alumni Cale J. Bradford, BS’82, JD’86, and James S. Kirsch, JD’74, also represent the second district, while John G. Baker, BA’68, JD’71, serves as chief judge of the court. Friedlander lives in Carmel, Ind.


In August 2007, Richard A. Cohee, BS’69, completed 30 years as vice president/treasurer and chief financial officer of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church in Indianapolis. He and his wife, Lynn, live in Carmel.

Brian D. Farrell, BME’69, recently moved back to New York City where he has taken a position as vice president and director of the real-estate firm Brown Harris Stevens. He specializes in selling upscale apartments throughout Manhattan.

Stevie Rawlings, BA’69, is a music teacher and director of choreography at Paramus (N.J.) High School, where she has worked since 1995. She completed a master’s degree in music and music education at Columbia University in 2003. In October 2007, Rawlings guest-directed a production of Camelot for the Augusta (Ga.) Opera. She lives in Verona, N.J., and has three children and two grandchildren.

Elise Suppan Overcash, BA’69, is president of the board of directors of Totem Pole Playhouse, a professional summer theatre in Caledonia State Park, Pa. Celebrating its 59th Season, Totem Pole is one of only 11 remaining CORST theatres in the U.S. Singing Hoosier alum Lori Kay Brassfield, BS’96, performed in the 2008 Season. Overcash, a 2006 Distinguished Singing Hoosier, lives in Chambersburg, Pa.

1970s

Deborah Goodrich Mayes, ’71, accompanied the Singing Hoosiers from 1967 to 1970. She now lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she is director of music ministries at Windcrest United Methodist Church. Her program includes three traditional adult choirs, a contemporary praise and worship team, two children’s choirs, and a youth choir. She also directs a senior adult group that performs 45 shows annually throughout the community and has won several awards for its community service. Mayes is also on the faculty of Texas Lutheran University and accompanies its choirs and tours. “This past summer, I had the pleasure of working as musical director and vocal arranger on a new musical revue, High Hair and Jalapenos, written by Phill George. The show premiered here in San Antonio and is having another run this spring with some new numbers added,” she writes. “The training that I had in Singing Hoosiers provided me with tools I have been able to use throughout my whole career!”

In September 2007, Nancy Lynch Shane, BM’71, moved to Eagle, Colo., to accept a position as principal gifts officer of the Vail (Colo.) Valley Foundation. She writes that the organization’s fundraising initiatives include the Vilar Performing Arts Center in Beaver Creek, Colo., the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail, and the Vail International Dance Festival. Shane can be contacted at nshane@vtf.org.

Kitty Nesius Beletic, ’74, is CEO and founder of Kittiegoods in Dallas. She is also an actress and has performed voiceover work for the television stations MTV and PBS as well as the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. In September 2007, Brown Books published Beletic’s inspirational picture gift book, What Color is Your Dream? A mother of two grown children, she lives in Dallas.

Richard O. Jackson, BS’75, is a teacher for Merle Sidener Middle School in Indianapolis. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Jeanette (Johnson), BS’73, MS’74, a guidance counselor and guidance director for Creston Middle School in Indianapolis.

Stephen L. Rickards, BME’78, MM’84, is director of the Vocal Arts Institute at the University of Indianapolis. His book, Twentieth Century Counter tenor Repertoire, was published by Scarecrow Press in June 2008. It is the only book published on the (continued on page 9)
Class notes
(continued from page 8)

topic thus far. Rickards was the first coun-
ter tenor to graduate with a master’s degree in vocal performance from IU. He lives in
Indianapolis.

Timothy P. Henderson, BA’78, was a Singing Hoosier from 1970–71. Over the
years, Henderson has performed in a number of groups: the U.S. Navy Blue Jacket
Choir, the St. Louis Symphony Chorus, and now the Michael O’Neal Chamber
Singers and Michael O’Neal Singers (www.
mosingers.com). He has done musical
theater and solo work for years. He writes,
“I have good memories of the Singing
Hoosiers and the great arrangements we
had from ‘Fine and Dandy’ to ‘Aquarius.’
These days I am singing primarily classical
music — Mozart, Brahms, Bach, Poulenc,
Rachmaninoff, and many others. Some-
times we get sing some show tunes as
enjoyable as those we did in the Singing
Hoosiers.” Henderson lives in Duluth, Ga.

Mark Janas, BM’79, just made his
Feinstein’s debut in New York City with
cabaret artist Julie Reyburn. Janas has lived in
New York for more than 12 years and is the founder and host of the popular Al-
gonquin Salon, as well as a member of the
faculty of Manhattan School of Music. He is
a current member of the Advanced BMI
Workshop for Musical Theatre Composers
and Lyricists, where he is currently com-
posing Pinnocchio of Chelsea with lyricist
Peter Napoliano. He also music directs and
plays piano for many shows, benefits, and
cabaret artists in New York City.

1980s

Bernie Hirsch, BA’80, writes, “For the past
year I have been spending many nights
and weekends arranging and recording
MIDI music for a small worship synthe-
sizer called the Gloria. There are thousands
of synthesizers being used in over 80 coun-
tries, and soon a newly designed version
will be introduced. It will contain the entire
orchestral works of several large hym-
nals, including the Celebration, Celebramos
Su Gloria, and U.S. Armed Forces. Fellow
Singing Hoosier alumna, Lisa Ernst Bald-
win, ’84, has assisted me with more than
1,200 arrangements. The Gloria contains
the S-A-T-B parts, as well as an orchestral
and alternate piano/drum version of each
hymn and is a remarkable rehearsal and
performance tool. My day job is as director
of software development for MicroV ote
General Corp, which designs and sells
voting equipment for U.S. elections. I
am married to Missie Jordan Hirsch and
together we perform in the band Double
Exposure with Lisa Baldwin and several
other former IU Music alums.”

David J. Vayo, BM’80, MM’82, is a
professor of music at Illinois Wesleyan
University. In November 2007, his compo-
sition, Awakening of the Heart, was per-
formed in Hong Kong at the International
Society for Contemporary Music’s World
Music Days festival. Vayo lives and works
in Bloomington, Ill.

Mary Method Evans, ’83, lives in the
Indianapolis area with her husband and
drew children. She teaches group fitness
classes, including Zumba, and still sings
professionally from time to time.

In September 2007, W. Kelly Johnson,
BA’83, became a partner for the law firm
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur in Cincin-
nati. His practice focuses on white-collar
crime and civil and criminal forfeiture. Past
president of the Greater Cincinnati Crimi-
nal Defense Lawyers Association, Johnson
lives in Cincinnati.

Since 1996, David K. Lamb, BM/
BME’83, MS’85, SME’94, DM’00, has
served as organist and director of mu-
sic for First United Methodist Church
in Columbus, Ind. He also serves as an
adjunct instructor of music at IUPUC and
as an adjunct instructor of voice at Franklin
(Ind.) College. Lamb recently released
two pipe-organ CDs. Blasts from the
Past—Foundations for the Future features
the historic Barckhoff Pipe Organ of St.
Mary’s Catholic Church in New Albany,
Ind., as well as John Little on French horn
and Brian Anderson, BM’88, on trumpet.
Duetti Capricciosi includes organ and piano
duets with pianist Madlen Batchvarova, of
Hanover (Ind.) College. Lamb also released
CDs in 2007: Wildly Inclusive — A
Golden Anniversary and Celebrate With Pipe
and Voice. His recent organ concerts include

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appearances in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Tennessee, and New York City. Recently appointed the Indiana district convener for the American Guild of Organists, Lamb lives in Columbus.

Ronald N. Perkov, BS’83, has been working on the instrumental for four scenes of a new film to be released in 2009, and he says this endeavor is bringing a whole new tangent to his career. Following completion of the film, the four-time Billboard recording artist will work with legendary remixer and producer Tony Moran on a new dance single. Perkov’s Intimate Chill-Out CD and his dance singles are available on iTunes and Masterbeat.com. The alumnus is president of New York City-based Arpee Music Inc. He lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Charlotte Erp Tyree, BS’84, MS’89, writes, “I am thrilled to say that life is going well in Plymouth, Ind., and that my daughter, Nancy, is a freshman at IU and is a Singing Hoosier! I’ve been a high school speech and theatre teacher since the fall of 1984 and still love it. While our children were young I was also an adjunct faculty member at IU South Bend. Coaching speech and directing productions keeps me busy now. The Chimes of Christmas concert was simply wonderful this year, and I can’t wait to see the spring show.”

Col. Robert B. Huber, BS’85, recently relocated to Barksdale AFB, La., where he is the Mission Support Group commander, responsible for more than 2,500 personnel in diverse squadrons including security forces, civil engineering, contracting, communications, personnel and services, and logistics.

Douglas Webster, BM’85, spent the past year as interim director of opera theater at the University of Oregon. The year culminated in the UO production of Les Misérables in the role of Valjean and returns to the role of the Celebrant in Bernstein’s MASS in Lithuania, Germany and Italy. This spring he joins the Broadway Bartones for concerts in Idaho and Oregon and will join other past winners of the Joy In Singing Award for the 50th Anniversary concert in New York. This summer, he will direct the American Singer Seminar Musical Theater Intensive, with alumni currently starring on Broadway, near his home in South Park, Colo.

Terry Schoenherr, BS’86, welcomed his second child in April. He operates his own business in northern Indiana and still performs regionally. Schoenherr lives in Goshen, Ind.

Jane Wiaduck Birmingham, BA’87, is a real-estate agent for Gaslight Realty in Riverside, Ill. She and her husband, William, BA’86, have four children. “I feel like a slacker when reading all of these notes,” Jane writes, “but I am instilling a love of learning and history in all my children, all of whom we hope and pray will be at IU!” Jane and her family live in River-side.

1990s

Linda Sublett Ridenour, BA’90, has been performing in and around Washington, D.C., since 2006 as a solo artist playing acoustic guitar with various local bands. “I go by ‘Linda Sublett’ when I perform,” she writes, “I live only three miles from the White House, in Arlington, Va. So I play in Washington, D.C., and in Alexandria and Arlington, Va., two to four times per month at restaurants, bars, coffee houses, and private parties. Ridenour, who just started work on a demo with Innovation Station Music, is especially proud to have played an inaugural ball on Jan. 20. She would love to see fellow IU alumni, especially local former Singing Hoosiers, at some of her gigs.

Her Web site is www.myspace.com/lindasublettmusic.

Kirsten Agresta, MM’92, BM’91, married Marc Copely on Jan. 16, 2009 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The ceremony was officiated by Everett Bradley, BME’87, former Singing Hoosier choreographer extraordinaire. The couple, who reside in New York City, met at Bradley’s annual holiday show, “Holidelic,” at the Cutting Room.

Kristin J. Ingersoll, BA’92, MS’02, is an instructional designer at Carney Inc. She lives and works in Alexandria, Va.

This past year, Sam Bortka, BM’93, MM’97, appeared on NBC with the Four Seasons. He writes, “I have been hiring musicians for Frankie Valli for about six years now. So I get to do a lot of concerts with him. I was approached by NBC to contract the band for this show. I have done lots of contracting in New York, but this was my first National spot for NBC.” Bortka lives in New York City.

Susan Donahue, BS’93, enjoyed a 10-year career as curator of education at the Evansville (Ind.) Museum and relocated to St Louis, Mo., in late 2007. She is now program director for Craft Alliance in Grand Center, the city’s arts district. Donahue has continued to sing since leaving IU, with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra as a chorus member and soloist, for a brief stint as half of the jazz duo “Just the Two of Us,” and currently with the St Louis Archdiocesan Choir. Donahue is also excited to announce her recent engagement to David Yates, her childhood sweetheart. The couple plans to marry in fall 2009 in Evansville. They live in St Louis.

David Binns Williams, BM’93, MM’95, was recently appointed director of the Vanderbilt (University) Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, and the Vanderbilt Community Chorus. He continues to teach theory courses at Vanderbilt and lives with his wife, Lisa Pellegrin, in Nashville.

Jason A. Burke, BS’94, MM’96, writes that he has been “enjoying the sunny climes of Tampa, Fla.” He is currently the project manager for the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and the artistic administrator for the Richard Zelinski Singers. In the past few seasons, Burke has directed the music for the University of South Florida’s production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, been a soloist and vocal contractor for the Florida Orchestra, and has had commissioned arrangements performed and recorded by various groups. An active soloist throughout the Tampa Bay area, his recent works have included Handel’s Messiah, Stainer’s Crucifixion, Rutter’s Mass of the Children, and Shore’s Lord of the Rings Symphony, among others. Burke lives in Clearwater, Fla.

John H. Bubb, ’95, is currently interning in the trauma unit of Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. He expected to graduate as a nurse extern in the winter of 2008 before going on to pursue a nursing degree at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. He writes, “This is career number two as I used my education from the IU [Jacobs] School of Music to perform in Broadway national touring productions and international touring productions in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, and Denmark.”

Kurt Wiesner, BA’95, writes, “My wife Darlene Perez Wiesner and I just moved to Littleton, N.H. I am the new rector (an Episcopal priest in charge of a congregation) at All Saints Episcopal Church here in Littleton as of Dec. 14. It’s just beautiful here — lots of snow and mountains!”

Monica Strom Gellman, BA’96, and her husband Jason welcomed their third child, Alexander Gregory, on Sept. 24. Alex joins big sisters Abigail Peyton, 4, and Amanda Rianne, 2. The family resides in Phoenix, Az., where Monica is a stay-at-home mom.
married and have two kids. "We write, produce, direct, 
nering with a videographer. 
acquiring office space and part 
Fisk, '99, is executive producer 
voice lessons over the years. 
ing in churches, performing in 
Manning is a stay-at-home 
dinary and instilled in me a life 
Singing Hoosiers was extraor 
talented and special group the 
show my husband what a 
be found at www.nadine- 

2000s 

Nicole Parker, BA'00, 

"We write, produce, direct,

design, and edit both corporate work and jobs for personal 
events," Jaffe writes. "Our work is fun, creative, and memora-
ble." Jaffe and her husband live and work in Chicago.
In summer 2008, Nadine T. Weissmann, MM'99, made 
her mark as a Wagner-singer, winning the orchestra prize at 
the Seattle Opera International Wagner Competition. She also 
finished her contract at the German National Theatre in 
Weimar with a performance of Wagner’s opera Göttterdam-
merung and the complete Ring cycle. A DVD of both produc-
tions will be released by Arthaus this year. Weissmann 
also sang a new production of Carmen in Weimar, and as a 
Valkyrie at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Spain, 
aside Placido Domingo. She will be making her 
debut's in Madrid, Spain, and Paris in 2010. Weissmann 
who received a performance diploma from IU in 2000, lives 
Berlin. More updates can be found at www.nadine-
weissmann.com.

Help us locate lost alumni!

If you have updated contact information for the below “lost” 
Singing Hoosiers, please see the instructions below. You can also 
update your official alumni record online at alumni.indiana.edu/
directory. Thank you for your help!

Two funds created for 
alumni support

The Singing Hoosier Alumni Council has established 
two funds for alumni donations. The first is an Endow-
ment Fund for long-term needs. Gifts of stock and 
estate gifts can be donated to this fund. The second — the Singing Hoosiers Donations Fund — is for short-
term, special needs as determined by the Director. If you 
pledged over the phone, your money was applied to 
this account.

Many, many thanks to alumni who give in time or 
to the Singing Hoosiers. For more information 
please contact Michael Schwartzkopf, at (812) 855-4044 
or michschw@indiana.edu.

Send any information you have to Lost Alumni, 
IUAA, 1000 E. 17th St., Bloomington, IN 47408 or 
fax to (812) 855-8266.
Class notes
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He is performing in two shows at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka — Imagine and Blues Brothers. Huff’s permanent home is in New York City.

Lauren N. Orenga, BA'03, recently married Ryan L. Ahlwardt, BS'03, a professional singer and songwriter. They live in Fishers, Ind.

In November 2007, eight IU alumni became associates at the law firm Baker & Daniels in Indianapolis. Sarah C. Jenkins, Cert/BAJ'03, JD'06, joined the trusts and estates group.

“I started my broadcast career at the CBS affiliate in Mankato, Minn., three years ago,” writes Kelli E. Grant, BAJ'04. “After a year and a half I moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., and now work as the education reporter and Saturday morning co-anchor for KELO-TV News. I recently won an Emmy for a story included in a live special at KELO. It’s been a wonderful experience to move around, and I look forward to finding my way back home to Indiana!”

Clayton F. Sanderson, BA'05, writes, “I am currently an MFA acting student in the theatre school at DePaul University, where I have appeared in such productions as Machinal, Spinning Into Butter, and Man From Nebraska. I have also been working professionally as an actor in and around the Chicago area, most recently in The Shape of Things, Twelfth Night, and The Importance of Being Earnest with Festival 56, The Mikado with Light Opera Works, and Kiss of the Spider Woman at Bailiwick Repertory.” Sanderson lives in Chicago and can be reached at clayfs@gmail.com.

Nicholas A. Bragin, BS’08, works at the IU Jacobs School of Music as marketing assistant coordinator. He lives in Bloomington, Ind.

Singing Hoosiers Alumni: What’s new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU’s alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

Name ___________________________ Date ___________________________
Preferred name ___________________________
Last name while at IU ___________________________
IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) ___________________________
Univ. ID # (PeopleSoft) or last four digits of Soc. Sec. # ___________________________
Home address ___________________________
Home phone ___________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________________________
Business title ___________________________
Company/Institution ___________________________
Company address ___________________________
Work phone ___________________________
City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ___________________________
* E-mail ___________________________
* Home page URL ___________________________
* Please indicate clearly upper and lower case.
Mailing address preference: O Home O Business
Spouse name ___________________________
Last name while at IU ___________________________
IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) ___________________________
Your news: ___________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
* Please send me information about IU Alumni Association membership.
IUAA membership supports and includes your membership in the Singing Hoosiers Alumni Association and your local alumni chapter. Join online at www.alumni.indiana.edu or call (800) 824-3044.

Attach additional pages if necessary. Mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266.