

THE COVERED BRIDGE

Fall 2006

*Honoring yesterday's bridge builders,
encouraging today's bridge travelers, and ensuring
tomorrow's bridge of opportunity.*



INDIANA UNIVERSITY GROUPS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Membership Matters. This publication is paid for in part by dues-paying members of the IU Alumni Association.

Awards presented to dedicated Groups alumni

Sassafras Awards

The Groups Alumni Association presented Sassafras Awards to five distinguished alumni of the Groups Program at its state business meeting and awards luncheon in July in Indianapolis. The awards, light wood plaques featuring green sassafras leaves, were named for the sassafras tree, the indigenous Indiana plant from whose roots sassafras tea, that most native of all Hoosier libations, is brewed.

Calvin D. Johnson Sr. ('72), BS'80, won the Sassafras for his contributions to arts and entertainment. Ryon J. Cobb ('99), BA'04, presented the award.

A native of South Bend, Ind., Johnson came to Indiana University Bloomington as a member of Groups '72 to pursue a degree in public and environmental affairs, with a concentration in criminal justice. In 1973, he and six other IU students, including his future wife, Gaye, co-founded the IU Voices of Hope, a musical institution that still exists on the IUB campus.

While an undergraduate, he served as the choir's first director and second adviser. Upon graduation, Johnson continued his musical interests as an active member of the New Generation Christian Ministries' praise team and youth task force in South Bend, Ind. Currently, Johnson is a select agent with State Farm Insurance.

Gaye Leavell Johnson, ('72) BS'76, MS'79, also won the Sassafras for her contributions to arts and entertainment.

Wakisha Malone ('95), BA'99, MS'01, presented the award.

A native of Anderson, Ind., she and four other high school graduates were the first students from that city to participate in IU's Groups Program. Like Calvin, then her future husband, she was one the six founding members of the Voices of Hope. She was also a featured vocalist in the IU Soul Revue. For the past 25, years she has served as the minister of music at the Faith Christian Center and as chief vocalist and keyboard payer for New Generation Christian Ministries. She was

ties. Vincent Isom ('86), BA'91, MA'93, presented the award.

Johnson-Robbins, a native of Evansville, Ind., graduated from the IU School of Education's multicultural program. After graduation, she taught public school and directed various federal and state youth programs in Evansville. In 1988, she moved to Indianapolis and established her own Frances Johnson-Robbins State Farm Insurance Agency Inc., which offers more than 90 different insurance and financial service products. This outstanding service record earned her several notable business



Five distinguished Groups Program alumni won the 2006 Sassafras Award. The award winners are, from left, Calvin D. Johnson Sr. ('72), BS'80; Gaye Leavell Johnson ('72), BS'76, MS'79; Frances Johnson-Robbins ('70), BS'74; William R. Knox ('95), BA'99; and Carol Cummins-Collier ('72), BA'76, MS'78, PhD'98.

an invited performer of the production *Song for My Brother*, which was co-written and later presented by Ruth Rosenbaum to honor the late Mahalia Jackson and Martin Luther King Jr. She has been invited to sing in Alaska, Mexico, and Paris. She is the featured vocalist on the Judah First Chorale CD *Exalted Praise*.

She is entering her 22nd year as guidance counselor at Ring Lardner Middle School in Niles, Mich. Since 1980, the Johnsons have lived in South Bend, Ind., where they have raised three children, Charisse, Camille, and Calvin Jr.

Frances Johnson-Robbins ('70), BS'74, won the Sassafras for her business activi-

award distinctions, including a Legion of Honor Agent with "select agency" status. The Coalition of 100 Black Women named her a Breakthrough Woman for Business in 2002. In 2006, the Coalition of 100 Black Women recognized her as one of its 100 Breakthrough Women over the past 18 years. Johnson-Robbins's avocation is mentoring other women and minorities interested in pursuing their own businesses. Her motto is, "God first, family and friends second, and work third."

William R. Knox ('95), BA'99, won the Sassafras for his community service. Thomas "Popcorn" Doyle ('73), BA'78

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Awards

(continued from page 1)

presented the award.

Knox, a native of Gary, Ind., earned a bachelor's degree in tourism management, with a minor in business management. Knox's concern for the welfare of others was evident during his undergraduate career at IU, where he served as the assistant program coordinator for the Faculty and Staff for Student Excellence Mentoring Program. He supervised the activities of 10 to 17 staff members and aided them in their transition from high school to the college environment. Since graduation, Knox has been appointed to two positions at the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau. From 1999 to 2003, he was the convention sales manager, which made him responsible for all convention and trade show operations. In June 2003, he was promoted to his current position of sports marketing manager. Some of the events he manages are IU football and basketball weekends, national summer softball, and Amateur Athletic Union basketball tournaments.

Carol Cummins-Collier ('72), BA'76, MS'78, PhD'98, won the Sassafras for her work in higher education. Evelyn Bushrod ('74), BA'79, MS'88, presented the award.

Cummins-Collier, a native of Richmond, Ind., received a bachelor's degree in communication and a master's degree in college administration from IUB. She received her doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Cummins-Collier's distinguished career in higher education administration includes positions as director of residence education at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., and as director of residence life at the University of Dayton. Her current senior administrative position is assistant vice president and associate dean of students at the University of Dayton.

She has received many honors and awards, and she has been a consultant for many institutions of higher education. In 2000, she chaired the largest convention of college administrators, the American College Personnel Association, in Washington, D.C., with 5,000 participants, and she received the Diamond Honorary Distinction award for administrators in higher education. In 1990, she received the city of Dayton's "Up and Comers" award for individuals under the age of 40. In 1988, she received the outstanding alumna award from the IU School of Education award in the college administration department. In 1982, she received the Outstanding Young

Woman of America award. Although Cummins-Collier has received many additional awards, she believes her greatest accomplishment is her daughter, Keisha Collier.

Covered Bridge Award

Vernon A. Williams, BA '73, the keynote speaker for the awards luncheon, received the Covered Bridge Award, the highest award given by the Groups Program. The presentation was made by GAA president Lindsey Smith, ('71), BA'76. The award draws its name from Indiana's rustic red-hued covered bridges, timeless icons of basic Hoosier values and progress.



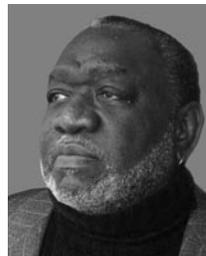
Artibus 1973

Williams, BA'73

While a student at IU, Williams, a Gary, Ind., native, coordinated the "Guide Right" Program, a tutoring program sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity to mentor incoming freshmen — many of whom were Groups students. Most recently, Williams is the founder of "word of mouth inc.," a not-for-profit organization designed to enhance communication skills — reading, writing, and speaking — among urban students, some of whom he sees daily in his current position as supervisor of Indianapolis Public Schools' Career and Technology Center.

Lifetime Achievement Award

James E. Mumford, PhD '74, a native of Kinston, N.C., was awarded the Groups Program's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his distinguished career as the founder and longtime director of the Groups Theatre Project. Janice Wiggins, BA'71, MS'75, the director of the Groups Program, 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.



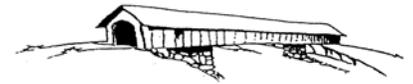
Mumford, PhD'74

Mumford extended a similar helping hand numerous times to Groups freshmen during his tenure as director of the Groups Theatre Project. Among his legacy of six-week student productions were original works *1 More River* *2 Cross*, for which

Mumford wrote the score and designed the sets; film adaptations of *Sarafina*, *School Daze*, and *Barber Shop*; and play adaptations of *West Side Story*, *The Wiz*, *Purlie*, *The Colored Museum*, *Cats*, *Man from La Mancha*, and *Medea's Family Reunion*. A highly acclaimed performer, composer, educator, and musical and vocal director, Mumford has been a member of the Indiana University African American Arts Institute staff since 1976 and director of the African American Choral Ensemble since 1983. Among his numerous awards that he has received during his illustrious career is the Holden Key National Honor Society's Award for Outstanding Contributions and Excellence in Performance.

For photographs of the awards luncheon, see page 7.

THE COVERED BRIDGE



This newsletter is published twice a year by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Groups Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support of Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044, or e-mail ialumni@indiana.edu.

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Notes: Throughout this newsletter, alumni are identified by Groups entry date in parentheses after names, followed by IU degrees/dates.

The picture of the covered bridge in the masthead was provided by IU Office of University Archives and Records Management.



Alumni president shares new initiatives, fundraising ideas

The following statement is excerpted from the Groups Alumni Association president Lindsey A. Smith's full report, which he gave at the luncheon.

My president's report will address three important topics: a charge to support the Groups Alumni Association; GAA fundraising events, including football and basketball and Project 43; and the 2008 celebration of the Groups Program's 40th reunion.

First, I am so proud to be associated with Indiana University and the Groups Program. I am a member of Groups '71. Some of you may have heard me say in the past that attending IU, as a student in the Groups Program, was a turning point in my life. I honestly believe that! When I review my life's accomplishments, I know that I could not have achieved the success I have if I had not attended IU in the Groups Program. This reason is why I am so excited when I meet with students in the Groups Program, especially during this past year. In late April, I attended the special graduation ceremony Janice Wiggins's, BA'71, MS'75, staff arranged for the graduating seniors this year. I introduced myself to the graduates as a member of Groups '71. I was immediately taken aback by the positive reaction I received from the students. It was a response of amazement and applause, demonstrating their respect and approval that I was a person who had endured a similar education path as they did. Their reaction strengthened my allegiance to the GAA.

This is why I've made this my first message to you today. We, the GAA and the Groups Student Support Services Program, need all of you to become active members and participate in events and activities that support and promote the

Groups Program. I strongly encourage you to complete an application today to become a member of the GAA. Even if you did not enter into Indiana University through the Groups Program, you can still be a "friend of Groups" by making a financial contribution to the GAA.



Smith ('71), BA'76

The GAA is still in its infancy, but we are growing up quickly. Please help us keep moving forward with our efforts and initiatives to do great things for our students as part of an important organization of IU.

My second issue is our fundraising initiatives. This past year, I suggested to the GAA board members ways that we can earn money to support the GAA events and activities by working at two key IU athletic events. I serve as the supervisor in charge of stadium operations for Andy Frain Services, who has the contract with IU to provide ushers, ticket-takers, and parking attendants during IU home football and basketball games. We are looking for 20 people (you, your family members, and friends) to work these positions for each home football and basketball game. A sign-up list is available at the Groups office at IU and in the lobby today.

Project 43 will commemorate the first group of students that entered IU under

what is now known as the Groups Program. We titled it Project 43 to solicit donations from Groups alumni to contribute \$43 through the Groups 2008 class. We are currently in the planning stages and request anyone interested in participating on a committee to contact the Groups office.

My third topic is the 2008 celebration of the Groups Program's 40th reunion. The year 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the Groups Program. This reunion is expected to be a spectacular reunion event for every student who has been involved in the Groups Program, from the Group 43 class through the Groups 2008 class. We are currently in the planning stages and request anyone interested in participating on a committee to contact the Groups office.

I appreciate your attendance today and support of this event. I hope you will continue to support the GAA as we continue to make it stronger.

Circle this date for 2008!
Celebrating
40 years of Groups

Why: Groups Program's 40th reunion

When: 2008 IU Homecoming weekend

Where: Indiana University Bloomington

Who: All Groups alumni, especially members of Group 43, the original class, Groups '78, Groups '88, Groups '98, and Groups '08.

✓ Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

- Jan. 27, 2007, GAA Board 40th anniversary steering committee, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., restaurant TBA, Indianapolis
- April 21, 2007, anniversary steering committee, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Distinguished Alumni Room, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington

- June 9, 2007, anniversary steering committee, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., director Janice Wiggins's home, 4851 E. Ridgewood Dr., Bloomington

- July 14, 2007, noon–4 p.m., GAA State Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon, Indiana State Museum, 650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis



Director stresses Groups' sense of community, support

A major theme of Janice L. Wiggins's Groups Alumni Association state business meeting report was the national "Best Practice" recognition that the Educational Policy Institute bestowed upon IU Bloomington's Groups Student Support Services Program. Wiggins's comments summarized the innovative ideas expressed in this excerpted edition of the March 2006 issue of StudentSuccess, the official publication of the Educational Policy Institute. This excerpted version is reprinted here with permission.

Each Year, Groups received more than 600 applications from high school students across the state, of which a maximum of 300 are admitted. Once they are accepted, students are required to attend three events designed to educate them about the Groups Program and prepare them to begin classes. The series of events starts with area visits, made by the Groups staff in order to outline the expectations and requirements of the program and explain financial aid options. Accepted students and their families then schedule a campus visit to learn more about the university and take placement tests. The final event in the series consists of an intensive, six-week session of writing, reading and reasoning, and math classes. Scheduled during the summer, the classes give students a chance to develop basic academic skills, learn their way around campus, make friends, and become acquainted with university resources and culture. The summer session allows these academically challenged students to acclimate themselves to the college environment before the rigors of the regular school year begin.

Another important aspect of the Groups Program is its focus on the long-term success of its participants. While many retention programs concentrate solely on the freshman year, the Groups staff recognizes that students in the program need consistent help and encouragement throughout their college careers. To that end, Groups has a coordinator of upperclass initiatives, whose primary responsibilities are to increase awareness and provide activities directed toward continuing upperclassmen success. Activities may include graduate and professional internships, research and overseas studies opportunities, and leadership and development opportunities for upperclassmen. To foster their students' continuing success, Groups offers a variety of aid options. The program has eight professional advisers on staff to guide students through the process of selecting their majors, scheduling classes, and fulfilling graduation requirements. Advisers use online tutorial referral forms to request tutoring services for students they see struggling with a specific course. Groups students may also use an online form to self-request a tutor.

On the financial aid front, Groups provides one-on-one counseling, as well as spring semester workshops to explore aid options and application procedures. Students may also participate in a "Navigation through Life" seminar to learn more about the university's cultural, academic, and health resources. ...

Groups honors its students who exhibit academic talent and leadership by inducting them into Chi Alpha Epsilon, a national honor society. The program also acknowledges the value of peer counseling and feedback for new students by recruiting upperclassmen to be peer advising assistants, peer instructors, and Groups ambassadors. Assistants and ambassadors help Groups staff with new student orientation duties, class selection, and



Wiggins, BA'71,
MS'75

mentoring. As the program Web site states, "Students helping students is a key philosophy behind the Groups program." In keeping with this aspect of the program's mission, students may take classes or live together to foster "shared learning." The shared learning environment fosters a community bond between students as they work through academic and personal problems. By sharing their experiences with peers, students begin to feel like they are part of the university's culture and that they have a support system that includes people working through similar difficulties.

Ultimately, the Groups Program's success lies in its ability to inform students of the resources available to them. The individualized attention that all Groups students receive ensures that no student will slip through the cracks, proving that every student is capable of succeeding with adequate, attentive aid from the institution. The tough question is often how to achieve that balance with the staff and financial resources available.

In the media

Alumni add clippings to their personal collections

Groups alumni were featured in several Indiana newspapers and electronic publications:

- The July 31 Bloomington, Ind., *Herald-Times* "Orchid and Onions" column's orchid to the Groups Alumni Association's 2006 award winners read: "To **James E. Mumford**, PhD'74, retired director of the African American Choral Ensemble, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his 30-plus years of service as the founding director of the Indiana University Groups Theatre Workshop. And to **William Knox** ('95), BA'99, sports marketing manager for the Monroe County Convention Center and Visitors Bureau, who received a Sassafras Award, which is presented to distinguished alumni by the IU GAA."

- The June 11 Hobart, Ind., *Times* Web site www.nw-itimes.com named **Delia McClam** ('68), BS'72, MS'75, BA'81, one of 12 women to receive the Women of Merit Award in recognition of their charitable contributions to the citizens of northwest Indiana. Each woman received a crystal vase engraved with her name. The article reported: "McClam works as a special-education teacher at Wirt High School and has worked with at-risk students in Nevada as a substance-abuse therapist and as an instructor of disabled women inside Indiana State Women's Prison. In addition, she also is very involved with homeless shelters and disadvantaged youths in her native Gary and, after becoming inspired by the new movie *Akeelah and the Bee*, is planning to enact neighborhood spelling bees. 'It is so important for me to give back,' McClam said."

- The July 5 *Fort Wayne* (Ind.) *Frost Illustrated* featured

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GAA business meeting, luncheon serve up facts, food, fun

The Groups Alumni Association's State Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon began at noon with a reception in the back of the multi purpose room of the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Attendees included representatives of the IU Bloomington Office of the Vice President for Student Development and Diversity, Office of the Dean of Students, IUB School of Education, the FASE Mentoring Program, the Indiana University Alumni Association, and the African American Arts Institute, as well as the Groups staff, recommenders, students, and alumni.

At 1 p.m., GAA President **Lindsey A. Smith** ('71), BA'76, opened the luncheon: "Good afternoon, and welcome to the IU GAA's third annual state luncheon and awards ceremony. I am Lindsey Smith, the president of the GAA. On behalf of the GAA, 'We are happy to have you here!'"

"This event is twofold. First, it recognizes Groups alumni members who have distinguished themselves in business, arts and entertainment, community service, and education. Second, this event serves as a business meeting to officially inform Groups alumni members of upcoming events and activities, as well as important actions the alumni board is working toward to keep members connected with IU and the Groups Program."

Next, Reverend **Donald Griffin** ('69), BA'78, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Bedford, Ind., gave the invocation and the luncheon was served. After the luncheon, **Gaye Leavell Johnson** ('72), BS'76, MS'79, the minister of music at the Faith Christian Center in South Bend, Ind., sang a solo.

Following her solo, **Roderick Wheeler** ('72), BA'98, MPA'00, the master of ceremonies, introduced **Vernon A. Williams**, BA'73, the keynote speaker, an IU School of

Journalism alumnus, playwright, columnist, and supervisor of the Indianapolis Public Schools' Career and Technological Center. Williams's address was a poignant mixture of past reflections, such as the temptations of IUB's "open visitation policy" of the 1970s and present challenges, such as to reverse the alarmingly high school-dropout rates of today's African American youth. Williams also honored IUB's black faculty and staff members who guided him and others through this minefield of academic distractions to graduation.

After the keynote address, the awards ceremony began. Many of the awardees acknowledged the support and presence of family members. Covered Bridge Award winner Williams acknowledged the presence of his wife, Joyce, and their daughter, Bridget. Sassafras winners for arts and entertainment **Calvin Johnson** ('72), BS'80, and **Gaye Leavell Johnson** acknowledged the presence of daughters Charisse and Camille, as well as their son, Calvin Jr., who was not able to attend. Sassafras winner for business **Frances Johnson-Robbins** ('70) BS'74, jokingly scolded her big sister, **Cateena Johnson** ('69), BA'73, MA'83, who was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. And, Sassafras winner for education **Carol Cummins-Collier** ('72) BA'76, MS'78, PhD'98, acknowledged her mother, Imogene, sister, **Georgetta** ('87), BA'91, and daughter, Keisha, who were seated at her table. And, Lifetime Achievement winner **James E. Mumford**, PhD'74, was visibly moved when **James Bigsbee** ('02), one of his many Groups Theatre Workshop alumni, thanked him for being the father he never knew.

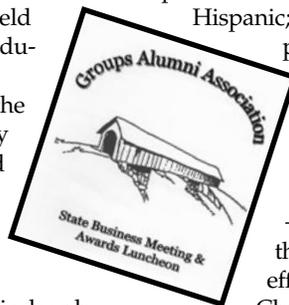
Following the awards ceremony, director **Janice L. Wiggins**, BA'71, MS'75, and GAA president Smith gave their annual reports. After acknowledging the presence of the Groups '06 class officers, Wiggins gave this demographic profile of the Groups '05 freshman class, which totaled 317 summer participants. The 273 who enrolled in the fall represented an 86.7 percent retention, reflected in the following categories: 63.7 percent African American; 7.3 percent

Hispanic; 24.9 percent Caucasian; 2.2 percent Asian/Pacific Islander;

less than 1 percent Native American; and just above 1 percent Other. She reported the addition of the Learning Communities class — the eighth in this series — in the sciences, a collaborative effort with the Department of Chemistry and Professor Michael Edwards.

The remainder of her report centered on the Groups Program's being recognized as "The Best Practice Program" for 2006 by the National Educational Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

President Smith began his report by acknowledging members of the GAA board: **Iris Outlaw**, BA'73, vice president; **Gail M. Bushrod** ('70), BA'74, secretary; **James Sims** ('75), BGS'97, treasurer; **Thomas "Popcorn" Doyle Sr.** ('73), BA'78; **Evelyn Bushrod** ('74), BA'79, MS'88; **Dionne McKaskle** ('95), BA'05; **Matthew A. Booker** ('00), BA'04; **Wakisha Malone** ('95), BA'00, MA'02; **Delia M. McClam** ('68), BS'72; MS'75; **Doris Sims** ('75), BA'79, MS'98; **Pat Carlton-Nyangira** ('82), BA'96; **Janice Tharp** ('72), BGS'98; **Janice L. Wiggins**, BA'71, MS'75; and **William H. Wiggins Jr.**, PhD'74.



Giving back to the Groups Program

Groups presents professional conference for students

On June 24, the Groups Student Support Services Program presented the 2006 Student Professional Conference, whose general theme was "Stepping Stones to Success." The opening session, "Born to Achieve," was suggested by one of the class of 2006; it promoted increased retention among African American and Latino males. Director Janice Wiggins opened the session by citing the past low graduation completion rates of African American and Latino males before challenging them to elevate these low statistics by supporting each other in their pursuit of academic success.

These 56 young men were then assigned to five smaller discussion groups, which were led by current Groups upperclassmen, Groups alumni, and Groups and IU staff members, including: **Ghangis Carter**, **Ryon Cobb** ('99), **Vincent Isom** ('86), **Eric Love**, **Hershel McClain** ('94), **Steven Gaskin** ('04), **Roderick Wheeler** ('94), **Eric Williams** ('99), BS'04, and **Milton Williams** ('93), BGS'05. Two highlights taken from these discussions were: "You must be your own person and follow the path to success without the shackles of judgment, stereotypes, or norms, and remember to look back and aid those who stumble or get held up along the way"; and "Don't sell yourself short and become mediocre. You must be more than just enough; you must strive and push to become more than the norm and achieve true success."

In the media

(continued from page 4)

a photo-graduation announcement of **George Edward Walker** ('01), BA'06. Walker's graduation photograph was accompanied with a summation of his collegiate course of study: "Walker, the son of Evelyn Walker and the late George Edward Starks, majored in telecommunications and African American and African diaspora studies, with a minor in folklore and ethnomusicology, and Akan-Twi [African language]. A 2001 North Side High School graduate, he also earned a certificate in African studies."

• The August 2006 edition of the IU School of Journalism's Web site featured an article, "Alumnus Wins Covered Bridge Award," about **Vernon A. Williams**, BS'73, the keynote speaker for the 2006 GAA State Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon. Although not a Groups student, Williams, an IU School of Journalism alumnus, expressed his gratitude for the role that the Groups Program played in his undergraduate career: "As I told the audience at the ceremony, so many things came together in my participation with the Groups program that have continued to shape the direction my work has taken."

• **Mark Russell** ('82), BA'86, Indianapolis Urban League community director, was one of a group of distinguished Indianapolis community leaders whose

opinions were cited in a three-part series on race relations, published in *The Indianapolis Star*. In the Aug. 13, article, "Black and White Life in Metro Indianapolis," Russell said, "When 60 percent of blacks say they want to have better housing versus 28 percent of whites, that's a key quality-of-life issue."

• The Aug. 28, issue of *The Indiana Daily Student* published an article, "Friends Recall 'Alvie' [Alvin Henry Jr.] as Full of Good Spirit." The memorial service was hosted by the IU Bloomington Black Student Union in the Grand Hall of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. **D'Anna Wade**, BSU president, told those who attended the service: "Alvin was the type person who made you smile every time you saw him. He was a good-spirited person. He was always full of joy and happiness." A scholarship was established to honor Henry, an IUB senior who was killed in an automobile accident.

• The Aug. 28 issue of the Bloomington, Ind., *Herald-Times* published "Program Facing New Challenges: Diversity Goals, Higher Standards, Leader's Retirement Will Force Refocusing of Mission," the second of two front-page articles written by Steve Hinnefeld on the Groups Program. Color photographs of Groups director **Janice L. Wiggins**, BA'71, MS'75, were featured on the front page of both articles. Hinnefeld's second article concluded with these sobering observations:

"As for finding an eventual successor to Wiggins, [IU Bloomington vice president for institutional development and student affairs, Charlie] Nelms said having the program on a solid footing should attract strong candidates. 'But,' he added, Janice Wiggins is going to be very, very difficult to replace."

• The 2006 November/December issue of the *Indiana Alumni Magazine* published an article on the GAA's Sassafras Award winners for 2006, namely: **Calvin Johnson** ('72), BS'80, and wife **Gaye Leavell Johnson** ('72), BS'76, MS'79, for arts and entertainment; **Frances Johnson-Robbins** ('70), BS'74, for business; **William R. Knox** ('95), BA'99, for community service; and **Carol Cummins-Collier** ('72), BA'76, MS'78, PhD'98, for education.



Membership Matters



Your IU Alumni Association membership matters!

Your membership dues support Indiana University through programs that provide scholarships, Commencement ceremonies, student recruitment efforts, and student leadership programs. Your membership also supports programs and services for alumni.

Members receive valuable benefits, including:

- Subscription to the *Indiana Alumni Magazine*
- Online alumni services — alumni directory, career center, and more
- IU alumni club network
- Membership in your school and/or campus alumni association
- Lifelong connection to IU

Join or renew today!

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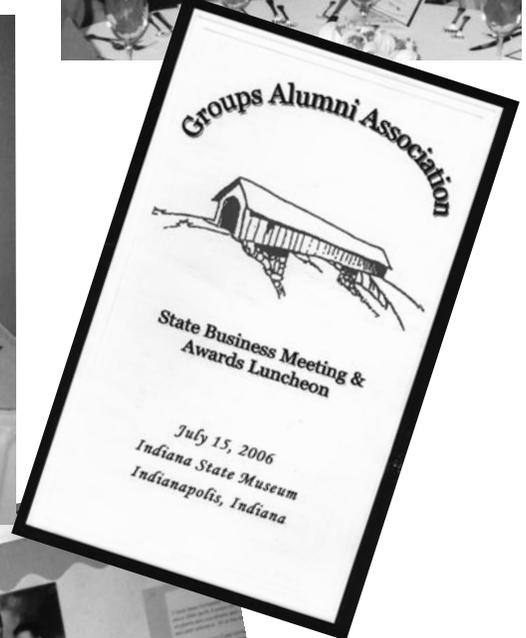
- Call (800) 824-3044 and apply over the phone — or ask us to mail a brochure to you
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CONNECTING ALUMNI. SERVING IU.

In the picture

ALUMNI GATHER!

Groups alumni, staff, and friends combine business with pleasure in Indianapolis.



Photographs courtesy of Jana Cox, Tywan Martin, Vincent Isom, and William H. Wiggins Jr.



Students active within the Groups Program

The Groups undergraduate students' presence was evident in academic and extra-curricular activities throughout and away from the Bloomington campus during 2005–06.

- **Ashley McPherson** ('03) shared the excitement of her summer internship in Los Angeles with **Annie Willis**, MS'82, the Groups financial adviser, in this e-mail: "I just wanted to let you know that my internship with MTV in L.A. is awesome! I have learned so much since I have been here, and I'm only halfway through. I have met so many people through this program that will be working in the entertainment industry as well. Therefore, my network is growing so fast! Also, since I have been here, I have been able to do some volunteer work for the Grammy Foundation! Oh! Somehow the *Indiana Alumni Magazine* found out about my internship and had me answer some questions for them. Then, they hired a photographer here in L.A. to take pictures of me in front of the MTV Networks sign! The picture might be on the cover of the *Indiana Alumni Magazine*! I will let you know if it makes the cover or not."

Editor's note: McPherson's picture did indeed appear on the cover of the September/October issue of the Indiana Alumni Magazine.

- **Akeya Peterson** ('02), studied in England in 2006.
- **DeOndray K. Pope** ('04), was elected president of the IU Voices of Hope and Sigma Omega Pi, a Christian fraternity.
- On March 25, the Groups Alpha Delta chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society hosted its annual induction ceremony in the Indiana Memorial Union. Alpha Delta, the 28th chapter chartered by this national honor society, annually inducts Groups students who earn two consecutive semesters of a GPA of 3.0 or above and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Strong leadership abilities and a willingness to serve as a role model are also selection criteria. Groups students inducted were: **Alana Bentley** ('04); **Ebony Brown** ('04); **Chrystal Cooke** ('04); **Quan Cork** ('03); **Enedina Dorsey** ('03); **Vickie El** ('04); **Darlessa Gates** ('03); **Diana Glozman** ('04); **Kareem Harris** ('04); **Desmond Jones** ('04); **Whitney Lee** ('04); **Brandon Lindsay** ('04); **Cordell Martin** ('04); **Par-**

wana Noorzad ('04); **Tamera Osborne** ('04); **Shirley Payne** ('02); **Reanetta Perkins** ('04); **Daniel Redd** ('03); **Porscha Tucker** ('04); **Cynequa Warfield** ('04); and **LaShawna Williams** ('03). **Jana Cox**, the Groups Program's office manager, was the lone honorary inductee.

- On April 27, the Groups 2006 graduating class of 184 seniors was honored at a graduation banquet. Annie Willis, the financial aid administrator for the Groups Program, introduced **Michael Edwards**, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and School of Public and Environmental Affairs, who delivered the keynote address. **Alma Malagon** ('01) and **Gerald Mitchell** ('00), BS'04, saluted their fellow graduates. Groups graduate assistant **Benetta Fairley** was given an award for outstanding contribution as a graduate assistant to the Groups Program; and director Janice Wiggins gave **Elizabeth Trevino** the Omar Castaneda Scholarship. After GAA president Lindsey Smith welcomed the graduating class into the Groups Alumni Association, Wiggins gave closing comments and gave a graduation toast. The banquet ended with **Cedric Harris**, JD'93, coordinator of residential programs and services, leading the graduating class and guests in a spirited singing of the Groups song.

- On the evening of July 29, members of the Groups freshman class, their families, friends, Groups staff, and citizens of Bloomington were entertained by the Groups Theatre Project's production of *Sisters and Brothers in Celebration: A Celebration of Love, Life, Faith, and Coming of Age as Men and Women*. **Deadra Nelson-Mason**, BS'02, a master's student in the IU Bloomington's Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, directed and produced the production, a fast-paced mixture of dramatic recitations of poems by Tupac Shakur, Nikkie Giovanni, and Langston Hughes; sensitive re-enactments of scenes from Broadway productions *Def Poetry Jam* and *Sistahs & Brothas*; and high-energy choreography by Nelson-Mason. **James E. Mumford**, PhD'74, who retired last year as the director of the Groups Theatre Project, was front row center cheering on the performers. The cast consisted of these

Groups '06 students: **Ashley Alexander**, **Dominick Austin**, **Ellyn Barham**, **Briana Bertram**, **Diane Bourn**, **Jazmin Brown**, **Michael Craig**, **Yannicka Ghoston**, **Christopher Knarr**, **Jordan Latham**, **Brittany Mani**, **Melody Martin**, **A.J. Medley-Griffin**, **Ashley Perkins**, **Joshua Rucker**, **Everett Sciney**, **Dominique Smith**, and **Amber Daniel**.

- On Aug. 4, an awards ceremony and reception marked the closing of the Groups 2006 freshman class's six-week Summer Experience Program. Before dining on a bountiful buffet, class president **Kevin Brookshire** and class vice presidents **Aaron Medley-Griffin** and **Brittney Paulk** assisted the academic coordinators in the presentation of awards for outstanding classroom leadership, selected by each instructor in the 15 class sections. The critical reading and reasoning class winners were **Emaelaf Alemu**; **Clarence Andrews**; **Elaine Carpenter**; **Xanadu Dean**; **Lauren Fletcher**; **Patrick Fritz**; **Demetruis George**; **Ashlee Green**; **Latroy Hampton**; **Ian Herron**; **Kristina Kartholl**; **Erik Kiser**; **Ryan McDonald**; **Brittney Paulk**; **Chantal Rawlins**; **Christina Sell**; **Myron Tinsley**; and **Andrea Wilson**. The math class winners were **Emaelaf Alemu**; **Roland Antonelli**; **David Barker**; **Arquerhia Brand**; **Jordan Brown**; **Janae Christie**; **Diamond Fowler**; **Patrick Fritz**; **Shayla Hamlin**; **Catherine Hanson**; **Ian Herron**; **Max Jacobs**; **Dermita Johnson**; **Kristina Kartholl**; **Erik Kiser**; and **Courtney Liddell**. The English class winners were **Tiffany Adkison**; **Magortu Emmanuel**; **Diamond Fowler**; **Shayla Hamlin**; **Ian Herron**; **Max Jacobs**; **Deiara Jones**; **Vanessa Jones**; **Christopher Knarr**; **Rosa Maldonado**; **Cheryl Nwokah**; **Joseph Slaughterbeck**; **Shamini Stewart**; **Paulette Villareal**; **Cassandra Warmack**; **Chante Williams**; **Ashley Wright**; and **Ariana Zarate**. Individual classroom leadership honors went to **Magortu Emmanuel** for chemistry; **Erik Kiser** for topics in informatics; and **Christina Sell** for conversation on race.

- Members of Groups '06 surprised Wiggins and her staff with a commemorative blanket, which was conceived and produced by classmates **Monique Jernigan** and **LaTroy Hampton**.



Visit www.indiana.edu/~groups for information about admissions, student support, programs, and news.

Scholarships aid students, alumni

Students currently enrolled in the Groups Program were the recipients of an impressive array of university, state, and national undergraduate scholarships. **Beverly Haro** ('05), was the recipient of a \$500 Indiana University Latino Alumni Association scholarship and a red, leather-bound certificate in recognition of her research in international studies.

William Taylor ('05), was awarded two scholarships that recognized his performance in the classroom and on the golf course. The National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association awarded him a \$1,500 scholarship. The scholarship was formerly known as the Tiger Woods Scholarship. Taylor's photograph, along with six other scholarship winners, was published in the NMJGSA newsletter. Taylor was also the recipient of a \$1,000 Cosmo Knights Golf Club Scholarship.

Jerrah Jackson ('05), has been accepted to do research under the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program during the 2006–07 academic year. Biology professor Greg Demas, IU Bloomington, will guide Jackson's research project, "Investigating the role of cortisol in the seasonal increases in aggression in Siberian hamsters (*Phodopus sungorus*)." Jackson will present his study's findings at the LSAMP Indiana Research Conference in November.

Tynese Anderson ('03), was awarded a \$2,500 Indiana Space Grant Scholarship. She was one of only five IUB undergraduate students to receive this scholarship, funded by the Indiana Space Grant Consortium. Anderson is now contemplating a career with NASA.

And, alumnus **Monte Simonton Jr.** ('97), Cert/BA'02, heads a social service agency that received a \$5,000 Indiana Youth Institute Award. Simonton's agency was one of only 10 agencies that the IYI selected from a pool of 120 agencies from across the state of Indiana. Simonton and his fellow awardees will be recognized at a November press conference and at a December Indiana Pacers basketball game.

Student spotlight

Groups class president offers encouragement

Kevin Brookshire, a native of Gary, Ind., and member of the incoming Groups class of '06, was an active participant in extracurricular activities while attending Emerson High School. In 2003–04, he was elected class president. The next year he served as president of the city of Gary's Intra-City Student Council.

A gifted orator, Brookshire won first place in the 2003 Indiana State School Music Association competitions. And that same year, the Gary Community School Corp. City-Wide Student Council selected him to address Gov. Mitch Daniels and the Indiana State Legislature on their behalf.

Brookshire's Groups 2006 classmates elected him class president. At the summer program's closing awards banquet, he opened his remarks by leading his classmates in a spirited singing of the Groups song: "G is for the generating of minds; R is for the recognition of all kinds; O represents opportunity; U, understanding and unity; P, profound personalities; S, success is our reality," and each lyric was affirmed with the resounding refrain: "Groups is what we are and what we will continue to be!"

After testifying about how he benefited from his six-week exposure to the magnificent program's classroom environment, divergent personalities, campus life, and need for time management, Brookshire concluded by challenging his classmates with a list of encouragements, none more relevant than this one: "Work hard; we must struggle to succeed."



Courtesy of Kevin Brookshire

Brookshire ('06)

Students venture to New York City

Vincent Isom ('86), BS'91, MS'93, coordinator of the Groups Program's upperclass initiatives and chaperon, reported that the Atkins Living Learning Center's 2006 New York City adventure was "the best trip yet."

The adventure began at the African Burial Ground, the national historic landmark located in lower Manhattan. The burial ground is recognized as the only known urban pre-Revolutionary War African cemetery in America. Students observed artifacts and gained an appreciation for their African American ancestors who lived in lower Manhattan from 1717 to 1792. Other notable adventure stops were 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Top of the Rock, New York Harbor, Battery Park, Central Park, *The Today Show* studio, the Apollo Theatre, and ground zero.

The two highlights of the adventure were visits to a Harlem restaurant and a Manhattan public school. "The energy

level was high as we left the Apollo for Silvia's Restaurant," chaperon Isom wrote. "To everyone's surprise, the Reverend Al Sharpton was seen eating lunch as we entered! ... In another part of the restaurant, a live singer performed some of the hits that were a part of the Apollo history lesson. Students began to join in, and a few took the opportunity to serenade

the rest of us. A few left their seats to dance to the music. A good time was had by all. Everyone soon departed after eating to explore Harlem."

At the Bloomingdale school PS 145M, Atkins students and Blooming-

dale students were randomly paired. The older IU students shared their first-hand college impressions. Later, the Bloomingdale students gave their Indiana guests a tour of their school's neighborhood. "By the time we left," Isom noted, "contact information was exchanged and hugs were shared. Many [students] later commented that this was the highlight of the trip."



Groups students in New York City



Milestones

Marriages

W. Anthony Patton ('88), BS'92, and Lakeisha Jackson were married on Sept. 2, 2006, in Memphis, Tenn.

Births

Shequittia Kelly ('96), BA'99, LLD'03, hosted a baby shower for **Shareeka Tolbert** ('96), BS01, in Indianapolis.

Retirements

Michael Berkvam, professor of French and Italian and member of the Groups Advisory Board, is retiring.

James E. Mumford, PhD'74, director of IU's African American Choral Ensemble and founding director of the Groups Theatre Workshop, is retiring.

Deaths

Lauren Crouner, 25, ('99), BA'03, former 500 Festival Queen and WLFI-TV news anchor. Services were in Indianapolis.

Alvin "Alvie" Henry Jr., 21, ('03), Eigenman Hall resident assistant and IU senior. Services were in Gary, Ind.

Wanda M. Pope, 40, mother of **DeOndray K. Pope** ('06). Services were in Gary, Ind.

Dallas Lovell Slaughter, 87, father of **Janice Wiggins**, BA'71, MS'75,, director of the Groups Student Support Services Program. Services were in Indianapolis.

Anthony Thomas "Apple Jack" **Jack**, 40, father of **DeOndray K. Pope** ('06). Services were in Gary, Ind.



1970s

Jerald H. Arnold ('69), BA'74, is president of J & S Construction Co. in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and is currently building energy-efficient homes made of insulated concrete forms.

Gail M. Bushrod ('70), BA'74, sponsored a meeting between Groups alumni and Groups staff when the Groups staff was conducting an area visit in Evansville.

Calvin L. Jones ('72), BA'76, is vice president for Federal & Commercial Contracts, Inglewood, Calif.

Lindsey A. Smith ('71), BA'76, and **Dawn Dunn Smith**, BA'76, have kept their family's IU tradition alive. **Shannon**, BA'03, is serving in Kirkuk, Iraq. **Ryan**, a junior and pre-dental student at IU Bloomington, earned NCAA Division I All-American honors for his accomplishments on the IU men's track team. Erin, a senior at Bloomington North High School, plans to enroll at IU Bloomington in the fall.

Sylvia M. Kennedy Monagan ('72), BA'78, published *Write the Vision, Make It Plain*, in September 2005. It is a journal about becoming debt-free. The forthcoming Web site for the journal is www.gig-writethevision.com.

Monagan lives in Munster, Ind., and can be reached at smonagan@gig-writethevision.com.

Donald J. Reed ('75), BA'79, received the Civilian Joint Service Commendation Medal for his work as a member of Joint Task Force Katrina, providing defense support of civil authorities in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A retired military police lieutenant colonel, he is chief of the military support division for the First U.S. Army. Reed and his wife, Victoria, live in Fayetteville, Ga. His address is donald.j.reed@us.army.mil.

Doris Williams Sims ('75), BA'79, MS'98, was appointed to the position of assistant director of housing and neighborhood development for the Bloomington, Ind., municipal government.

1980s

Julian L. Shepard ('75), BS'80, JD'83, partner and chair of Williams Mullen Attorneys' communications section, was named "Legal Elite" by *Washington SmartCEO* magazine. He lives in McLean, Va.

Lisa B. Mani ('82), made a special visit

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Alumni spotlight

New Orleans resident serves as community activist, pre- and post-Katrina

W. Anthony Patton ('88), BS'92, a native of Bloomington, Ind., turned a final MBA class project at the University of New Orleans into a highly influential business venture. In the late 1980s, emboldened by his professors' enthusiastic evaluation of the project, Patton became the president and founder of EBO Networks, "a network of Web portals that communicates to upwards of 100,000 African American professionals who are ages 25 to 44, affluent, college educated and hip" who live in the southeastern region of the United States. Locally, his www.NewOrleansBlack.com presents First Fridays, a business networking series, and Saturday Nights, which covers social functions. Patton's most recent business ventures are *OFFline*, a magazine that covers such African American social and cultural events as the Bayou Classic Football Game, and DO-WAP (his initials) Consulting, which assists minority vendors in securing governmental and private supplier contracts.

Patton was named to *Gambit Weekly's* prestigious "40 Under 40" list for 2002. *New Orleans City Business* named him its "Top New Entrepreneur of the Year Award" for 2003 and selected him for its "Emerging Entrepreneur in the State Award" in 2004.

A tireless community activist, Patton is a member of the 17-member post-Katrina committee commissioned by the mayor of New Orleans.



Courtesy of W. Anthony Patton

Patton ('88), BS'92

Alumni notebook

(continued from page 10)

to IU to see her daughter, **Brittany Mani** ('06), perform in the 2006 Groups Theatre Workshop production *Sisters and Brothers in Celebration*.

1990s

Vincent Isom ('86), BA'91, MA'93, was elected secretary of I-MAEOPP at the organization's 2006 annual meeting. He also received I-MAEOPP's 2006 La Verta Terry Outstanding Service Award. The daughter of Vincent and **Clariassa Isom** ('86), Avari Claire Isom, 7, will be entering the second grade at Harmony School in Bloomington, Ind.

Kila Ward ('88), BA'93, Cert'04, is program coordinator for the PNC College Bound Program at Purdue University North Central in Westville, Ind.

Jose M. Jimenez ('91), BS'95, MPH'96, of Chandler, Ariz., writes, "I wasn't looking for an adventure with an altruistic twist, but it found me and I couldn't refuse. In fact, I intend to make it a regular part of my life. I had been in my current position with Health Net of Arizona but a few months when an associate told me there was a need for interpreters in an organization that set up clinics in rural Mexico. On the weekend of June 3, I embarked on a journey to Mexico with Liga International, 'Flying Doctors of Mercy.' Liga's mission is to improve the health of residents in Sinaloa, Mexico, by providing them with free health care. October through June, a squad of small, privately owned planes stuffed with doctors, nurses, interpreters, and medical supplies fly from California, Nevada, and Arizona to rural farming communities. In Sinaloa, people journey from miles around to bring their sick — babies with cleft palates, children with deformed limbs, adults with chronic diseases — to the weekend clinics with high hopes of getting healed. On an average weekend, approximately 1,000 people are treated at clinics in the towns of San Blas, El Fuerte, and El Carrizo. Being an immigrant from Mexico, I will return in October to help in the best way I can."

Pat Carlton-Nyangira ('82), BA'96, was hired as an office manager and teacher in the Adult Education Program at the University of Indianapolis.

Anna M. Halliwill Berkebile ('92), BA'98, is a membership assistant for the Organization of American Historians in Bloomington, Ind. She also runs a small home-based business part time while working as an editor for University Pub-

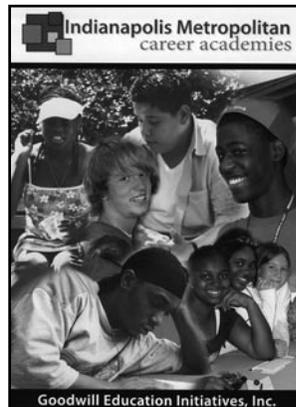
Alumni spotlight

Alumna keeps busy with school, counseling work, and authoring book

Shaunette R. Byers ('98), BA '02, a native of South Bend, Ind., is creating an impressive legacy in the field of mentoring and counseling public school students in Indiana. In January 2006, she was promoted to the position of college transition counselor for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Career Academy, a charter school sponsored by Goodwill Education Industries Inc., in Indianapolis. "As college transition counselor," Byers explains in her résumé, "I ensure that students [in grades] nine through 12 are prepared for college entry. I connect students with colleges through various activities like college fairs, college visits, and pre/early college programs. In addition, I assist students with college acceptance." For two years prior to taking this position, Byers served as the teen-program coordinator for the Forest Manor Multi-Service Center in



Byers ('98), BA'02



Indianapolis. During her tenure, Byers designed and implemented innovative career development and mentoring programs for at-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 18. From 1999 to 2004, Byers was staff member for Boys & Girls Clubs in South Bend, Bloomington, and Indianapolis. Byers, who is a member and former officer of the Groups Program's Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, is currently studying for an MS in community psychology at Martin University in Indianapolis. When not working or studying, Byers devotes her free time to writing *The Story*, a children's book geared toward children up to the third grade, which plays on the imagination of a young boy and his grandfather.

lishing Corp. "This is all in addition to raising two beautiful children," she writes, "who keep me busiest of all." She also dabbles in creative writing and has been published twice since graduation.

Jack L. Morelan ('93), BS'98, is assistant director for facilities of the athletic department at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He oversees athletics and recreation activities on the main campus, and he is in charge of game-day operations for men's and women's soccer and lacrosse. Previously, he served as general manager of the Tucson (Ariz.) Sportspark and as program coordinator and event manager at the University of Arizona. He has also overseen game-day operations for the NCAA men's basketball tournament and for the National Professional Fastpitch women's softball team the Arizona Heat.

DeMarco Brown ('94), BA'99 is a photojournalist for WSBT in South Bend, Ind. His wife, Elizabeth J. (Armstrong), BA'00, is a legal assistant for May Oberfell Lorber, Mishawaka. Elizabeth writes, "We recently bought a house in South Bend and are remodeling it."

D'uAndre A. Drain ('95), BS'99, is an assembly management group leader for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana Inc. in Princeton. He and his family live in Evansville.

Bryann H. Gibson ('95), '99, is an employment specialist at Workforce Development Services Inc. in Gary, Ind. He reports that he is working on completing his bachelor's degree at IU Northwest. Gibson is a co-chair of the Gary NAACP's political action committee. His daughter, Madison Louise Gibson, was born on Sept. 20, 2005. The Gibsons live in Merrillville, Ind.

Bradley J. Kauffman ('95), BS'99, coaches, teaches, and sells real estate in Bluffton, Ind.

The son of **Wakisha Malone** ('95), BA'99, MA'01, Javon Malone, 10, will be entering the fourth grade at Bloomington's Clear Creek Elementary School. He serves as a student mediator.

Sydney Bourff McCoy ('94), BA/MLS'99, is supervisor of children's services for the Urbana Regional Library in the Frederick County (Md.) Public Libraries.

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Alumni notes

(continued from page 11)

2000s

Vanessa M. Cochran ('92), BGS'00, writes that she and her husband, **Eric**, BS'93, have both furthered their educations by earning master's degrees in business management and administration. She adds that she and Eric met through the Groups Program and calls her time with the program "the best years of my life."

Lathay Pegues ('93), BA'00, and **Terrell Cooper** ('00), BA'05, are the founders and owners of John Tom's Barbecue Sauce, located in Muncie, Ind.

Jamika R. Jones ('96), BGS'01, writes, "I have a wonderful career, bought a beautiful home, and am the proud mother of a son, Jadon Michael."

Gabe T. Meyers ('95), BA'01, is an assistant field construction manager in Crestview Hills, Ky. He and his wife, Chelsea (Montgomery), BS'00, celebrated their second wedding anniversary last October. He writes, "Hope everyone is well! We miss you guys!"

Herlinda "Linda" Alvarado Swart ('97), BA'01, is a sales representative for Boehringer Ingelheim in Fishers, Ind., where she lives with her husband, **Joshua S.**, Cert/BA'99. They have a daughter, Kaillee Chayse, who was born on Dec. 7, 2004. The family also has a dog, Lilly.

Kelly Green ('97), BS'02, is a real estate consultant in Inglewood, Calif.

Isaac B. Kinsey ('99), BS'05, is pursuing a joint MS degree in higher education and student affairs and physical education at IU Bloomington.

[REDACTED] ('01), BA'05, created the Web site for the Groups Alpha Delta chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society which won first place in the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society Inc.'s contest.

IUAlumniCareers.com

The IU Alumni Association's new Web site provides online career and mentoring services for IU alumni. Sign up for this service at **IUAlumniCareers.com** to search for jobs posted by employers, post your résumé for review by employees, or search for an alumni mentor for advice.



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