

- Indiana University Kokomo ranked first place in donations and walkers at the 2008 Howard County Heart Walk, raising more than \$4400 and recruiting 77 participants.

Office of the Chancellor • Indiana University Kokomo • December 2008

Campus Addresses Student Concerns

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going directly to Heaven, we were all going the other way.” The opening lines to Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities* might have been written about our current national and international economic and political upheavals. Mostly, one hears only about the “worst of times” and each new economic report or government response seems only to heighten uncertainty and unrest.



Interim Chancellor
Stuart Green

In this climate of uncertainty, the campus believed it was important to reach out to our students who, like everyone else, are concerned about their finances; to share knowledge and provide guidance; to assist them in progressing towards their academic goals. Additionally, we want our students to know that we recognize that these are difficult times and we are ready to work with them to help keep them in school.

During the first week of December, we conducted the first in a series of Town Hall meetings in Kresge Auditorium to listen and respond to the concerns of our students. Staff was available to answer questions and make appointments to work one-on-one with students on their individual problems. We reminded our students that while this may seem to be the “worst of times”, better times are coming and staying in college is the best way for them to prepare for a role in our region’s future.

The Town Hall Meeting idea emerged from conversations with Grason Bolinger, the student body president, other students and IU Kokomo Student Life staff. In particular, I am grateful to Student Body President Grason and Johnathan Grant, the editor of the *Correspondent*, for their support of this initiative. With their help, I am confident that we can connect with our students, help them through these difficult times, and give them a greater voice in the direction of the campus.

Until next time, stay safe and keep in touch.
Best Regards,

Stay In College to Prepare for Economy Upswing, Future Jobs, Say Indiana University Kokomo Officials

College students who commit to their education during tough economic times will be better prepared for the job market and will have success in gaining advanced employment.

This topic, along with other student concerns, was discussed in the first of an ongoing series of Town Hall meetings designed to give students the opportunity to share their ideas, problems, and recommendations with campus leaders and decision makers.

IU Kokomo Interim Chancellor Stuart Green, along with the vice chancellors, reminded students that, while this may seem to be the “worst of times”, better times are coming, and staying in college is the best way for them to prepare for a role in the future of the Kokomo region.

“Students may make the decision to drop out of school for a \$7.50 per hour job. This won’t prepare them for when the economy is back on the upswing. Those students will be behind the curve,” said Green. “What I’m looking for across the region is a growth in development of different kinds of businesses that aren’t purely automotive. I see the potential for students who are prepared to pick up jobs as the economy heats up.”

Steven Sarratore, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, echoed Green’s comments by emphasizing IU Kokomo’s commitment to each student and the importance of higher education. “We want every student to have the opportunity to finish their education,” Sarratore said. “Before you make the decision to not be a student here, talk to us. We’ll work with you and we’ll do everything we can do to make it happen.”

Campus Offers Fine Arts Major

IU Kokomo now offers a baccalaureate degree in fine arts, allowing art students to obtain their higher education close to home.

Nearly 20 students are enrolled in the program, which was offered in the fall for the first time. Gregory Steel, assistant professor for fine arts, said the program will provide them with a variety of skills ranging from animation, to video production, to graphic design, to digital art. These classes offer real interaction, he said, which can be translated into several types of concentrations including business web site design and computer illustration.

“We’re not just teaching them how to paint,” Steel said. “Students can tailor the direction they want to take. We’re teaching the skills they can translate into multiple areas. I’m really excited about the possibilities.”



Student Body President Grason Bolinger facilitates the discussion between campus officials and students at the first Town Hall meeting that took place this month.

- Students In Free Enterprise raised nearly \$500 for the "Give-A-Chicken" project that purchases chickens for the Mulunda Miaka Orphanage in Zambia, Africa.

Catherine Barnes Received Indiana University Alumni Association 2008 President's Award

Giving back to the community comes natural for Catherine Barnes. After all, the life-long Kokomo resident remembers those who gave of their time to her when she was a child.

Because of her dedication to Indiana University and the Kokomo area, Barnes is this year's recipient of the IU Alumni Association's President's Award, which was presented to her on December 5, during a ceremony at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Campus Center.

"It's simple. I'm giving back to the community that has embraced me my entire life," Barnes said of her volunteer work. "I never expect to receive an award for the things I do. I am honored."

Barnes recalls as a young child when she lived across the street from the Carver Community Center on the city's northeast side, where she played every day. It was at Carver where she came in contact with young college students, volunteering their time, who helped her realize that attending college was indeed a possibility. Barnes graduated from Purdue University at West Lafayette in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences from Purdue University.

Since then, Barnes has served on Carver's board of directors and has helped shape the mentoring programs offered there. In addition, she has been an active volunteer with the IU Kokomo Alumni Association, and has served as a board member for the national Neal-Marshall Alumni Club. She has been active in projects such as the Old Ben 5K Run/Walk, Hoosiers for Higher Education Statehouse Day, Indiana Black Expo, the IUAA Student Study Task Force, and IU Kokomo's Take Back the Night.

Barnes is an academic adviser and the coordinator of campus climate with the School of Arts and Sciences. She and her husband, Fred, live in Kokomo.



Catherine Barnes

Experts Predict "Uncertainty" for Economic Forecast of City, State, Nation

Uncertainty is the key word used to describe the forecast of the local, state, and national economy, but an upturn could be possible toward the end of next year, according to expert opinions offered at the Indiana University Kokomo's annual Business Outlook and Public Policy Panel.



Jerry Conover, director of the Indiana Business Research Center at IU's Kelley School of Business, addresses the Kokomo audience about the direction of the state's economy.

"Overall, the picture is not very good," said Jason VanAlstine, acting assistant professor of economics at the IU Kokomo School of Business, speaking about the economy in the Kokomo area. "Unemployment is up from 5.4% last year to what is now 7.5%. We should expect unemployment to go up for the next year, to either higher single numbers or even double digits."

Joining VanAlstine on the panel were business and financial experts from the IU Kelley School of Business, including Morton Marcus, director emeritus of the Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC); Jerry Conover, director of the IBRC; and Robert Neal, associate professor of finance.

VanAlstine referred to recent merger discussions between GM and Chrysler, which could result in possible sizable job cuts at the Kokomo plants. Chrysler also announced it would cut back its salaried workforce by 25 percent nationally starting this month.

However, if Hoosiers can hold tight until next year, Conover said there's light at the end of the tunnel.

"Knowledge that Works!"

Calendar of Events

Visit www.iuk.edu/events for details.

December 25–January 4
Campus closed

January 7
New Student Orientation
8 a.m.–3 p.m.
Kresge Auditorium

January 27
Ultimate Money Skills
1–2 p.m.
Kresge Auditorium

January 12–February 5
Paintings From Spain
IU Kokomo Art Gallery

January 30
Spring Convocation
9–10:30 a.m.
Kelley Student Center
Room 130

February 1
Howard/Tipton County
African American Read-In
2–4 p.m.
Howard County Public Library
Contact Marilyn Skinner
(765) 455-9427

February 12
V.I.P. Day (Visit In Person)
8:15 a.m.–Noon
Kelley Student Center
Room 130

February 17
Bus Trip
Hoosiers for Higher Education
Statehouse Visit Day
12:30–6 p.m.
Call (765) 455-9411
for information