HBCU - STEM Initiative
Expanding IU research and diversity

McNair Success Stories
McNair Scholars pursue their dreams

New Way to Recruit
IUPUI Medical Science Ph.D. Programs

Nkula, French Congo
“Village Congo,” Oil on board
From the Naomi Osborne Collection
at Indiana University East
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There’s more to graduate school than coursework and research, it turns out.

While scholarship is the core of any graduate program, says newly appointed University Graduate School associate dean Maxine Watson, it is important students also receive opportunities to grow through and beyond the scope of their studies.

“In my own education at Yale, my interaction with other students made a huge difference to my education,” Watson recalls. “You can’t underestimate the value of the things that happen outside classrooms and laboratories.”

Graduate school can be daunting. You are expected to gain scholarly independence and to work long hours at it. Expectations of success also increase as students begin to see themselves as generators, rather than simply consumers, of knowledge. That kind of pressure causes some students to excel, others to lose their way.

“The students would like a sense of support, to know there’s a safety net,” Watson says. “Students can feel very isolated, especially if they are part of smaller academic divisions. We want to provide what is needed to allow all students to get the most out of their graduate educations.”

One suggestion, Watson says, might be to increase the number of activities available to IU graduate students. Some of these activities might be academic in nature, such as a university-supported colloquium in which grads discuss their research, or how to organize a vita or prepare for a job interview. Some activities might be purely social.

There are also practical issues. For one, some graduate students arrive at Indiana University as the mothers and fathers of young families.

“Access to adequate medical care for them and their spouses and children is crucial,” Watson says. “If we want the best students, that is, and we do.”

At present, there is no mechanism for dealing with student-advisor conflicts. “The relationship between graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and their faculty advisors is a very personal one,” Watson says. “The university needs to create a formal way of arbitrating situations when parties cannot solve problems on their own.”

Watson, a professor of biology at Indiana University Bloomington, has some experience in advising graduate students and the administrators of graduate programs. For many years she has worked directly with students on research in plant ecology, physiology, and evolution. She was also the College of Arts and Sciences’ Associate Dean of Graduate Studies between 1988 and 1992.

“I like to work with the units to determine what can be done to make their programs work in the best way possible,” Watson says. “It’s a passion.”
On March 29, 2007, Indiana University and nine Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) announced their intention to join together for a new “STEM Initiative.” Named for its focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the goal of the initiative is to increase the number of minority students entering STEM graduate degree programs, provide research opportunities for students and build multi-institutional research collaborations between faculty members.

The University Graduate School at Indiana University is honored to play a role in facilitating the development of this innovative partnership. This is a unique arrangement in the sense that it is a partnership comprised of ten institutions and it provides opportunities for both student training and faculty research collaborations. The partnership holds great promise for enhancing the diversity in our graduate programs and among our faculty, and for building long-term lasting collaborations which may lead to innovative research and knowledge creation.

Former President Adam W. Herbert is to be commended for his leadership and passion toward this historic initiative for Indiana University. President Herbert was not only instrumental in the creation and development of the program but he also demonstrated his commitment by generously setting aside $2,000,000 for
I am honored to be a part of this program. I enjoy doing research on Huntington’s disease and I have learned a lot from my mentor. If I were to attend graduate school I would definitely choose IUB because of its friendly environment.

Geanée’ B. Quinney

Geanée is a rising Junior from Alabama A&M University working on stress, drugs, and alcohol in Dr. George Rebec’s lab.

The HBCU-STEM program was a great experience that gave me a taste of what it is like to do research in the field of computer science...My advisor was not standing over me while I did my work, but she gave me enough resources so that I was able to complete my work on my own.

Jarrett David

Jarrett is a rising Junior from Morehouse College and is working on cell phone technology in Dr. Kay Connelly’s lab.

STEM Initiative Partners

Alabama A&M University
Bennett College for Women
Clark Atlanta University
Hampton University
Indiana University Bloomington
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Jackson State University
Langston University
Morehouse College
Morgan State University
Xavier University of Louisiana

an endowment to establish fellowships, $250,000 for fellowships in the first year of the program, and another $200,000 for recruitment activities for the program. With this level of commitment, the STEM Initiative is poised to not only commence with a great start, but it will be positioned to create a lasting impact on the students and faculty of the partnering institutions. To recognize the leadership of President Herbert for his work in establishing this initiative, the Board of Trustees of Indiana University voted unanimously on April 6th to name the program the Adam W. Herbert STEM Program. Recipients of the undergraduate scholarships will be called Herbert Scholars and recipients of the graduate fellowships will be called Herbert Fellows.

The relationship began in earnest this summer as nine students from partnering HBCUs came to participate in an eight-week Summer Scholars Institute on the Bloomington and IUPUI campuses, which culminates this week with research presentations to IU faculty. The summer program is only the beginning of a larger initiative to cultivate year-round research collaborations, as well as visiting scholar and faculty exchanges among the STEM program institutions.

There is no question that the establishment of the endowment insures that the program will benefit students and faculty for generations by promoting graduate education and providing opportunity to students and faculty.

During the kick-off press conference, President Herbert said that “this important collaboration will build on Indiana University’s long-standing relationship with historically Black colleges and universities. It also will complement IU’s focus on the life sciences by helping minority students close the achievement gap in STEM disciplines.” His hope, and ours, is that the STEM Initiative will also serve as a national model for building relationships between a large, public research institution and multiple HBCUs.

President Michael McRobbie, who began his presidency of Indiana University on July 1, 2007, and who was on hand for the March ceremony, has vowed to continue to strengthen and support graduate education at IU and to facilitate the initiative in broadening participation in STEM disciplines. President McRobbie has made clear his commitment to increasing diversity significantly at Indiana University and recognizes this program as an important vehicle for meeting our diversity goals, especially in the STEM areas.

The University Graduate School is grateful to former President Herbert for his creation of and demonstrated commitment to the Herbert STEM Program. We are also grateful to President McRobbie for his commitment to build upon the Program to enhance diversity and graduate education at Indiana University.

James C. Wimbush
Dean of the University Graduate School
Indiana University
Wells Library: Fact & Fiction

**FACT:**
Herman B Wells, for whom the main library on campus is named, was president of Indiana University from 1938 to 1962 and university chancellor from 1962 to 2000. A beloved leader, he is credited with establishing IU as one of the nation’s leading public universities. The B in his name is not followed by a period because it doesn’t stand for a longer name.

**FICTION:**
The Wells Library is not sinking, though a persistent urban legend says otherwise. An unknowing architect, the myth goes, didn’t account for the weight of the books in his original 1969 design. In truth, the library is situated a few feet higher than the architect planned. “Five feet below the Bloomington campus is a 330-million-year-old, 94-foot-thick layer of limestone,” says current University Architect Robert Meadows. “When the library was constructed, the upper layer of this rock was found to be harder than expected. Rather than blast, we raised the lowest level of the building.” So, again, the Wells Library is not sinking.

**FACT:**
In December 2006, several staff members working on the third floor of the Wells Library noticed that two limestone panels on the exterior of the building had come loose. A project to repair the limestone is now under way. Crews are replacing the smooth border stones on the two towers, and joints on the towers will be cut out, cleaned, and caulked or tuckpointed. Workers will also inspect all mosaic stones and repair them as needed.

Construction on the Wells Library to repair the distinctive building’s patterned limestone siding.
Get to Know Your Library

As the site of the only campuswide orientation for graduate and professional students, the Herman B Wells Library will be buzzing more than usual on Thursday, August 23, when the Graduate and Professional Student Organization hosts their annual academic kickoff.

“We’re thrilled to host this event and work with the GPSO,” says librarian Lou Malcomb, head of the library committee working through the details. “The Wells Library should be a centerpoint for new grad students to explore research methods and resources. It brings people, intellectual content, and equipment together in one place.”

Located on a hill at Tenth Street and Jordan Avenue, the Herman B Wells Library is visible from across the Bloomington campus. Its prominence symbolizes the library’s centrality to research and instruction at Indiana University. An average of 6,000 students, faculty, staff, and visitors pass through the library doors each day.

Besides the get-acquainted activities associated with the orientation event (such as refreshments, the chance to meet library subject specialists and learn about databases for your discipline), librarians offer tours geared for graduates students during the critical first wave of the semester. These tours will not only highlight the collections, but also introduce services such as e-reserves, delivery options, and instruction seminars. Tours last approximately 30 or 40 minutes. No reservations required.

For more information, contact Lou Malcomb at malcomb@indiana.edu or visit www.libraries.iub.edu/welcome

Take a Tour of the Wells Library

Wednesday, August 22, 2007
1:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 23, 2007
1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.

Friday, August 24, 2007
11:00 a.m.
3:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 25, 2007
2:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 26, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Monday, August 27, 2007
3:30 p.m.
IU AGEP Update

The goal of the Midwest Crossroads Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate (AGEP) Program at IU is to recruit and retain greater diversity in science and technology graduate degree programs and then to advance those students on to the professoriate.

The 2007 Annual AGEP/LSAMP Conference will be hosted here on the IU Bloomington campus November 9-10, 2007. This joint conference is between IU, Northwestern and Purdue Universities for students in the AGEP and LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) programs.

Attendees include African-, Native- and Hispanic/Latino/a- American graduate and undergraduate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. Faculty and administrators interested in diversity and graduate student recruitment, retention and advancement should also plan to attend.

Welcome Events

Get Oriented @ IU
For incoming graduate students
Thursday, August 23, 2007
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Herman B Wells Library

Speed Friending
Friday, August 24, 2007
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Grad Pad in IMU room M008

Grad & Prof Student Cookout
Sunday, August 26, 2007
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Bryan Park Woodlawn Shelter

Wine and Cheese Reception
Friday, August 31, 2007
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Neal-Marshall Center, Grand Hall

First Annual Graduate Student Awards Reception

On Wednesday, April 18, 2007, the University Graduate School announced winners for the 2006-07 Diversity Building Fellowships, Wells Fellowship, McNair Fellowship, Esther Kinsley award, Grant-in-Aid, Future Faculty Teaching Fellowships and the GPSO Faculty Mentor Award.

Sociology Graduate Student Emily Fairchild (with Dean James Wimbush and Associate Dean David Daleke) received the Wells Fellowship

Music Theory Graduate Student Erick Carballo (with his family and two of his Jacobs School of Music mentors, Profs. Carmen Helena Téllez and Marianne Kielian-Gilbert) received the Esther L. Kinsley Ph.D. Dissertation Award
Faculty Mentor Award 2007

Michael Reece, Applied Health Sciences

Michael Reece is the recipient of the 2007 Faculty Mentor Award, presented by the Indiana University Graduate and Professional Student Organization.

Reece, the William L. Yarber Professor in Sexual Health in the Department of Applied Health Science in Indiana University Bloomington’s School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, was recognized by GPSO members and others at the University Graduate School Awards Ceremony April 18th. The award is made annually to an IU faculty member who best demonstrates the quality of guiding graduate students through their studies and research activities.

“Professor Reece is an exemplary person who clearly has a wonderful rapport with his graduate students,” says GPSO Moderator Paul Rohwer, a computer science doctoral candidate. “He’s a brilliant researcher, establishing IU’s Sexual Health Research Working Group to foster collaboration between faculty and students - simply the reason why students complete their graduate work here at IU.

Reece has been on faculty since 2001. His research interests include exploring sexual health issues facing women recovering from breast cancer and other gynecological challenges. In addition, Reece is actively involved in research related to the mental health consequences of HIV infection both domestically and internationally, with current projects located in the Southeastern United States and in Kenya.

NRC Survey of Research Doctoral Programs Update

The NRC Survey of Research Doctoral Programs (www7.nationalacademies.org/resdoc) has moved into its final stage.

Data has been collected from over 200 participating institutions and the analysis phase has begun. The response rate for Indiana University was excellent.

For the Bloomington campus, of the 51 reported programs, 76.4% faculty (of 903 total) and 77.4% of the students (of 155 total in economics, english, neuroscience and physics) completed surveys.

For the Indianapolis campus, of the 14 reported programs, 65.1% of faculty (of 261 total) and 60% of students (neuroscience only) completed surveys; all 14 programs completed the program survey.

The initial data will be released in November 2007 and the final results will be presented in a conference in the Fall of 2008. Check the University Graduate School web site (graduate.indiana.edu) for updated information as the data analysis is released.
McNair Scholars
On the Path to Success

After the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded in 1986, with physicist and NASA astronaut Ronald McNair on it, his family began looking for ways to honor his memory and his devotion to education.

The family already had a foundation in place at that point, Ronald McNair’s brother Carl said. But when they found out about a new educational program to provide support for students in need to pursue graduate degrees, he said, “we came together to lobby for the program and for the program to be named for him.”

“We wanted all people, particularly as relates to need, to have an opportunity,” McNair said.

The program was named the Ronald E. McNair Scholars program in 1987, and after additional lobbying, the McNair Scholars program was funded in 1988. The program is part of TRIO -- a group of federally funded grants through the Department of Education. McNair Scholars began with 14 program. Fourteen more were added the next year and the participants have continued to grow. McNair Scholars now includes 179 programs, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico – and Indiana.

IU has been part of the McNair program since 1996, IU McNair Scholars Director Cathi Eagan said. Eagan wrote the initial grant requesting that IU become part of the McNair Scholars program and has been the campus program director since.

“I’d worked with summer-only student programs in the past,” she said, “and what I love about McNair is that it’s based on the full academic year.”

Most students come into the program in January or February of their junior or senior year. If the student is getting anything less than an “A,” McNair Scholars will get them a tutor and students are also given the opportunity to do a teaching internship.

The McNair Scholars Program prepares low-income, first-generation and minority undergraduates for graduate study at the doctoral level. For example, scholars are encouraged to do summer research and students between their junior and senior year attend a five-day senior camp focusing on the graduate school application process, the types of aid available to graduate students and survival skills for graduate study.

At the camp, students attend workshops that offer assistance in writing fellowship proposals and essential portions of the graduate school application, such as a personal statement and academic resume. They also participate in a summer eight-week GRE preparation course and take the exam during the first week of August.

In the Fall Semester, students work on their applications, application essays and fellowship applications until the end of the first semester, and in the Spring Semester, McNair helps prepare them for graduate school visits.

Because IU McNair Scholars is a small group, “you get to know their strengths and challenges and you work with them so they’ll be in the best possible standing when they get there,” Eagan said, emphasizing that the program is good for graduate schools as well as prospective graduate students.

“The likelihood of success for a graduate student is way above average if they’ve been a McNair Scholar,” she said.

It’s challenging to say [what the future of funding for higher education initiatives will be], McNair said, “but I do know this. Countries like China and India have systematically invested in educational programs, while this nation is cutting back . . . We have to have programs like those in TRIO., without them, the nation is depriving themselves of people with good ideas, which is what we need to keep this country strong.”

McNair said educational programs like McNair Scholars provide guidance and a model for success. “Seeing someone like you in a leadership or PhD role . . . It means a lot to under-represented students see someone like themselves teaching.”

“Our country cannot afford to cutback one more program of any sort,” he said.
As an undergrad, Chris Robertson wanted to go into fitness.

He was the president of the Kinesiology Club at IU. He worked as a personal trainer and consultant at the Student Recreation and Sports Center (SRSC). He taught a Kick-Box class called “Sports Boxing.”

Everything was on track for that fitness degree.

Then Robertson joined the IU McNair Scholars program, which takes underrepresented minorities and low-income/first-generation students and helps them get the most out of college, and realized his interests in movement, exercise and sports could be directed into research.

“As part of the program,” Robertson said, “you have to do research during your junior and senior years. I took a look at everyone doing research in my program and I liked Dr. Kocaja’s work. Through my work in Kocaja’s lab, I worked with older patients and tried to improve their balance...That’s how I became a spinal researcher.”

Robertson’s first talk and conference papers were presented through research opportunities with McNair. In 2000, Robertson was honored as a top McNair scholar.

“I guess you can call me a McNair Success Story,” he said. “No one in my family went to college...it was hard for them to realize, or maybe appreciate, what I was doing because I’ve been in school for ten years. Now that they’ve seen me graduate and I have a job, it’s easier for them to understand.”

After completing his B.A., Robertson continued on for a Master’s in HPER. During that degree, he took a few neuroscience courses and made connections with professors in both neuroscience and applied health. Most of his research is with humans, he said, which is completed through HPER. But during his degree program, he also did some animal research through the Neuroscience program. Now in 2007, he has a Ph.D. in Neuroscience and a Ph.D. in Human Performance through Kinesiology.

Robertson’s research is primarily on the spinal cord and a reaction called the Hoffman Reflex.

“When you’re at the doctor,” Robertson explains, “and the doctor taps your knee, your tendon makes your leg kick. I’m looking at the same pathway by stimulating the muscles, only electrically rather than mechanically...It’s a window into the spinal cord.”

Using the Hoffman Reflex as a measure of spinal cord activity, Robertson said he’s able to look at the circuits in the spinal cord and has identified three circuits in particular that control movement parameters. “The idea is to use these circuits to study movement disorders like stroke patients,” he said.

Robertson first measures the afflicted and unafflicted sides of stroke victims to see how the spinal cord has been affected after a stroke, then he takes these measurements again after rehabilitation. Comparing the measurements helps Robertson identify what works and what doesn’t and neurologically see how someone is improving.

For the next two years, Robertson will be a postdoc (“They’re calling me a ‘Research Health Scientist’”) in Palo Alto, California, and in Gainesville, Florida. The colleague he’ll be working with is in the Veteran’s Affairs Association and has ties to both the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto and Gainesville. She works with stroke patients, Robertson said, but also with other movement disorders, such as spinal cord injuries and Parkinson’s disease.

At IU, Robertson stimulated nerves and measured the response, but he is excited about moving to his new lab because the resources and equipment to evaluate spinal cord activity will be more effective, he said. For example, he’ll be able to do MRIs and a test called “transcranial magnetic stimulation, where they put a cap on your skull to stimulate individual parts of the brain and thus individual muscles...The new equipment will help me measure how brain response and cord response are different.”

Robertson said it will take his first few years as a postdoc to learn the system and develop his own line of research, but he hopes at some point during that time to also begin teaching classes again at the University of Florida. His goal is to get a tenure track position with a university and continue his work as a Veteran’s Affairs researcher, “but I don’t want to completely get away from teaching.”
Enedina Dorsey graduated from IU this May with a BA in Criminal Justice – and so did her mom.

Growing up with her older brother and single mom in Bloomington, Enedina Dorsey speaks candidly about the discrimination she faced and about how her family got by when they were on welfare when she was little. Her passion back then was basketball but at one point in high school, she planned to go to college on a basketball fund. But, when Dorsey was injured during her junior year, her dream was deferred.

That dream to go for basketball, Dorsey said, came from growing up here in town and having her mom take her to the women’s basketball games (because they were free). It helped her to dream of college, but she didn’t think of higher education, she said, until talking with McNair Scholars “opened my eyes to horizons that I didn’t even know existed.”

The TRIO programs supported Dorsey during college – and GROUPS and Upward Bound before that.

“My decision to go to college became a realistic goal in my mind after talking with my mentor in Upward Bounds,” Enedina said. “Jas Sullivan pushed me to do the SAT and fill out the application. I didn’t know about having to take the test, when to take it or how to prepare before that.”

And at IU, if McNair hadn’t been there to tell her when and how to apply, she said wouldn’t have known about the opportunities available to her in graduate school.

As she was researching her African-Mexican background, Dorsey learned about her heritage and about African influences in Mexico, in particular about the “black population in Mexico that’s not often discovered and rarely read about even in history.”

Dorsey will be attending the IU Law School in the Fall and said she wants to tailor her studies around human rights, land rights and how the population interacts with society.

“There are all these people who have influenced my life. I’ve been fortunate to have people who care about me and push me that one step further.” Bob Valentine from OSM who wrote her recommendation letter for McNair, her mentor, Philip Parnel in Criminal Justice, her Upward Bound mentor Jas Sullivan and many more. In return she says she tries to be that person for her mom.

McNair Scholars opened my eyes to horizons that I didn’t even know existed.

“We were pretty broke and I was having a hard time paying tuition,” she said and it came to the point where Dorsey and her mom were each working three jobs. Dorsey was a peer mentor through the Office of Strategic Mentoring (OSM), she worked in the IU food courts, and at night, she and her mom would go into a doctor’s office and clean up.

“Mymomhasalwaysfaceddiscrimination in the workforce – being a woman and a Mexican-American – we were always poor and at two points we were homeless. Basically, we worked extremely hard just to pay for my school. But then we got behind and I couldn’t pay for my classes and I’d get off work from the doctor’s office at 3 a.m. and couldn’t get up in time to go to classes.” But her mom had it worse. “She got about three hours of sleep then had to be at work at her next job at the post office at 6 a.m.”

Finally, Dorsey begged her to go back to school as well, because they’d be able get financial aid and make ends meet while working on their future together. Going back to school changed both of their lives.

“It’s beautiful to see her so happy. She loves academics and being given the opportunity to go to school. Neither of us knew how beneficial that would be. She’s a real nerd – she’s very smart. She has something like a 3.9 GPA! I think I’d underestimated her, well, maybe not, but she’s been a real inspiration to me and she reminds me where I came from and to always look to the future.”

Dorsey’s mom also now has a B.A. in Criminal Justice. She’s interested in juvenile law and will be applying in the fall for graduate school starting in 2008.

“I’m so happy to be graduating with my mother. It’s the biggest gift I’ve ever received in my life. I never would have expected it in my wildest dreams.”
Recently retired Indiana University East Chancellor David Fulton will miss the artwork displayed in his office and at several locations across the Richmond campus.

The artwork is part of the Naomi Osborne collection. His favorite pieces, he said, is a group of African works Naomi collected in the Congo in the early 1960s.

Naomi Osborne was a resident of Richmond, Indiana, an IU graduate in journalism and a collector of art. During World War II, she worked in the State Department and joined the United Nations in 1947—just a year or two after it was founded.

“Dr. Herman B Wells pried her into service of the UN, where she worked in Gaza, Philippines, S. Africa, Caribbean, other countries, IU campus art curator Sherry Rouse said. “She lived in those places and was with peacekeeping missions. She learned about the cultures and people in the places she lived, and collected art as a means of supporting the locals—and she had a great eye.”

The collection contains wonderful examples of mid-twentieth century artwork by Leger, Miro, Chagall, Picasso, and his colleagues Dufy and Mane-Katz. Osborne also collected mid-century Mexican, Indian, African and Pilipino pieces.

As she traveled from country to country, Rouse said Osborne became interested in making sure local artists kept working and not become involved in alcohol, drugs and poverty. She did that by taking an interest in their art and buying selected pieces. The diminutive Osborne stood only 4-foot 2-inches, was service-oriented and never married. Despite her success in peacemaking, the military didn't respect her. But eventually when they realized that she got more done than they did, they apologized to Osborne and began using some of her techniques. She had one story, Rouse said, about a general who took Osborne to dinner and said to her, “I’ve tried everything to make you quit. Now it’s time to join you.”

Not only did Osborne have an eye for art, but she also remembered every detail about how she collected each piece and she developed lifelong relationships with the artists she met, Rouse said. Some artists would send their latest artwork and letters on their progress as artists. Many did so up until she passed away at the age of 95 last year.

When she left the UN in the 1970s, she returned to her roots in Richmond, Indiana, to look after her mother. Dr. Wells once again convinced her to take action—this time as a public relations person for the newly founded IUE campus in 1971. When Osborne retired four or five years later, she moved into a small apartment in the Meadowood Retirement Community in Bloomington, Indiana.

Her artwork went with her, but in the new apartment, it was under the bed, in the closet and hidden away, so “she gave it to Indiana University East for the purpose of improving the art instruction at IUE by having these works to share with the students. She wanted the artwork available and displayed so that students and the community could experience high quality art,” Chancellor Fulton said.

Essentially, Naomi Osborne turned the IUE campus into a sort of museum.

“The Naomi Osborne collection is at IUE because of her generosity, her discerning eye and her commitment to education and the students,” Fulton said, “and its donation has led to a significant commitment to the future of art and art education, and the IUE campus. IUE is very conscious about building the collection and making sure it remains high quality.”

For example, for 30-plus years, the IUE art depart has sponsored the Annual Whitewater Valley Arts Competition—a juried competition in early October. Participants are solicited from a three-state area, and each year, IUE purchases one or more pieces of art to add to its campus collections. And many people don’t realize, Rouse said, that Richmond has a good-sized artist community; a new art gallery and art walk.

Visitors to the Bloomington campus can view a Richmond painter’s work hanging behind the IMU’s hotel desk. The painting is of the Whitewater River in Richmond—the river of art competition fame.
Students entering into IUPUI’s ten medical science Ph.D. programs this fall will not only be part of the same class—they’ll also be taking the same set of core courses.

“Traditionally, individual Ph.D. programs have taken in their own small pool of students who are then trained within that area and operate within that community,” Simon Rhodes, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the IU School of Medicine, said.

As part of a new open enrollment system called the Indiana University School of Medicine BioMedical Gateway (IBMG) program, this fall’s incoming students were recruited and admitted as one class by a school-wide committee. Students will not commit to a specific Ph.D. degree program until the end of the first year, when they will choose from one of ten biomedical sciences programs.

In the first semester, the new students take a common curriculum, which then begins to differentiate in their second semester. By the end of the first year, each student has completed three laboratory rotations. The program will also offer an orientation, as well as career development, community engagement, and social events.

The new style of recruiting and admission is attractive to students, Rhodes said, because it gives them choice.

“Often students, especially those coming directly out of undergraduate degrees, don’t fully understand what a specific research area is about and this gives them the opportunity to explore and better understand each area,” Rhodes said.

The Gateway program also allows for students to focus on a research topic as opposed to a classical discipline. Some disciplines, like Neuroscience, Rhodes said, are already interdisciplinary, but this option goes beyond that.

“We may have a student interested in cancer or diabetes research,” he said. “Well, we have faculty in Biochemistry that do that. And Physiology. And Microbiology, and so on... So now we can have a student that says I’m not a ‘biochemist,’ I’m a ‘cancer researcher.’ A student can come in and do a rotation with a biochemistry professor, a microbiology professor and achieve that cancer or diabetes focus.”

Rhodes said the gateway program will also help build collaboration in the graduate student community.

“Instead of five here and ten there, now it’s 40 students together,” Rhodes said. “This is important not just because [the students] can be supportive of each other, but even more importantly, perhaps, is that when they go off to different labs and programs after that, they’ll know each other... Perhaps a biochemist would like to do technique not in her lab, but she knows a microbiologist who can. If she has that connection, that will promote collaborations and we really want this to be a tool for students to develop relationships... We also think that the students will be a tool to drive further collaborations between our labs here.”

Other universities such as Washington University in St. Louis, Vanderbilt and University of Michigan have similar programs.

“The mechanisms vary, but one thing we’re proud of here is that all of our departments took part in this new program... all of the program leaders sat around a table and said we’re going to do this,” Rhodes said.

“Spirited collaboration,” he said, in research, courses and planning of the Gateway program is a strong theme. For example, the new curriculum has many courses co-developed by different programs.

Additionally, the Gateway program will allow the School of Medicine hire a staff to focus on key issues in recruiting—such as minority recruiting, Rhodes said. Before now, departments never had enough funding on their own to go to their discipline conferences as well as the many minority science conferences that happen each year, he said.

“Students are going to expect this. We wouldn’t be providing the best opportunity to our students if we didn’t provide a program like the IBMG.”
KOKOMO, Ind.—Master of Business Administration student Ranelle Royal of Peru has been selected for an internship with the Global Supply Management department of Delphi Electronics and Safety in Kokomo.

Starting in May, Royal will conduct supply chain and market research on Delphi’s wireless and semiconductor products. Royal “will document the size of the market, number of players involved, total market capacity and demand,” for such products, said Mary Ann Fultz of Delphi Staffing.

The company offers around 45 summer internships in Kokomo each summer, with the goal of finding candidates to hire as full-time employees. Most of these internships are in engineering fields. The position offered to Royal was “one of the very few non-technical positions open,” Fultz said. “And, Ranelle was good fit.”

Royal holds a Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications and East Asian Studies, which she started at IU Bloomington, but completed in the Republic of (South) Korea as an exchange student at Yonsei University in Seoul. From there, she moved to Japan and worked in international advertising for four years. Returning to the U.S., she continued her career in marketing and sales, using her previous experience and fluency in Japanese to focus on Asian markets.

“When we interviewed Ranelle, we saw that she had excellent communication and organizational skills, and a good ability to work independently,” Fultz said. “Her experience in conducting Internet and other business-related market research and her studies in marketing information and supply chains were a unique match to this internship. A lot of lucky things came together.”

Royal feels equally lucky to have earned Delphi’s attention. “It’s very much a compliment. They are very selective,” she said. “[Assistant Director of Community Outreach] Candy Norman and [M.B.A. program director] Linda Fitch made the initial contacts, with Candy ultimately persuading Delphi to include IU Kokomo in the pool of universities receiving the exclusive internship announcements. Without them, this would not have happened.”

Royal hopes to make a solid contribution to Delphi. Her internship supply chain research will “put meaning to data so that Delphi Electronics and Safety can better define their operation’s supplier and commodity strategies and have a clearer picture of their overall business opportunities. My goal is to create a robust, reusable strategic database of supply chain research that the department can continue to utilize for analysis and reporting after the internship is finished.”

In addition to an M.B.A. though IU Kokomo, Royal is simultaneously taking classes toward a B.S. in Computer and Information Technology from Purdue University College of Technology. Royal has concurrently maintained a 3.9 GPA in both university programs. She anticipates completing both her master’s and bachelor’s degrees in May 2008.

Royal is a member of Purdue’s Golden Key International Honour Society, which recognizes the top 15 percent of college juniors and seniors in their academic fields. For the 2007–08 school year, she has been awarded scholarships in academic excellence from the Purdue Kokomo 400 Club, Purdue Golden Key chapter, and the Brad Stansberry M.B.A. Scholarship from IU Kokomo’s School of Business.

Faculty members on the Kokomo campus have been “very approachable” in her studies since her return to college life, Royal said. “Coming back to school, I was forced to turn my problem-solving skills inward—to identify my academic weaknesses and quickly shore up on those areas. I constantly ask my professors questions, and their dedication to help students learn allows me to make the most of my studies. In comparison to some younger peers, I think an advantage of being an older student is knowing the difference between just ‘attending school’ and exerting effort to actually study in preparation for a future beyond the classroom. I am fortunate to sincerely recognize the importance of an educational opportunity and to give it my best effort.”

Adapting and learning new things has been part of Royal’s life. Her family traveled with her father’s career in the Air Force. They lived for a while in Guam and eventually settled near Grissom Air Force Base in Indiana.

World Explorer kits that Royal encountered in fourth grade further spurred her interest in foreign cultures. Each kit covered a different nation and contained coins and other tangible items representing the country. In working for and learning from an international company such as Delphi, Royal mused, she will continue “walking a path that I started as a kid.”

To learn more about student intern opportunities through IU Kokomo, contact Candy Norman at caanorma@iuk.edu or by phone at (765) 455-9406.
IUSB MLS Program Reviewed
IUSB’s MLS program was the first of its kind in the state 17 years ago. Recent reviews and revisions keep it going strong.

by Kathleen Borlik, IUSB, kborlik@iusb.edu

The IU South Bend’s Master of Liberal Studies was the first MLS program in the state.

After 17 years, the program was recently reviewed and two revisions were made that are helping with retention and graduation rates.

There were two bottlenecks for student graduation. First, some students were not prepared for the writing and research aspects of the program. Secondly, the final lengthy research paper stymied others.

After the review, the program added features to the program to provide greater flexibility and increase students’ early success. A 3-credit seminar was added to introduce writing and research in graduate liberal studies.

Secondly, the capstone experience now has two opportunities – an independent research and creative activity option or a public intellectual option.

The independent research can be a research paper, a computer program, performance, etc.

The public intellectual option offers students the chance to create their own portfolio of public intellectual work such as op-ed pieces, podcasts, radio commentaries or blogs.

Mike Keen, professor of sociology and outgoing director of the MLS program, said the two program additions have increased the proposal completion rate to 85 to 90 percent. It had been around 50 percent before. The result of adding both the research and writing seminar, and the public intellectual option “have helped retention and completion of the program.”

The 2006-07 year had 15 graduates which was a record number.

Additionally, Keen explained that with the development of the public intellectual option, the program is nurturing personal and professional growth, and fostering and ethic of social engagement and citizenship. “This is engaging student in the cultural life of a community. I expect them to leave this program and stay engaged.”

Ken Smith, associate professor of English and incoming program director, said the public intellectual aspect of the program ties into the wide use of the Internet with blogging. “Students are enthused to have a public voice. It is very encouraging,” he said.

The MLS program has reported its progress to the Association for Graduate Liberal Studies. Other universities are interested in how the program is modeled.

IU South Bend also will be the host site for “Confluence,” the journal of graduate liberal studies. Smith will be the editor. Keen said the program submitted a proposal to the publications committee and “the committee was impressed with Ken’s proposal and the innovations he suggested.”

Smith said it is exciting to be doing the editing of a significant academic journal on campus and is sign of the full range of what the campus does – research, teaching and service learning.

Several of the recently graduates were attracted to the program because of the versatility.

Damion Steele, a recent graduate, said he was attracted to the program because he wanted to add another viewpoint. “I came from the arts and I wanted to branch out, get another perspective. I wasn’t interested in an MBA.”

Steele said he honed his skills and learned techniques of writing. The culmination is to use our voices for the public good to help the community or non-profits.

Sandra Kousen, another recent graduate, said she was drawn to the MLS program because the flexibility. She didn’t know what to expect when she was told she would be podcasting and blogging. “It was a wonderful experience, it has expanded my knowledge.”

Kousen said she expects to continue to weigh arguments and voice opinions.
I. To thrive, it is helpful to understand and appreciate the mythology of graduate school:

There will be times when you think everyone else is smarter than you are. Don’t you believe it. You were clever enough to get in, and getting through graduate school is often more about persistence than about being a genius.

And there will be times when you think everyone else has a better advisor, better ideas or more money than you do. Try not to feel discouraged. Graduate school is a struggle to balance work and school, research and teaching, and so on. It takes everyone time to adjust. Get to know the different hats you are being asked to wear (student, peer, teacher, friend, researcher) and take time to understand the boundaries of each role.

Stay professional. The faculty and students you interact with will someday be your colleagues. Don’t let yourself get caught up in “departmental politics.”

You can’t read it all. This might be difficult for those of you who were super students in undergrad, but in many programs, you will be asked to read and understand more material than is humanly possible. Learn to read and work smart. Figure out what is being asked —you may need to know details in one article, but only the general concepts in another. Learn to produce your best possible work within the given time frame, then move on to the next thing.

II. A positive graduate school experience is like a good relay team:

Find a friend. Even just one will do... someone to jump the hurdles with.

Relationships at grad school can truly be the lifeblood of your experience, but you may have to exert a little initial energy to develop the relationships. It’s worth it. The longterm academic and emotional support that comes from these relationships can’t be measured in GPAs and papers.

i. Peers and colleagues

ii. Supportive faculty - don’t be afraid to find a mentor other than your assigned advisor/mentor. The graduate school experience is in part what you make of it. If your mentor is serving more as an advisor, that’s good, but also find someone who you can talk to about your career path, current struggles and your future.

iii. Departmental secretaries - these folks often understand the system better than anyone else in the department. Get to know them and give them respect.

iv. Fellow AI’s and research assistants

v. The GPSO - being faculty is not just about being a researcher and teacher, but also about service. The GPSO is not only a way to be connected to graduate student issues on campus and to meet other graduate students, but to learn how universities work on all levels.

Tip: Sometimes it helps to find a friend outside of your department, because you might want to take a little time off from graduate school when you’re being social. When you hang out with other graduate students in your department, you’ll find that discussions often revert to “talking shop.”

Continued on Page 16 >>
III. Like winning the all-around, a successful graduate school experience requires sticking
the landing – in other words, keep yourself grounded:

Graduate school is important, but it is not the end all or be all – never forget this.

Don’t allow the pressures of graduate school to rob you of the things that you know keep you balanced – family, friends, spirituality, volunteering... exercise, food, bathing...

Graduate school can take every minute of your day and sometimes our failure to acknowledge the mythology of graduate school propels us down an unhealthy course. But, you will be successful if you remember to stay grounded and to self-evaluate your own balance.

The fact you are here means you can succeed. Shoot for success as defined in your own terms, invest in the community around you, and hold onto those anchors in life that ground you.

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How to submit content for the GQ:

Departments, schools and IU campuses may submit ideas and announcements for the next issues of the Graduate Quarterly to Communications Director Erika Lee at ebigalee@indiana.edu or by phone at 855-5697.

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