



# NEWSWATCH

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January 2012

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, February 8  
Peterson Room, Showalter House, IU Foundation, SR46 Bypass**

## **Singing Hoosiers director Schwartzkopf to perform swan song at next meeting**

On Wed., Feb. 8, **Michael Schwartzkopf** will look back on his career with the Singing Hoosiers, which he has directed since 1995. Only the third director in a history that dates back to 1950, Michael will soon join the ranks of IU retirees. The meeting will be at 2 p.m. in the Peterson Room at the IU Foundation.

Michael is the Pam and Jack Burks Professor of Music. As an undergraduate at IU, he sang with the Singing Hoosiers. Michael holds two degrees from IU, a bachelor's in music education (1969) and a master's in choral conducting (1976). He earned a doctorate from the University of Iowa. In 1993 he received the Singing Hoosiers Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served as chair of the music education department at the Jacobs School of Music and as president of the Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association. On March 31, before retiring to South Carolina, Michael will conduct the Singing Hoosiers in their annual spring concert.

Founded in 1950 as the Men's Concert Choir, the group soon added a women's branch called the Hoosier Queens. **George Krueger** directed the group from 1950 to 1963, and **Robert Stoll** was the director from 1963 to 1995. The Singing Hoosiers sang at Carnegie Hall in 1995 with the late Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops. Their most recent CD is *Christmas Time is Here*, released in 2006.

## **"Retirees, you're wonderful," says Martin**

Retirees heard some happy news to ring in 2012: We not only met our United Way goal; we surpassed it. The goal was \$100,000. At its Jan. 11 meeting the IU Retirees Association heard that 157 donors have pledged \$110,665. "You're wonderful; you're amazing," announced a clearly elated **Wain Martin**.

"In some college towns there's a big gap between the community and the campus. Your generosity is wonderful evidence that's not true in Bloomington."

**Harriet Pfister** pointed out that the number of vanguard donors — those pledging \$1,000 or more — rose dramatically this year, from 47 to 58. Thanks to the 157 who pledged and to Wain, Harriet, and **Doris Burton**, who once again spearheaded the campaign for the IU Retirees Association.

## **Retirees learn about disabilities**

Chances are you know someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities. These "life activities," according to the Americans with Disabilities Act, include being able to walk, see, hear, speak, breathe, learn, work, care for yourself, or perform manual tasks.

Speaking to retirees Jan. 11, **Byron Smith**, who has a disability (he has been totally blind since he was 6), reeled off a list of people with disabilities, including runner Marla Runyan, physicist Stephen Hawking, and artist Christy Brown (*My Left Foot*). **Wayne Craig** introduced Byron as "one of our own." Byron, an IU graduate, joined the IU staff in 1969 and retired from Radio-TV in 2006. "He is knowledgeable, affable, intelligent, and thoughtful," Wayne said.

What do you do when you meet someone with a disability? Byron listed four As:

1. Acknowledge (it's part of that person's reality);
2. Ask;
3. Assist (but don't insist); and
4. Act naturally.

Put yourself in the other person's position. For example, Byron said, "you need to take the initiative in starting a conversation with me because I don't

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know you're there." He also encouraged "person-first language." A person may have a disability; he or she is not the disability. He reminded us that some people use wheelchairs. It is inappropriate to describe them as confined to a wheelchair or wheelchair-bound.

Byron explained how he adapts. The crystal on his wristwatch pops up, for example, so he can tell time. He marks paper currency with clips to distinguish denominations ("although I tell schoolchildren that, because I worked for IU, I always have only \$1 bills"). He has talking gadgets throughout his house, and he writes with a special stylus so that he can read what he has written.

Byron paid special tribute to **Pat**, his wife of almost 20 years. Pat retired from IU at the end of 2009.

According to legend, someone asked St. Anthony of Padua what could be worse than losing your eyesight. St. Anthony responded, "Losing your vision." Byron lost his eyesight; he has not lost his vision.

He was one of the founding members of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility, which was established almost 20 years ago, around the time the ADA was signed into law. The council's goal is to make the ADA work at the local level.

Byron introduced **Katie Herron**, who is in her third year as council chair. Katie's son, Ben, was born with a muscular condition that means his arms and legs didn't develop. Now 11, he has used a power wheelchair since he was 4. Katie tries to model the behavior she wants him to practice. Be an advocate: "Instead of complaining, go get it fixed." The council addresses concerns that citizens bring to the table and gathers the right people together to address issues.

Katie explained the special needs registry for first responders. In case of a fire, for example, it is important to know if someone in the house uses oxygen or cannot hear, see, or walk. The idea, one of Byron's brainstorms, is now in place. About 100 people already have registered on this secure and private site. Go to <http://www.bloomington.in.gov/specialneedsdispatch>, call 812-349-3429, or send an e-mail to [human.rights@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:human.rights@bloomington.in.gov).

Katie is also the director of First Step, a federal- and state-funded early intervention program that addresses the special needs of children from birth to age 3 who are experiencing some kind of delay — in speech or walking, for example. First Step is, she said, "very inclusive, intensive, and family-focused." Most of the audience had never heard of it.

The small attendance, about 30 people, meant lots of cookies and fudge, generously provided by **Judy Ensman**, **Doris Fox**, and **Jim Kennedy**.

### **Let's train for the circus in April**

On Wed., April 11, at 2 p.m. retirees will go to the circus. IURA board member **Vince Mabert**, professor emeritus of operations management at the Kelley School, will present "The Logistics of a Traveling Railroad Circus."

"The April meeting also functions as the annual meeting," IURA President **Iris Kiesling** announced. New board members will be elected to take the place of those whose terms expire: **Dick Dever**, **Jim Kennedy**, and **Vince Mabert**.

The Retirees Association does not meet in March. The May 9 meeting will be the annual pitch-in dinner at the IU Foundation.