

April 14, 2006

Miller Lecture Series Summary:

We typically have one fall and one spring speaker in the Miller Lecture Series. In the fall, we heard from Katie Haycock Director of the Education Trust in DC. Katie spoke on national and state achievement data, describing patterns for different groups of students. She discussed some of the factors that contributed to significant gaps separating poor students and students of color from other young Americans, but concentrated mostly on sharing the lessons from schools and districts that have been successful in raising achievement for all students

In early March, Dr. Lawrence Grossberg from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill gave a talk titled: "What Did We Learn in School Today?" This talk attempted to connect some of the contemporary struggles over education today with larger transformations taking place around the ways we as a society relate to children. Grossberg also looked to the future and our own identity as THE modern society. Building on that analysis, he considered the potential inadequacy of the responses from the center and the left.

Both talks were well attended. The Miller speakers for 2006-2007 will be Dr. James Banks from the University of Washington in the fall and Chet Bowers from the University of Oregon in the spring.

Finally, the Website for the Miller Lecture Series continues to be refined (see <http://www.indiana.edu/~educpc/PC%202003-04/LSCpresenters.html>). Information related to Miller Lecture speakers from 1992 to 2006 is indexed there. This site has proven quite helpful to incoming speakers as well as to IU faculty members. Jennifer Lambdin is commended for all her support to the Miller Lecture Series this year, and, in particular, in maintaining and updating the web site.