

Take Five

August 22, 2016

This Week in Academic Affairs



You know me as an administrator, but you don't have to look hard to find the teacher inside. For most of my two decades in higher ed, I have taught

English, and the core of our mission as educators is never far from my mind. Perhaps for that reason, the theme of our convocation last week resonated with me, as it clearly did with many of you. As the chancellor stressed, keeping our mission before us is crucial to our success. As we launch a new semester, I encourage you to put this mission out there in front of students, too. Help them to see the “why” of higher education the way we see it: as a form of “empowerment” (to quote Angie Heckman) and as a way to provide freedom and opportunities (as Gregory Steel and others said). In *What the Best College Teachers Do* (a book that inspired me to change the way I teach), Ken Bain explains that great teachers ask “big questions.” In my literature classes, I have begun asking questions such as “Does life make any sense?” and “What happens when people of different backgrounds come together and why?” Of course, we cover a wealth of literary terms and concepts, but none of this material matters unless it helps us get to the big questions *through* literature. The first day of class is an ideal opportunity to pose the big questions. Ask away!

Student Success Corner

Thank you for contributing to New Student Convocation. Our new students heard the message of “stretch” from us and speaker Paul Wesselmann. Now let's reinforce that message to *all* students through our teaching, administrative support, conversations, and efforts in the KEY. Email me your ideas!

-Christina Downey (downeyca@iuk.edu)

Students who need help with scheduling issues during the drop/add period should see advisors in KC 223 or KE 120.

-Kelli Keener (klkeener@iuk.edu)



Hundreds of our incoming freshmen posed for a picture last week.

This Week at IU Kokomo

8/22: First Day of Classes

8/22: Group Photo of Faculty and Staff in KEY T-shirts & Brown Bag (Noon, Old Main Entrance & KC 132)

8/22: Caricatures & DIY Candles (11 a.m.-3 p.m., Alumni Hall)

8/23: Photo Crystals & Flying Crystals (11 a.m.-3 p.m., Alumni Hall)

8/24: Central Park Bubbles & Zorb Balls (11 a.m.-3 p.m., Quad)

8/25: Kona Ice Giveaway (11 a.m.-3 p.m., Quad)

8/25: Campus Barbecue (5-7 p.m., Quad)

Downtown Shuttle Schedule

As Gregory Steel announced at Convocation, we will be running a shuttle between campus and downtown between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. several days this fall: September 1, 15, 21, and 29, as well as October 13 and October 27. You may want to consider using it to take your students downtown to our art gallery or another location for class. If you do, please notify John Sarber (jrsarber@indiana.edu) or me (canadam@iuk.edu) in advance.

Kudos for Kokomojo

- Christina Downey, Gabby VanAlstine, and Julie Saam planned and executed an outstanding convocation for us, and the chancellor delivered an inspiring message.
- Sarah Sarber and five of Jessica Henderson's students—Raynee Elmore, Stephanie Kenyon, Joseph Haskett, Ben Constable, and Alison Butcher—made a splash at a regional conference on sexual assault at IUPUI. See the [coverage](#) on WTHR. (Click on the top video and then click on “Sexual +assault+on+campus.”)