

THE COVERED BRIDGE

Fall 2005



Honoring yesterday's bridge builders,
encouraging today's bridge travelers, and ensuring
tomorrow's bridge of opportunity.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY GROUPS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This publication is paid for in part by dues-paying members of the IU Alumni Association

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Awards go to four outstanding Groups alumni

Sassafras Awards

The Groups Alumni Association presented Sassafras Awards to four distinguished alumni of the Groups Program at its state business meeting and awards luncheon in Indianapolis on July 16. The awards, featuring green sassafras leaves, were named for the sassafras tree that is indigenous to Indiana. The luncheon program noted: "Since the settling of the state, sassafras wood has been used to warm Hoosier homesteads and its dried roots have been brewed to make that most native of all Indiana libations, sassafras tea. The distinguished Groups alumni who receive this award have been selected because their distinguished careers in the areas of arts and entertainment, business, community service, or education exemplify the core, or root, values of the Groups Program."

Iris Rosa ('68), BS'73, MS'74, won the Sassafras for her contributions to arts and entertainment. The award was presented by Iris Outlaw, BA'73.

A native of East Chicago and a member of the Groups Program's first class, Rosa earned two degrees from Indiana University Bloomington: a bachelor's in physical education, with a concentration in modern dance, and a master's in dance, with a specialization in modern dance. She is the founding director of IU's

African American Arts Institute's African American Dance Company, which was established in 1974. A prolific choreographer, Rosa's works include "Once Upon a Rural South" in 2003;



Sassafras Award plaque

"Know the Truth" in 2001; "Dreams Deferred" in 1999; and *Eyes*, a musical based on Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, in 1995.

in 2003; "Know the Truth" in 2001; "Dreams

lis Star and *The Indianapolis News*; copy editor for *The Indianapolis Star*; corporate communications coordinator for Indianapolis Newspapers Inc.; and community relations coordinator for the Indianapolis Power and Light Co. Currently, she is the media relations director for IPALCo, with responsibilities to promote relationships across business units, to grow communications, and to create and maintain productive relationships with contacts at key media organizations. She was named one of the Indianapolis business community's top "40 Under 40" business executives by *The Indianapolis Business Journal* this year.

Maria Lillian Casillas ('85), BA'89,



Rosa



Livers-Powers



Casillas



McClam-Silas

Currently, she teaches and performs contemporary and traditional African-American dance styles and history as an associate professor in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and director of the AADC.

Crystal G. Livers-Powers ('86), BA'96, won the Sassafras for her business activities. The award was presented by Jim Sims ('75), BGS'97.

Livers-Powers, a native of Evansville, earned a bachelor's in journalism and African-American studies at IUB. She has served as a journalist with *The Indianapo-*

MS'98, won the Sassafras for her community service. Casillas, who was unable to attend the ceremony, will be presented with her award at the Groups reunion during Homecoming.

Casillas, a native of Hammond, Ind., earned a bachelor's in Spanish, with certification in Latin American and Caribbean studies, and a master's in education, with a specialty in higher education and student affairs. In addition to being a three-time delegate to Sen. Evan Bayh's Indiana Latino Leadership Gatherings, Casillas'

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Groups reunion

(continued from page 1)

Bloomington community service includes her collaboration with such agencies as the Latina High School Mentor Program; Monroe County Latino Assessment Task Force; CSS Coalition: Comunidad Sana Y Segura (Latino Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force); Community Service Committee, United Way Community Services of Monroe County Inc.; and Community to Promote Meaningful Access for Limited English Proficiency Persons. She is the director of La Casa Latino Cultural Center on the IU Bloomington campus.

Delia M. McClam-Silas ('68), BS'72, MS'75, and BA'81, won the Sassafras for her work in special education. The award was presented by Doris Sims ('75), BA'79, MS'98.

McClam-Silas, a native of Gary and charter member of the Groups Program, earned two degrees from IUB, a bachelor's and master's in journalism education and education psychology. She earned a BA in clinical psychology, with minors in substance abuse and gerontology, from Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, Ind., in 1981. In 1996 at IU South Bend, McClam-Silas earned a special education certificate to teach students diagnosed with mild disabilities, with learning disabilities, or as mildly mentally handicapped. Her past teaching positions include instructor of English and human relations for alternative at-risk students in the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nev., and learning disabled special education middle school teacher in the Indianapolis Public School System. Currently, McClam-Silas is a special education instructor for grades 9–12, with special emphasis on reading, language arts, and remediation at Wirt High School in Gary. Her biography is published in *Who's Who of American Women*. She was awarded the Nina and Kenneth J. Allen Excellence in Teaching Award this year.

Covered Bridge Award

The Covered Bridge Award, the highest award given by the Groups Program, went to **J. Warren Ross**. The retired Groups recommender for Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis, is also a previous recipient of the Groups 20-Year Service Award. Janice L. Wiggins, BA'71, MS'75, director of the program, made the presentation.

According to the luncheon program, the award is so named because "Indiana's rustic red-hued covered bridges are portals to the world for many Hoosiers

and rural reminders of their state university's colors. The Groups Student Support Services Program, like these humble structures, hewn out of

the state's woodlands, provides a sturdy bridge out of poverty and hopelessness for many gifted first-generation, low-income, and physically challenged Hoosiers who aspire to achieve the 'American Dream' and join the distinguished list of Indiana University graduates."

Ross is a native of Terre Haute, Ind. After graduation from high school, he earned a BS in science and physical education from Indiana State University and an MA in guidance and counseling from the University of Michigan. During his distinguished 20-year counseling career at Ben Davis High School, he recommended to the Groups Program more than 100 Ben Davis graduates — who have, in turn, earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from Indiana University.



Ross



Terry

the award. The etching of one mountain climber reaching back to give a helping hand to a fellow climber — the scene depicted on the award's

mounted rectangular glass front — is an apt metaphor for Terry's Groups Program career.

In 1968, armed with a bachelor's in social work from Jarvis Christian College in Texas, she was named assistant director of the Groups Program. In 1976, she was promoted to assistant dean of IU's University Division. In 1982, she succeeded Rozelle Boyd as the second Groups director, a position she would hold until her retirement in 1992.

Indiana senior U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar best summarized the respect that Terry's former students wish to convey with the awarding of this honor: "On this occasion," Sen. Lugar noted in a 1990 edition of *The Congressional Record*, "I wish to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of a very special individual, Mrs. La Verta L. Terry, who has dedicated 22 years of her professional career in service to students of Indiana. ... With a rare combination of talents that inspire, motivate, challenge, and encourage, La Verta Terry has served not only as a role model, but in many cases, family to those individuals fortunate enough to participate in her program."

Lifetime Achievement Award

La Verta L. Terry, who was born in Brazil, Ind., and raised in Greencastle, was awarded the Groups Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her distinguished career as the second director of the Groups Program. Lindsey A. Smith ('71), BA'76, president of the Groups Alumni Association, presented



Before their presentation, the four Sassafras Award plaques, along with the Covered Bridge Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award, are on display at the luncheon.



Groups gets \$2.1 million, five-year federal grant

The major theme of Janice L. Wiggins's report, presented at the luncheon meeting, centered around the Groups Program's receiving a five-year TRIO federal grant of more than \$2 million.



The following article, by Steve Hinnefeld in the June 23 edition of the *Bloomington Herald-Times* ("IU Groups Program Gets \$2.1 Million Grant"), summarizes the triumphant mood and historic content of the report. It is reprinted here with permission.

A five-year, \$2.1 million federal grant will keep Indiana University's Groups Program going strong well into middle age, officials with the program say.

The U.S. Department of Education grant, part of the government's TRIO program, was announced this week. It helps fund the Groups Student Support Services Program, which serves first-generation and low-income students.

Janice Wiggins, director of the program for nine years, said the grant is a vote of confidence for Groups, which provides a

summer program and intensive advising and tutoring for selected students.

"What we also have is a lot of great support from the university," she said. "Without their support, clearly we couldn't do what we're doing."

The Groups Program began in 1968 as an effort by IU to increase the number of students on the Bloomington campus from underrepresented populations. It got its first federal Student Support Services TRIO funding in 1972.

The latest grant came as almost a surprise, because there's been debate in Washington, D.C., over programs that promote access to higher education. Wiggins said she "was hitting the ceiling" when she learned the funding had been approved — and at a higher level and for a longer term than previous Groups grants.

About 300 students for this year's Groups Program arrived on campus last weekend. They will stay for six weeks in a full-scholarship summer program that includes classes in English, math, and reading and critical thinking.

When they arrive, Wiggins said, "Some of them have little or no knowledge of what college is about and what's expected of them."

But when they return in the fall, they're familiar with the campus and have established a network of friends and supportive adults. The support continues through their freshman year as they meet regularly with advisers and peer mentors who help them navigate the large university.

Wiggins said 80 percent of Groups freshmen return for a second year at IU, a figure comparable to that for other students. Graduation rates for Groups participants have increased by 20 percent in the past six years.

She credited a network of Indiana counselors, teachers, and community leaders with identifying students who will benefit from the Groups approach. About 600 students were referred for the program this year. "I wish I could accept every last one of them."

Wiggins said the federal grant will help add programming for students as they become sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

The program serves a range of under-represented groups, including minorities, students from rural areas, and students with disabilities. This year, Wiggins said, about 65 percent of the students are black or Hispanic.



President brings alumni up to date at luncheon

The following statement is excerpted from GAA president Lindsey A. Smith's full report, which he gave at the luncheon.



Good afternoon. I am a 1976 graduate of Indiana University and a proud member of Groups 1971. In my "President's Report," I will summarize the achievements of the past year and look to the future plans of the Groups Alumni Association.

I would first like to introduce the

members of the GAA board. When I read your names, please remain standing: vice president Iris Outlaw; secretary Gail Bushrod; treasurer Jim Sims; Dr. William Wiggins; Pat Carlton-Nyangira; Doris Sims; Wakisha Malone; Matthew Booker; Thomas "Popcorn" Doyle; Dionne McKaskle; Janice Tharp; Evelyn Bushrod; and Janice L. Wiggins. Please give a round of applause to our board.

I would also like to acknowledge Clarence Boone, who, though not a member of the GAA board, has been present at all of our meetings and instrumental in helping us stay focused this year. Clarence has been a great adviser to us all.

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Introducing your GAA officers ...

President: **Lindsey A. Smith**,
Bloomington

Vice President: **Iris Outlaw**,
South Bend

Secretary: **Gail M. (Henderson)**
Bushrod, Evansville

Treasurer: **James Sims**, Bloomington

Executive Council:
Matthew A. Booker, Bloomington;
Thomas E. Doyle, Bloomington

Groups Program Director:
Janice L. Wiggins, Bloomington

President's report

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It is a pleasure serving with all of the members of the GAA board. They are people of great talent, ambitious, and have a strong commitment to service. I certainly appreciate their hard work and dedication in every area since we met here a year ago.

There has been a fresh and vital attitude and spirit among us at every board meeting. In my judgment, this reflects the positive growth and change occurring within the GAA and highlights the prospect of great things to come for Groups alumni.

Over the past year, the board has been very active in developing a new constitution and bylaws to govern the Groups Alumni Association, identifying members to serve on the executive board, and brainstorming ideas for the future GAA. A strong foundation is a key to our future success, and that foundation has been laid with solid planning and a clear vision of our goals.

We have attended the graduation dinner for the Class of 2005, highlighted their achievements, and inspired them to continue service to the GAA and Indiana University.

We have made personal commitments to establish the GAA fund-raising campaign. The goal of this campaign is to make the GAA self-sustaining.

And, we have met in separate committees to organize and plan for this annual banquet.

Key initiatives that we are working toward this upcoming year include

- Increasing membership in the GAA. This is one of our main initiatives, and it will be an ongoing effort.

- Improving our relationship with Groups students at the university by meeting with new Groups

✓ Mark your calendar

- **Oct. 9, 2005** — 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m., State Room East, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington
- **Jan. 28, 2006** — 10 a.m.–1 p.m., University College, Room 3171, IUPUI, Indianapolis
- **April 22, 2006** — 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Distinguished Alumni Room, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington
- **June 10, 2006** — 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Maxwell Hall, Room 200, Bloomington
- **July 15, 2006** — noon–4 p.m., Indianapolis Urban League, 777 Indiana Ave., Indianapolis

classes before the school year begins to inform them of the GAA and encouraging them to complete their college degree. We keep them informed about the GAA throughout their college years and strive to keep them involved in IU and the GAA throughout their lives.

- Preparing our next quarterly meeting during Homecoming Weekend in October in conjunction with the Neal-Marshall Alumni Club reunion. We want to reach out to other organizations and strengthen our relationships. Our common goal is the education of our students and the attainment of their degrees, but

we must always encourage their active participation in Indiana University and the Groups Alumni Association after they earn their degrees.

We intend to continue to move forward, making progress in everything that we do to serve our students, our graduates, and Indiana University. We will continue to provide our students with the opportunity and assistance to fulfill all of their dreams. We ask for your full support and participation to help us achieve our goals.

Thank you.

— Lindsey A. Smith

Meet your Groups Alumni Association board



Back row, from left: Thomas "Popcorn" Doyle Sr. ('73), BA'78; Lindsey A. Smith ('71), BA'76; Evelyn Bushrod ('74), BA'79, MS'88; Jim Sims ('75), BGS'97; William H. Wiggins Jr., PhD'74; Dionne McKaskle ('95), BA'05; Matthew A. Booker ('00), BA'04. Front row, from left: Iris Outlaw, BA'73; Wakisha Malone ('95), BA'00, MA'02; Delia M. McClam-Silas ('68), BS'72, MS'75; Gail M. (Henderson) Bushrod ('70), BA'74; Janice L. Wiggins, BA'71, MS'75; Doris Sims ('75), BA'79, MS'98. Not shown: Pat Carlton-Nyangira ('82), BA'96; Janice Tharp ('72), BGS'98.

GAA business meeting, luncheon serve up facts, food, fun

The Groups Alumni Association State Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon began at noon with a reception in the lobby of the Indianapolis Urban League. It was the first business meeting of the GAA and the second awards ceremony. Attendees included delegations from the IU Bloomington Office of the Vice President for Student Development and Diversity, the FASE Mentoring Program, the Indiana University Alumni Association, and city and county government, as well as the Groups Program staff, recommenders, students, and alumni.

The program began promptly at 1 p.m. with the president's welcome, which began: "This is our second annual luncheon where we gather to recognize those in our Groups family for their distinguished service as ambassadors of the Groups Program. This is also a time for us to review the achievements that were made in Groups over the past year and to inform you of new initiatives on the horizon. On behalf of the Groups Alumni Association board, we are happy to have all of you here — because we have much to celebrate."

Next, **Steve Campbell**, deputy mayor of the city of Indianapolis, read a proclamation, which concluded: "Whereas, the city of Indianapolis wishes to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Groups Student Support Services Program and its impact on the quality of education in our community; ... Now, therefore, I, Bart Peterson, mayor of the city of Indianapolis, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2005, to be Groups Student Support Services Day in the city of Indianapolis, and I ask all citizens to join me in this observation." Director **Janice L. Wiggins** graciously accepted the ready-for-framing proclamation.

After **Ryon J. Cobb** ('99), BA'04, an MA graduate student in African-American and African diaspora studies and library science, delivered the invocation, master of ceremonies **Matthew A. Booker** ('00), BA'04, directed the 100-plus guests to a bountiful gourmet buffet, consisting of a salad of mesclum greens with oranges and strawberries; chicken with leeks and shitake mushrooms; London broil with sautéed mushrooms and demi glaze; rice pilaf with caramelized onions and spinach; and spring vegetable sauté. The tables, skillfully configured by GAA board member Pat Carlton-Nyangira, were covered with white linen table cloths, set with gleaming crystal glasses and silverware. Maroon cloth napkins



An inviting luncheon awaits alumni following the business of business.

were draped in each guest's commemorative goblet, on the side of which the GAA's covered bridge logo and the caption "Indiana University Groups Alumni Association/July 16, 2005" were emblazoned in red.

While the GAA alumni and friends savored bites of New York or turtle cheesecake, **Rozelle Boyd**, founding director of the Groups Program and a member of the Indianapolis City Council, delivered the keynote address. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, Boyd underscored the point that human compassion is much needed today, especially in such areas as health care.

The second annual awards ceremony, which followed the keynote address, was filled with personal reminiscences of the honorees. Covered Bridge Award winner **J. Warren Ross**, the retired Ben Davis High School counselor, told the audience of how a near-fatal accident that he and several other recommenders experienced on Indianapolis's I-465 while returning from a workshop in Bloomington con-



Rozelle Boyd and La Verta Terry

For more photographs of the events, see pages 6-7.

vinced him that his life had been spared to continue to serve as a Groups recommender.

Lifetime Achievement Award winner **La Verta L. Terry** spoke longingly of old IU colleagues.

Sassafras Award winner for business **Crystal Livers-Powers** recalled how she met her future husband, Mark Powers, at the auditions for Professor Jim Mumford's summer production of *Man of La Mancha*.

Sassafras winner for education **Delia M. McClam-Silas**, with a devilish twinkle in her eye, confessed to the audience (especially the incoming Groups freshmen) that she was the inspiration for the rules of conduct imposed by Boyd and Terry and still enforced today.

Sassafras winner for arts and entertainment **Iris Rosa**, a passionate promoter of the arts, spoke of participating in a neighborhood arts festival prior to coming to the awards luncheon.



A performance of "Hail to Old IU" adds to the pleasure of the day.

Sassafras winner for community service **Maria Lillian Casillas** was unable to attend because she was attending a family reunion in Mexico. She will receive her award at the GAA's Homecoming meeting.

Following the awards ceremony, director **Janice L. Wiggins** and GAA president **Lindsey A. Smith** gave their annual reports. Wiggins began by acknowledging the generous financial and collegial support that she has received throughout her eight-year tenure from Chancellor Kenneth Gros Louis and Vice President for Institutional Development and Student Affairs Charlie Nelms, who was in attendance. Thanks in no small measure to the support of these two IU Bloomington administrators, noted Wiggins, the current Groups freshman class has more than 300 students. The demographic distribution of the class is 62 percent African American; 9 percent Hispanic; 26 percent Caucasian; less than 2 percent Asian/Pacific; less than 1 percent Native American; and just over 1 percent Other.

Wiggins reported that during the last

(continued on page 12)

In the picture

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are **ALUMNI GATHER!**

*Groups alumni, staff, and friends combine
business with pleasure in Indianapolis.*



Photographs courtesy of Vincent Isom; Tywan Martin; Lindsey A. Smith; and William H. Wiggins Jr.

Alumni activities garner media attention

Groups alumni were featured in several newspapers and electronic publications in 2005. (See students in the media in the Student News section, page 9.)

- The July 25 Bloomington *Herald-Times* "Orchids and Onions" column's orchid to the GAA's 2005 award winners read: "To three Bloomington residents honored by Indiana University's Groups Student Support Services Program and Groups Alumni Association recently: **La Verta L. Terry**, director emeritus of the Groups Student Support Services Program, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award; and winners of the Sassafras Award for distinguished service, **Iris Rosa** and **Maria Lillian Casillas**."

- A July *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* front-page article and an accompanying color photograph were devoted to a day-in-the-life of **Zakeya Franklin** ('96), BS'01, a case worker for SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect), and her encounter with a 19-year-old bipolar client, who is a high school dropout, mother of a 1-year-old daughter, and several months pregnant with her second child. Reporter Rick Farrant wrote this revealing profile of Franklin: "Although many people who receive SCAN's services are referred by other agencies or targeted through routine

family risk assignments done when mothers give birth at local hospitals, Franklin voluntarily sought SCAN's services for herself after her now 19-month-old son was born. Franklin, a single mother, is both counselor and participant."

- The May 27 *IU Home Pages* chronicles the arduous IU degree odyssey of **Sheya Martin** ('91), BA'05. In 2002, 11 years after she originally began her undergraduate career at IU Bloomington, Martin quit her job in South Bend and moved herself, her husband, David, and their four children, ages 5 through 9, back to Bloomington so she could complete her general studies degree. "I decided I needed to go back," she explained in the article. "I just came to the point where I said, 'I'm smarter than this. I can do better than this.' I felt like I was stuck in a dead-end job." Martin has now begun study for a master's degree in microbiology at IU Bloomington.

- The Aug. 4 issue of *Headlines*, Indiana Power and Light Co.'s electronic newsletter, carried an article about **Crystal Livers-Powers** ('86), BA'96: "IPL Media Relations Director Given IU Alumni Award." The article begins: "Crystal Livers-Powers (PA), IPL's media relations director, was awarded the Indiana



Editor De Carla Livers book is lauded in the press. (See her profile on page 11.)

University Groups Alumni Association Sassafras Award on July 16. The award is presented by IU [sic] to distinguished alumni who have been selected because of exceptional careers that exemplify the core values of the Groups Program in the areas of arts and entertainment, business, community service, and education." The article is accompanied by a photograph of GAA treasurer **Jim Sims** ('75) presenting the award to Livers-Powers.

Journalism school acknowledges alumnae

*The Aug. 5 edition of the IU School of Journalism's Web site featured in an article titled "Two Alumnae Win Sassafras Leaf Awards." The article featured **Crystal G. Livers-Powers** ('86), BA'96, and **Delia M. McClam-Silas** ('68), BS'72, MS'75, who were once undergraduate journalism majors and are now distinguished Groups award winners. Here are some excerpts adapted from the article.*

Delia McClam-Silas credits faculty members at IU who taught her not only how to study but also how to learn, an experience that propelled her towards a career of helping others learn. Crystal Livers-Powers recalls IU faculty and staff who listened to her problems and concerns, doling out encouragement and 'tough love' in equal measure.

Both women relied on their IU experiences to launch their careers, Livers-Powers in public relations and McClam-Silas in education. These School of Journalism alumnae were honored with Groups Alumni Sassafras Awards at a ceremony July 16 for their "exceptional careers."

"Winning such an award reflects on the School of Journalism's efforts to motivate more minorities to journalism," said McClam-Silas in a phone interview. She is a special educator instructor at Wirt High School in Gary and has enjoyed a long career blending journalism education, psychology, and special education to serve special populations.

Livers-Powers agrees that awards are flattering, but the

result of such honors is to create an awareness of what education can do for people.

"At the awards ceremony, I was struck by the power of this when I heard the history of the Groups Program," she said. "You hear all that when you come to campus, but as a student, you don't really make the connections. IU really was innovative, starting such a program in response to low numbers of minorities in higher education. This made me even prouder to be part of IU and Groups."

Livers-Powers spent several years working in newspapers before taking her current post as news media relations director at IPALCO and its subsidiary, Indianapolis Power and Light Co.

Livers-Powers said, "I formed bonds with many of the journalism school and Groups faculty that have lasted all this time." For example, now-retired adviser Marjorie Blewett helped her outline a career path, which originally was toward broadcast news.

McClam-Silas appreciated the protection of campus "family" as well, whether she found this new family at Ernie Pyle Hall, at Groups, or among the several mentors she relied on.

She credits her adviser, the late Gretchen Kemp, and mentors and faculty members Kent and Suzanne Owen with helping her make the transition from high school student to college success story.



Students make their presence known on campus

The Groups undergraduate students' presence was evident in academic and extracurricular activities throughout the Bloomington campus during 2004–05. **Sherhara Williams** ('03) was a member of the IU Red Steppers precision dance squad, which performed on the sidelines and at halftime during all IU home football games, and marched in the 2004 Homecoming Parade. Williams also was a reporter for IU Bloomington's WTIU television and WFIU radio stations; a member of Black Curtain Theater, an undergraduate drama club; and interviewer for the Neal-Marshall Alumni Club's oral history project.

Manuel "Manny" Martinez ('03) was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Indiana Mid-America Association of Education Opportunity Program Personnel during its April 2004 meeting in Indianapolis.

The **Thomas I. Atkins Living Learning Center**, the Groups Program's living-learning community, celebrated its 10th anniversary with a series of extracurricular activities that included a weekend trip

to New York City, where students toured historic landmarks in Harlem and mentored students at Bloomingdale Elementary School; made a one-day bus trip to tour the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati; and gave a presentation, titled "African-American Focused Living Learning Centers: Support or Segregation?" at the 2004 Association of College and University Housing Officials International Conference, held on the IU Bloomington campus.

In March, the Groups **Alpha Delta chapter** of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony in the Indiana Memorial Union. The ceremony's program stated: "To be eligible for membership, a student must have two consecutive semesters of a 3.0 GPA or above and be a first-generation student." Groups students inducted into the Alpha Delta chapter are **Tynese Anderson** ('03); **Nicolas Blewett** ('02); **Darnell Brewer** ('01); **Taria Bryant** ('02); **Nicole Burt** ('03); **Dominic Day** ('00); **Meagan Gerard** ('03); **Evelina Gundeck**

('02); **Felipe Hernandez** ('03); **Hannah Jones** ('02); **Homa Mardanzai** ('02); **Sheya Martin** ('91); **Manuel Martinez** ('03); **Ryan Nunez** ('03); **Monique Smith** ('02); **Lanetz Speller** ('03); **Sheena Tinner** ('03); **April Walker** ('03); and **Sherhara Williams** ('03).

After the ceremony, director Janice L. Wiggins presented the Omar Castaneda Scholarship to **Anna Garcilazo** ('02).

The April 16 issue of the Bloomington *Herald-Times* featured an article on **Dallas Easton** ('01), a student staff member of the FASE (Faculty and Staff for Student Excellence) Mentoring Program and the first Indiana University Men of Color Conference, which he conceived of and produced in 2004. Easton hosted a follow-up conference in April. Delegates are finalizing plans to host yet another Men of Color Conference, to be held on Saturday, Nov. 12, in the IMU, with the expectation that it will attract more than 100 "black, Latino, Asian, and American Indian men from colleges around Indiana" to explore the theme "Role Modeling and Community Engagement." Easton, a senior, reflected, "From what started as a pilot project, it definitely has ignited some interest all over the state." **George Walker** ('01) created the Men of Color Conference Web site at www.indiana.edu/~moc.

Tina Feliciano ('01), **Adrienne Garcia** ('02), **Angel Hardesty** ('03), **Venice Newberry** ('02), **Leila Price** ('02), **Tara Wilson** ('02), and **Samilla Woods** ('02) were peer advisers in the FASE Mentoring Program.

On April 28, the **Groups 2005 graduating class** of 96 seniors was honored at a graduation dinner, whose menu consisted of tossed salad, honey Dijon glazed chicken, oven-roasted beef pot roast, three-cheese macaroni, seasoned green beans, dilled baby carrots, dinner rolls, coffee, iced tea, and chocolate cake. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Richard McKaig delivered the keynote address. **Shelley Deaton** ('01) and **Audrey Whittaker** ('01) saluted their fellow graduates, and GAA president **Lindsey A. Smith** welcomed them into the Groups Alumni Association.

The May 7 issue of the Bloomington *Herald-Times* featured a front-page article on **Jennifer Dorris** ('01), BA'05, a native of Gary who earned a telecommunications degree. She said of her IU Bloomington career: "I wanted to go far away from

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Student spotlight

Groups '05 elects Ravay Smith president

Ravay Smith, a South Bend native and member of the incoming Groups Class of '05, was an active participant in an impressive array of extra-



curricular activities while a student at Clay High School in South Bend. She was a cheerleader, student council member, class officer, and member in the Postponing Sexual Involvement Club. In addition, Smith volunteered her time and talents in an equally impressive array of community-related projects, such as her high school's canned food drive, one of the largest in the state. She served as a peer mentor in the Sister to Sister Program and held two political internships. During summer 2004, she served as an intern

in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D), 35th District, Los Angeles, Calif., and, during her senior year of high school, she served as an intern for Stephen J. Luecke, mayor of South Bend.

Not surprisingly, Smith's Groups classmates elected her president of the Class of '05. At the summer program's closing awards ceremony, she reminded her classmates: "During this summer, we have been equipped with the necessary tools for success in and outside of the classroom. Groups serves as the transition from high school to college; so it is now time for us to act accordingly, as college students. Overall, I am proud of the accomplishments we have made as a class. I wish you all the best luck in the fall and hope that we make an effort to represent the esteemed name of the Groups Student Support Services Program. Thank you and God bless!"



1970s

Jack Cody ('75) is the founder and owner of Smokin' Jack's Rib Shack in Bloomington, Ind.

Katherine Jones ('68), BA'72, is a social work administrator in Gary, Ind.

Delia M. McClam-Silas ('68), BS'72, MS'75, a special education instructor at Wirt High School in Gary, Ind., received the Provisions Educational Network Inc. Spirit Award for 2005.

Cateena Johnson ('69), BA'73, MA'83, is the principal of Harcourt Elementary School in the Washington Township School System in Indianapolis.

Frances Johnson-Robbins ('70), BA'74, owns a State Farm Insurance Agency in Indianapolis.

Lindsey A. Smith ('71), BA'76, is director of the Monroe County Office of Family and Children Service in Bloomington, Ind.

Doris (Williams) Sims ('75), BA'79, MS'98, was recently appointed training coordinator of corporate and continuing education services at Ivy Tech State College, Bloomington, Ind.

1980s

Richard L. Rowley, ('81), BS'86, JD'90, is of counsel with Sommer Barnard Attorneys, Indianapolis, as a member of the business law practice group. Previously, he was legislative director for the former-

Gov. Joe Kernan; general counsel/legislative liaison for the Indiana Department of Commerce/Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture; deputy state attorney general; and supervising attorney for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. He serves on the Center for Leadership Development's advisory board and was named to *Who's Who Among Indianapolis African-Americans* in 2003. Rowley and his wife, **Latosha M. Rowley**, BS'86, JD'90, live in Indianapolis.

Howard L. Stevenson ('86), BA'89, JD'93, is a founding partner in the law firm Coleman Graham & Stevenson, Indianapolis, which concentrates in the areas of business and corporate law. His wife, **Crista (Baker) Stevenson** ('86), BS'93, is a teacher with Chapelwood Elementary School in Indianapolis. The couple live in Fishers, Ind., and have three sons.

1990s

John Boyd Jr. ('86), BS'91, head basketball coach at Gary Westside High School, coached his team to the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Class 4A 2005 Final Four State Tournament in Indianapolis.

David Burian ('86), BA'91, on the staff of U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, shared some good news via e-mail with director Janice L. Wiggins and Groups math tutor Scott Salak: "Things in Washington are going pretty well. I have recently been

Arts Institute's African American Choral Ensemble. The play, staged in Willkie Auditorium, starred **Byron Craig**, MA'03, a doctoral student in telecommunication in the title role. Groups '05 cast and understudies (*) were Medea: ***Jasmine White**; Jackie: **LaDonna Vaughn**, ***Kimberly Tibbs**; Cora: **Terrilyn Dennie**, ***Akiere Varnado**; Vickie: **Brittney Anthony**; Lisa: **W. Monique Palmer**, ***Kimberly Wright**; Kevin: **Brandon Johnson**, **Cordero Dowell**; Rev. Lewis: **James Cory Jordan**; Tina: **Deslynn McKissick**, ***Antoinette Harris**; A.J.: **Patrick Meredith**, ***Jamont Simmons**; Mrs. Brown: **Amber Seals**, ***Josephine McKee**; Ronnie: **Matt Glover**, ***Eric Harris**; and Bryan: **Joe Spencer**.

Chorus members were **Tauwanas Jessup**, **Raven Knox**, **La Quinta Lockett**, **Tiara Mickle**, **Alisa Mitchell**, **Lakyra Pharms**, **Yvonne Price**, **James Rikeman**, **Kimberly Tibbs**, **Jasmine White**, and **Kimberly Wright**.

Milestones

~ Marriages ~

Michelle (Daniels) Collier ('96), BSW'01, MSW'02 and her husband, TaMario Collier, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on May 8 in Memphis, Tenn. Collier's husband is a minister.

~ Births ~

Brian Isom ('91), BA'96, and **Marlene (Hanson) Isom** ('90), BA'94, JD'97, became the proud parents of Jaiden Bryant Isom on Aug. 9. Jaiden is the couple's first child. Brian is a principle juvenile probation officer for Lake County, Ill., and Marlene is a contract manager with Essential Group Inc., Chicago. They live in suburban Chicago.

~ Retirements ~

Judith K. "Judy" Andrews, assistant director of the Groups Program, is retiring.

promoted to special assistant/systems administrator, so my responsibilities have picked up a bit. The reason for this e-mail is to inform all of you that I have been asked to speak at a TRIO event next week (titled "The Council for Opportunity") in Education's 16th annual Student Leadership Congress on June 15, here in the Rayburn Building."

Paul Dawning ('86), BA'91, is a State Farm insurance and financial products agent in Gary, Ind. His wife, **Chalanda (Lasenby) Dawning** ('87), BA'92, is a human resources manager for the city. They

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Student news

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home and excel. To prove to myself and others, you can go away. Of course, you'll have trials and tribulations, but you can still make it." And, indeed, she has. In the fall, she will begin employment as a sales representative for an Indianapolis marketing firm.

Last summer, **Mia Kang** ('03) worked full time as an intern in the membership and marketing department of the IU Alumni Association. This fall, she's working part time while attending classes.

On the evening of July 30, members of the Groups freshman class, their families, friends, Groups staff, and citizens of Bloomington were treated to the Groups Theatre Project's production of Tyler Perry's *Medea's Family Reunion*, the 28th production directed and produced by Professor James E. Mumford, director of Indiana University's African American

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Alumni notebook

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are the proud parents of two children: Amber, 8, and Brandon, 5.

Vincent Isom ('86), BA'91, MS'93, coordinator of upper classman advising and activities for the Groups Program, and his wife, **Clarisa (Tubbs) Isom** ('89), are enrolling their daughter, Avari, in the first grade this fall.

Maurice A. Cogdell Jr. ('87), BA'92, recently went to work in medical sales for Stericycle Inc. He is also the founder and owner of Cogco/Marketing, serving as a broker between small businesses and optometrists and supplying discounted medical benefits to insured and underinsured consumers. Cogdell lives in Lisle, Ill.

Donna R. (Jackson) Ajayi ('89), BS'95, a registered nurse, is director of nursing/health services for Adept/Voca, Indianapolis, operated by ResCare. She is married to Folajuwon Ajayi and can be reached at dajayi@rescare.com.

Kimberly Allison ('78), BA'96, is the ACT/SAT and college preparatory director for Gage Park High School in Chicago.

2000s

Prentiss Hervey ('96), BA'00, is youth coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club in Michigan City, Ind. He also has rental properties and a trucking business.

Michelle (Daniels) Collier ('96), BSW'01, MSW'02, e-mailed Lou Moir, her Groups adviser: "My job does require lots of work, but I love it. I supervise four MSW therapeutic case managers, one BSW case manager, and two case aides. Each employee works with the residential setting, foster care children, the state, foster homes, court systems. The majority of the time, I function as a program manager. Advocating for the children who are in child welfare is something else; however, I enjoy it. Can you believe that I entered the Groups program in 1996 and it will be 2006 very soon?"

Ryon J. Cobb ('99), BA'04, is pursuing a joint MA degree in African American and African diaspora studies and library science at IU Bloomington.

Cherie (Wardell) Commissiong ('98), BS'02, MS'04, is coordinator for academics at IUPUI in Indianapolis.

Andrea Gutierrez ('94), BA'03, a former public school teacher in New Albany, Ind., shared this bit of exciting news with Roger Gildersleeve, her Groups adviser: "I will be moving from this area and am very excited about it. I will also be leaving for Ecuador on Saturday for five days. I will be the translator for the dean of education at Indiana University Southeast.

Alumni spotlight

Writer, publisher enjoys active career

Although just a few hours short of completing her degree, **De Carla Livers** ('88), an Evansville native and Groups alumna, has forged a distinguished career as a professional writer and publisher since leaving IU Bloomington. *NUVO Weekly*, an Indianapolis publication, named her "A Person to Watch" and the *Indianapolis Recorder* placed her on its list of "Who's Who" in 1998. Since 1995, Livers's career accomplishments include being appointed internal communications coordinator (1999)



for Amtrak Corporate Communications in Washington, D.C., and editorial board member (2000-03) of the Public Relations Society of America. She has edited, designed, and written documents for the White House assistant joint chief of staff (1999) and members of the executive office of Washington, D.C.'s mayor (2000-02).

Currently, Livers serves as manager/director of the Historical Black Press Foundation, which she founded in 2000. She edits and contributes articles to such African-American publications as *Black Press Magazine*, *Minority Voter Magazine*, and *Bella.com*. She is also the editor of *Black Press Yearbook: Who's Who in Black Media* (2004).



She is giving a presentation at a workshop IUS is taking part in on the creation of an Afro-American Culture Center for the Americas, located in Esmeraldas, Ecuador. IUS is going to be putting together the education aspect of the project. Very exciting. It is quite an honor to be part of this; however, I am terrified of translating! But I will do it."

Randall P. Bogard ('00), BA'04, who is the graduate assistant with the Groups residential programs and services staff this summer, will begin studying for his PhD in higher education at Iowa State University in the fall.

Samira Jeihooni ('00), BA'04, a sales and marketing representative for Eli Lilly and Co. in San Diego, Calif., sent this e-mail to Roger Gildersleeve, her Groups adviser: "My school achievements have not passed since college. I was awarded the MVP at our last district meeting. You

know I had to brag." Her sister, Sara, is a member of the incoming Groups class.

Gerald Mitchell ('00), BA'04, a second-year master's student in higher education at IUB, was a graduate assistant with the Groups residential programs and service staff this summer.

Nastassia B. Belton ('00), BA'05, recently joined the IU Alumni Association team as departmental secretary for the Student Alumni Association. She "is extremely excited about starting a new chapter" in her life and has plans to attend graduate school in counseling education in the near future.

Jeremy Gilmore ('00), BA'05, began studying for an MA degree in African American and African diaspora studies at IU Bloomington this fall.

Sheya Martin ('91), BA'05, was named Adult Student of the Year by the Indiana Council for Continuing Education and presented with a \$500 scholarship at the ICCE annual meeting in Indianapolis in March.

[REDACTED] ('01), BA'05, an honors graduate in the School of Informatics, will begin studying for an MFA degree at the Savannah School of Design in Savannah, Ga., this fall.

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GAA meeting

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five years, three Groups alumni have been hired into the Groups Program: **Kim Jenkins** ('93), BA'98, as an adviser and tutor; **Vincent Isom** ('86), BA'91, MA'93, as coordinator of upper class initiatives; and **Wakisha Malone**, ('95), BA'00, MA'02, as coordinator of advising and program services. The bulk of her report dealt with the Groups Program's receiving a major TRIO grant from the federal government. (See the Bloomington *Herald-Times* article reprinted on page 3.)

Smith began his report by singling out former directors Boyd and Terry to personally thank them for the positive impact that they had on his life. (See an excerpt of the full text of his report on page 3.)

The luncheon concluded with **Cedric Harris**, director of housing and extracurricular programming for the Groups Summer Experience Program, along with the Groups '05 class officers, leading Groups alumni and friends in the singing of "Hail to Old IU."

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