

Indiana University Individualized Major Program

imp independent

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Vol. 2, No. 1
Spring 2008

Musical theatre leaves program after 20 years

When Professor George Pinney arrived at Indiana University in 1986, the university didn't offer a degree in musical theatre. With the help of the Individualized Major Program, then in its eighteenth year and under director Noretta Koertge, Pinney developed a major that matched the conservatory in its depth — up to half the student's total credits in acting, singing, and dancing — yet carried the breadth and flexibility of a liberal arts education.

In the ensuing decades, musical theatre students were mentored by Pinney and by Professor Bruce Burgun, a veteran of such theatre companies as Goodman, Step-penwolf, Court, Second City, and Victory Gardens.

Graduates from the IMP musical theatre program have gone on to success on Broadway and off, on television, in films, and in the academy. Notables include **Colin Donnell**, BA'05, winner of the IMP's Outstanding Senior Project Award for his leading role in *Pal Joey*, who is currently understudy for Nick Massi in the Broadway production of *Jersey Boys*; **Meg Tolin**,



Musical theatre major Margot Gendreau, BA'07, celebrates at the IMP graduation ceremony.

BA'94, who has appeared on Broadway in *Grand Hotel* and *Cats* and toured opposite Richard Chamberlain in *My Fair Lady* and *The Sound of Music*; and **Meera Popkin-Tarack**, BA'89, who starred as Kim in the London production of *Miss Saigon*.

One of the IMP's functions, of course, is to assist in the development of new, interdisciplinary majors, as it has done with gender studies, cognitive science, and

international studies. Thus, while we're sad to see musical theatre's incarnation as an individualized major end, the show will go on.

Last fall, the inaugural class entered to pursue the new BFA in Musical Theatre, a joint offering of the Jacobs School of Music and the College of Arts and Sciences. Break a leg!

Palmer-Brandon Prize winner

The IMP is proud to announce its second Palmer-Brandon Prize-winner in three years. **Abbey Stemler**, a psychology major with a second IMP major in the



Stemler

anthropology of mental health and illness, was one of two students from the College of Arts and Sciences selected for this prestigious award for 2007. The prize awards \$20,000 to outstanding juniors in the humanities for their continuing education. **Kathleen Claussen**, BA'06, was a recipient for 2005. Congratulations, Abbey!

From the director's desk

New initiatives for urgent world issues

After 10 years as director and many more as a faculty member, I am convinced (dire warnings about apathy notwithstanding) that there is a good deal of student idealism waiting to be tapped and encouraged. I am also convinced that the Individualized Major Program can provide an outlet for this idealism by more actively promoting socially oriented or problem-based approaches to learning, with the advantage of not having — at least at first — to go through the lengthy process of setting up formal programs. Problem-focused majors might then take shape in much the same way that interdisciplinary majors like

cognitive science and gender studies took shape within the IMP.

Drawing on this conviction, we plan to make known to current and prospective Indiana University students that, through the IMP, they can major in things such as ethnic conflict, race, poverty studies, religion and public life, citizenship, or environmental sustainability. These are problems both international and local in scope, inherently interdisciplinary, and — the real lure — genuinely urgent; these are issues that matter. By doing so we hope to tap the desire felt by many of the best students

(continued on page 2)

Program news

Show tunes give annual dinner new twist

The IMP's creative and performing arts exhibition, featuring contributions from students in musical theatre, dance performance, and fashion design, was a highlight in 2005 and 2006. However, with the introduction of a BS in dance in fall 2006 and a BFA in Musical Theatre beginning fall 2007, the IMP lost a substantial portion of its performing arts contingent.

The decision was made to combine the exhibition with IMP's equally popular annual dinner for spring 2007. The expanded annual dinner was moved to Bloomington wine bar Tutto Bène and held on April 26.

As students, sponsors, members of the faculty committee, and IMP administration and staff munched tapas, models presented fashion design creations by IMP fashion design seniors **Justin Stutzman**, **Suzy Shelton**, **Elizabeth McKearn**, **Brie Willey**, **Dorothy Shestak**, and **Bailey Redick** and juniors **Jessica Tryba**, **Karyn Wenger**, **James DiMartino**, and **Hannah Fairley**. Guests also enjoyed show tunes performed by musical theatre seniors **Erin Daugherty**, **Betina Pereira**, **Codey Girten**, **Margot Gendreau**, and **Rick Desloge**, with piano accompaniment by **Eric Anderson**.

Student profile

Abby Mack

Major: ethnography and fiction

Year: 2008

Third-year IMP student **Abby Mack** is majoring in ethnography and fiction, which combines anthropology and creative writing. She was drawn to the Individualized Major Program because it offers opportunities that are not always available to undergraduates in other majors. Specifically, Mack enjoys the freedom to design a major she is passionate about and one-on-one interaction with faculty members, especially with her sponsor.

"The IMP is an amazing opportunity," she said, "and I would suggest it to anyone who wants a challenge and to get the most out of what IU has to offer."

Mack also appreciates that undergraduates can carry out serious ethnographic research and are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs. In fact, she recently returned from the Dominican Republic, where she was working on her senior project. She describes her project as "a collection of short stories, interviews, and ethnographic reports on women's rights movements and domestic violence in the Dominican Republic, the United States, and South America."

Because she was involved in research that required her to get out in the community and be open and adventurous in her interactions with others, Mack felt that she was able to see parts of the culture that some other students in her study abroad program missed out on. She also saw an improvement in her Spanish skills.

In addition to her research and travel, Mack enjoys painting, hiking, running, and reading. — *Krissy Fries*



"The IMP is an amazing opportunity and I would suggest it to anyone who wants a challenge and to get the most out of what IU has to offer," said Mack.

From the director

(continued from page 1)

(excuse the cliché but not the idea) to make a difference.

By no means will this initiative preclude or diminish the IMP's traditional role of receptivity to student-proposed majors. It will simply add another element to our mission and make the IMP even more relevant and appealing than it is already. And since students and, especially, parents sometimes express concern over the practical usefulness of an IMP degree, this kind of major

will not only be intellectually challenging but will have the added benefit of indicating a professional direction that should have considerable appeal to organizations with a similar focus.

IMP faculty and sponsors have been enthusiastic about this initiative and have suggested a considerable list of problem-based majors that could be proposed to students not as programs to be followed but as prods to their own imagination. The College of Arts and Sciences is similarly supportive. All of us in the IMP office are now working to make the possibility of issue/problem-based

majors known in as many ways as we can devise. We are redesigning our Web site and brochures; we are meeting with students in the Wells Scholars Program, in the Hutton Honors College, and in various residence halls; and we will make presentations to the two Bloomington high schools this spring. We welcome alumni response to this initiative and suggestions for relevant, problem-based areas of concentration. Just e-mail imp@indiana.edu. This is an exciting time for the IMP; it would be satisfying to have you contribute to it.

— *Ray Hedin*

Welcome new students and majors!

Spring 2007 new majors

The following new majors were approved during Spring 2007:

- television and film direction
- music business and production
- comparative European theory and culture
- environmentally sustainable design
- museum studies
- history of rock and roll music
- music business
- ethics
- world languages
- holistic health and therapeutic remedies
- natural resource conservation
- event planning
- music performance management
- speechwriting
- anthropology of dance
- science and the state
- comedy writing
- digital game design
- marine biology
- international security studies

- global inequalities
- Polish studies
- musical theatre

Fall 2007 new majors

The following new majors were approved during Fall 2007:

- fashion design
- sustainable management
- pre-music therapy
- history and philosophy of science
- event planning
- inter-cultural arts programming and performance
- filmmaking
- management of sports-based special events
- underwater archaeology
- theoretical and practical application of prestidigitation, misdirection, and deception
- nonprofit retail management with concentration in fair trade
- martial culture of Japan
- business and government affairs – financial markets
- music business
- animal behavior
- primate behavior and ecology
- game design
- interactive conversation interface
- romance languages
- contemporary musical performance in voice
- stage management
- food journalism
- advertising and public relations
- sexual health education and advocacy
- international comparative studies in early childhood education
- environmental literacy and sustainability
- music production
- concert and festival production
- 2D animation
- advertising
- conservation of material culture
- advertising management

Student profile

Perry's studies focus on laughter



Perry is a member of Awkward Silence Comedy, one of Bloomington's premier improvisational comedy groups, and a participant in ComedySportz Indianapolis.

Major: comedy writing
Year: 2009

When the lights go out and the pianist starts banging away, **Georgia Perry** takes her cue to jump into action. And hilarity ensues. A member of Awkward Silence Comedy, one of Bloomington's premier improvisational comedy groups, and a participant in ComedySportz Indianapolis, Perry loves to make people laugh.

When she came to IU and got involved with Awkward Silence Comedy, Perry started thinking about how she could combine her love of comedy with her academic career. Enter the IMP program from stage right, and yet another new major program was added: comedy writing.

The double major in journalism and IMP is also a photo editor for the *Indiana Daily Student*. She takes comedic inspiration from Richard Pryor and from life all around her. See Perry and the rest of the Awkward Silence Comedy troupe every Thursday night at 9 p.m. in the IMU. —*Dani Trynoski*

New faces at the IMP

New IMPFC members

Professors **Julia Fox** and **Susan Kelly** (Department of Telecommunications), and **Lisa Sideris** (Department of Religious Studies) joined the IMP faculty committee during fall 2007. All three had been involved with the program as sponsors, and their expertise will broaden the committee's ability to assist students with topics relating to film studies, media effects, ecology, ethics, and spirituality.

Murphy replaces Vázquez-Soto

Nancy Vázquez-Soto, longtime administrative assistant, resigned at the end of 2006–07. Vázquez-Soto joined the IMP staff in 1996 as a part-time department secretary and began working full-time a year later. She left the IMP to care for her son, Carlos Gabriel Colón Vázquez, who was born in February 2006.

Kristen Murphy joined the IMP staff in August to fill Vázquez-Soto's role. Murphy is a 2002 IU alumna. She has worked on campus for five years, first as a graduate recruiter and event planner for the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs and later as a Web writer and editor for the IU Alumni Association. Also an amateur Web designer, Murphy created the new IMP Web site.

IMP graduation traditions continue

The annual graduation ceremony has become one of the IMP's most cherished traditions. Last May, some 220 graduating seniors, their friends, family, and faculty sponsors again joined IMP faculty committee members, administration, and staff in the Frangipani Room of the IMU the morning of Commencement. **Monika Herzig**, noted jazz musician and faculty sponsor for several students graduating in music business, played piano while guests mingled and enjoyed a light breakfast buffet.

The ceremony opened with remarks from IMP director **Ray Hedin** and included addresses from George Pinney and seniors **Michelle Brooks** (business cognition) and **Codey Girten** (musical theatre). Individual graduates were presented with certificates with the names of their majors.

A smaller, but equally festive, event honored December 2007 grads. The fall event, the first of its kind, was held in the IMU University Club. Herzig again provided music, and Professor Hedin read student biographies and announced honors and distinctions while distributing certificates.

Program launches new Web site

On Feb. 1, the IMP unveiled a new version of its Web site, marking the first major redesign since 2002. The overall look and feel of the site were updated for ease of navigation and to comply with Indiana University's new visual identity requirements.

New features include a rotating student profile, an archive of news articles, and an e-mail archive where current students can check for missed announcements from the IMP office.

The site also includes information and forms for prospective and current students as well as resources for IMP's many faculty volunteers. Past issues of the alumni and student newsletters are also available on the site under "news and events." Visit the site at www.indiana.edu/~imp.

**Check it out. Go to
www.indiana.edu/~imp.**



Class of 2007 IMP graduates gather following the traditional ceremony.

Student Honors

Phi Beta Kappa

Fall 2006:

Meredith Dolk, event planning
Mandy Smith, history of rock and roll music

Spring 2007:

Michelle Becker, community conflict resolution in Latin America
Amanda Flynn, art therapy
Anna Pizzi, public relations/event planning
Abbey Stemler, anthropology of mental health and illness
Courtney Willibrand, musical theatre

Fall 2007:

Lisa Dunk, comparative European theory and culture
Anna Malone, musical theatre
Karen Pennington, Native American studies
Steven Shyu, media psychophysiology

2006-07 Outstanding Senior Project Award

Winners of the Outstanding Senior Project Award for 2006-07 were **Codey Girten** and **Joshua Corum**.

Girten, who majored in musical theatre, produced an original musical, "February Stars: The Foosical." In his support letter, committee chairman Ernest Bernhardt-Kabisch wrote, "At once the producer, script writer, director, fight choreographer, music arranger, and fund-raiser, as well as a cast member, Codey produced a show that was in the final analysis the work of a single, tireless, multi-talented creator."

Corum, a human sexuality major, designed and carried out a study investigating the relationship between perceived sexual attractiveness and lifetime number of sexual partners. Joshua's faculty sponsor, Erick Janssen, associate

scientist with the Kinsey Institute, writes that Corum "worked independently on everything from Human Subjects application, literature review, study protocol, and toward the end of the project, he prepared the data for analysis without the need for much intervention or assistance," concluding that "Joshua is a wonderful example of everything the IMP holds dear and strives for."

2006-07 Richard D. Young Award

The winner of the 2006-07 Richard D. Young award was **Steven Shyu**, who majored in media psychophysiology. The Young Award recognizes Shyu's overall academic excellence, as well as the high quality of his final project, a research study examining psychological responses to puns. "Steven is bright, engaged, intellectually curious, and academically rigorous with high standards, integrity, and impeccable character," Professor Julia Fox, Shyu's faculty sponsor, said.

2008 USITT Young Stage Manager Award and Stage Managers Association KC Mehl Award

IMP senior **Claire Diedrich**, a stage management major, is the first IU student to win the 2008 Young Stage Manager Award from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology. Diedrich also recently received the KC Mehl Award from the Stage Managers Association, a national organization of stage managers in all fields that works to improve working conditions, education, and support for stage managers. She is the third consecutive IMP student to win the Mehl Award.

Alumni notebook

1970s

Victoria J. Barnett, BA'74, is the director of church relations at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She is also the co-editor of *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: A Biography*, published by Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Barnett lives in Arlington, Va.

William F. Shortz, BA'74, *New York Times* crossword editor and puzzle master on NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday, is featured in the documentary *Wordplay*, which premiered at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. The film uses Shortz's career as a focus and covers the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in Stamford, Conn. Celebrity interviews in the film include former President Bill Clinton, Jon Stewart, and Indigo Girls Emily Saliers and Amy Ray. His word puzzles are featured in "Shortz Subjects" in the *Indiana Alumni Magazine*. Shortz makes his home in Pleasantville, N.Y.

1980s

Hugh R. Heinsohn, BA'80, is vice president of marketing and USA country manager for Digital Vision AB of Sweden. He rejoined the company in September 2004, having worked there before in the 1990s. In the interim, he was president of Xytech Systems Corp., a company that makes billing, scheduling, and inventory control software for movie studios and the major television networks.

Scott Fentress, BA'85, president of Geometrix International, is the inventor of MagneBlocks, a company featured among the top 10 educational toys of 2005 on NBC's Today Show. MagneBlocks are sold in 12 countries. Fentress also released *Astral Waves*, a CD of his own music, which

can be found at www.astrowave.com. He lives in Brookfield, Conn.

1990s

"In a big career shift, I am now staying home with my 2-year-old son, Gus," writes **Rosalyn S. "Roz" Lambert**, BA'92. "He is a super-active little guy who loves birds and fish. We stay busy here on the shore of Lake Michigan." For 12 years prior to the arrival of her son, Lambert was a major-gift fundraiser for several Chicago-area not-for-profits. The Lamberts live in Gary, Ind.

Kathryn Born, BA'94, is a contributor for Chicago Public Radio, writing and producing segments about art and culture. She is currently working on an audio piece about Outsider Art. She is in the process of editing her IMP final project, a novel entitled *Something Blue*, for potential publication. She is married and has two children.

2000s

Summer Johnson, BA'03, is an assistant professor of medical ethics at the Alden March Bioethics Institute of Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. She serves as director of graduate studies and as director of a program studying ethical issues in innovative health technologies. Johnson received her doctorate in bioethics and health policy from Johns Hopkins University in fall 2006.

"I have planted my feet [in New York City] and am now the company manager of several off-Broadway plays," writes **Robert Townsend Teague**, BA'04. "I am also part of a general management team that represents off-Broadway productions." Teague assisted with two productions alongside IU alumni: *The Talk of the Town* at the Algonquin Hotel, with music director Mark D.

Janas, BM'79, and *Transatlantic Liaison* at Theatre Row's Clurman Theatre, with production manager Jeff Benish, '97.

Kaitlin F. Willihnganz, BA'03, is a freelance writer and editor in Bloomington, Ind. She started Wild Iris Editing, an editing and creative-writing mentoring business. Willihnganz can be reached at yaelsen@hotmail.com.

Colin C. Donnell, BA'05, travels the country performing, thanks to his role in the ensemble of the Broadway production *Mamma Mia!*, a role he landed in 2005 just after learning his first off-Broadway show, *Almost Heaven: Songs of John Denver*, was closing. In this role, he returned to Bloomington to perform *Mamma Mia!* at the IU Auditorium — less than one year after graduating from IU. Donnell lives in New York City.

IMP Independent

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Individualized Major Program and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ialumni@indiana.edu.

Individualized Major Program

Director Ray Hedlin
Assistant Director Paul Aarstad
Student Services

Assistant Kristen Murphy
College of Arts & Sciences

Dean Bennett I. Bertenthal
Executive Director of Development
& Alumni Programs..... David Ellies

IU Alumni Association

President Tom Martz
Sr. Director for IUB Constituent
& Affiliate Groups..... Nicki Bland
Editor for Constituent

Periodicals Sarah J. Preusch
Class Notes
Editor Raymond Fleischmann

College honors Shortz with 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award

Will Shortz, *New York Times* crossword editor and National Public Radio puzzle-master, was honored at the College's annual recognition banquet on Nov. 2, 2007, as one of three 2007 distinguished alumni. Shortz's major in enigmatology, conferred in 1974, was among the earliest individualized majors at IU and according to Shortz, it remains the only one of its kind in the world. The alumnus has often attributed his success in part to this unique credential.

While in Bloomington, Shortz was the honored guest at a reception for IMP faculty and students in the Indiana Memorial Union's Federal Room.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Bloomington

Travel in style!



Send us your business card or your information, and we'll send you a personalized luggage tag!

To show your pride as a College alumnus and improve our alumni database at the same time, mail to: *Luggage Tags, College of Arts & Sciences, Kirkwood Hall 208, 130 S. Woodlawn, Bloomington, IN 47405.*

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Virgil T. DeVault Alumni
1000 East 17th Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47

Nonprofit Org.
Postage
PAID
Indiana University
Alumni Association



Printed on recycled paper in U.S.A.



What's new with you?

The IU Alumni Association is charged with maintaining records for all IU alumni. Please print as much of the following information as you wish. Its purpose, in addition to providing us with your class note, is to keep IU's alumni records accurate and up to date. To verify and update your information online, visit our online alumni directory at www.alumni.indiana.edu/directory.

Publication carrying this form: Individualized Major Program Alumni Newsletter Date _____

Name _____

Preferred Name _____

Last name while at IU _____ IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) _____

Soc. Sec. # or Student ID # _____

Home address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business title _____ Company/Institution _____

Company address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*E-mail _____ *Home page URL _____

Mailing address preference: Home Business

Spouse name _____ Last name while at IU _____

IU Degree(s)/Yr(s) _____

Your news: _____

Please send me information about IU Alumni Association membership.

IUAA membership supports and includes membership in the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association and your local alumni chapter. You may join online at www.alumni.indiana.edu or call (800) 824-3044.

Please mail to the address above, or fax to (812) 855-8266.