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Changes on the horizon under new dean’s leadership

Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”
~John F. Kennedy

The concept of CHANGE is very much on my mind these days. The politics of change is front and center in the race for president of the United States. Administrators and civic leaders talk about becoming change agents. Change is also the operative term at IU. We now have a new president and a new provost, and including myself there are five new deans. The university recently appointed a new campus master planner to work with administrators, faculty, and students to develop a blueprint for how the physical infrastructure of Bloomington and the other campuses will change over the next 20 years.

After becoming acquainted with the affairs of the College and the campus over the past 12 months, I am prepared to begin introducing changes closer to home. Some of these changes involve strategic planning and prioritization and will evolve as I consult with chairs and directors during this year’s budget planning process. Some of these changes will occur in response to the priorities of IU President Michael McRobbie. In his inaugural speech, he announced many new programs and initiatives including a strategic plan for international affairs and a building plan that included the renovation of the old theater and the construction of a new International Studies Building. Some of these changes will be directed at a more operational level, and will involve improving our communication and marketing to alumni and to the public and private sectors more generally. I would like to devote the remainder of this column to telling you about a few of these changes.

Too little recognition
As I continue to learn about the College, I become increasingly concerned about the disconnect between appearance and reality. Simply put, the College at IUB is one of the most undervalued academic institutions in the entire country. It is shocking to discover how many faculty and administrators from other institutions are clueless about the exceptional offerings provided by our physical and intellectual infrastructure. As a case in point, I have had at least half a dozen conversations in the past month with job candidates who were truly astounded by the physical beauty of the campus. Even some of the major architectural firms that we interviewed for the position of campus master planner confided that they were surprised by the preservation of such natural surroundings in what can be best described in Thomas Jefferson’s words as an “academical village.”

Too little publicity
At the risk of seeming to emphasize physical infrastructure at the expense of intellectual infrastructure, let me assure you that we are equally concerned about the limited publicity and attention received by our outstanding faculty and students. This is why you will find a bimonthly newsletter linked to the College home page listing a subset of the numerous honors and awards garnered by our faculty and students. We believe that this is a start toward improving the attention deserved by the College, but it is by no means sufficient.

We are planning in the very near future to begin including streaming video and podcasts of presentations that we deem to be of general interest to the College community. By also archiving these presentations, they will be available to much larger audiences than may be able to attend a specific lecture or event.

Although only time will tell if these new investments in promoting the College will prove their worth, these decisions to begin the inclusion of streaming video and podcasts were prompted by the numerous requests received after the annual Alumni Awards dinner to make available a video of the acceptance speeches of our distinguished awardees: Will Shortz, Jessica Petelle-Slagle, and Jeff Wolin (see pp. 6–8).

At the very least, we believe that the availability of streaming video and podcasts on our Web site will enhance the College community’s knowledge of and engagement in current activities.

What about the magazine?
Finally, we are giving considerable thought and attention to changing this magazine. Should the magazine be expanded in length to include more articles by and about alumni and offer news of our alumni, organized by class? Should the magazine be published once or twice a year and be intermixed with departmental alumni publications? Should the magazine be distributed only online or be distributed only online to alumni who graduated in the past 20 years and be mailed to older alumni? Over the past year, the Alumni Board, the Development and Alumni Office, and the IU Alumni Association weighed in with various opinions. My view is that the solution depends largely on what we wish to accomplish with this publication. As recipients of this magazine, we would like to hear from you and learn how we can better serve you. We have created a separate e-mail address for receiving input from you, collalumn@indiana.edu, and look forward to your comments and suggestions.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that change is good, but not at the expense of undoing what already works well. We value your feedback, and we encourage you to share with us any positive or negative opinions that you have about The College. This is an opportunity for you to become more engaged with The College by sending your comments to the above e-mail address.

~ BENNETT BERTENTHAL

To share your positive and negative opinions of The College magazine, e-mail collalumn@indiana.edu.
When Indiana native and College Dean’s Advisory Board member Ruth Johnson married her husband, Dick, more than a half century ago, little did she know she would also be entering a long-lasting union with his alma mater, Indiana University.

Dick had graduated from IU in 1955, and after serving two years in the Army, he had purchased a small Shell Oil distributorship in Columbus, Ind. Ruth, who had attended Indiana State Teachers College, now Indiana State University, was working in the public relations department of Shell Oil Co. in Indianapolis, where the two met.

During the Johnsons’ courtship, they attended many football games and alumni events in Bloomington, as well as parties with Dick’s fraternity brothers and business school friends. It was a great atmosphere in which to develop social and business relationships. In 1959, when the couple married and settled in Columbus, it was only natural to continue and grow these relationships.

Johnson Oil Co., which had a small beginning, grew steadily over the next several years. With the coming of convenience stores in the 1970s, the Johnsons added this amenity to many of their gas stations. By 2001, when the company was sold to Couche-Tard Inc., it was one of the largest convenience store/gasoline chains in the nation and the largest in Indiana.

Throughout this time of professional growth, the Johnsons maintained close ties to IU. They were instrumental in creating the Distinguished Entrepreneur-in-Residence program in the Kelley School of Business. By participating with students and the business community, they were able to share their own experiences. The Johnsons also became involved with the Indiana University Press to help publish the book Birds of Indiana by William Zimmerman. The Johnsons sponsored and own all the original art for the book. The art is currently on loan to the University and graces the walls of Jordan Hall. “These were two small ways we were able to give back to the University which had been so helpful in our success,” Ruth explains.

In 1998, the Johnsons ensured that their name would forever be linked with IU by giving $1 million to further entrepreneurship activity at the Kelley School. Today, the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation is one of the nation’s premier leaders in entrepreneurship research and education. In recent years they have continued to give back to IU through donations and through personal involvement with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Jacobs School of Music, and the School of Medicine, among other schools, units and departments. Their two children, Rick, BS’81, and Jenny, BS’82, also attended IU.

It is no coincidence, says Ruth, that as the couple’s interest in IU grew, so did their success.

“I was very young when we began developing our business, but having the backing of the university people we knew and with whom we were very close for many years really helped us,” she says. “As the years have gone by, we’ve seen how a good education and connections with people who know about your field of interest can assist in your growth and improvement.”

The Johnsons have been determined to give back to the university that helped fuel their start and continues to inspire them today. This determination has not only resulted in large gifts to help fund such projects as Simon Hall, IU Bloomington’s new multidisciplinary science building, but also in participation on advisory boards and councils, attendance at cultural and sporting events, and hours spent passing along their knowledge and experiences to students.

Ruth is especially proud of the family’s ongoing involvement with the Kelley School’s Entrepreneur-in-Residence program, which has introduced students to such distinguished alumni as Batman movie producer Michael Uslan and Nike executive Louis Jordan. The program is, in large part, a product of her and her husband’s vision of how a university and its alumni can foster a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

“We had always gone to the business conferences at the university and had this dream of starting some sort of an entrepreneurial situation where actual business people could come to the school and talk to students so that students could know, firsthand, what business is all about,” Ruth says. “Through this connection, we have the opportunity to see how young lives can be affected by examples of successful business persons and how students can see how people from many different walks of life can still go forward with hard work and talent.”

Getting involved with entrepreneurship learning at the Kelley School, and seeing young people go on to have the success they have had, “hooked” the Johnsons on the university forever, Ruth says. Now in their sixth decade together, the Johnsons keep giving to IU. The rewards keep coming in.

“The real kicker of all of this is that, as you become connected with the school and people at the school, your reward is really even more than what you could give the school. It’s not a one-way street.”

Ryan Piurek, MA’02, is assistant director of University Communications.
In August of 1987, I embarked on an adventure that would change my life forever. I clearly remember watching my parents pull out of the Indiana Memorial Union parking lot as I walked down Seventh Street and along the Jordan River, back to Forest Quad. I had just finished freshman orientation, and Indiana University was my new home. It was very far away, especially from an 18-year-old’s perspective, from New York, where I had spent my entire life to that point.

Although I didn’t know it 20 years ago, coming from Manhattan and going to college in Bloomington, Ind., would change the way I viewed myself and the way I saw the world. To this day, my IU experience continues to influence and shape me.

My decision to attend IU was complicated and simple at the same time. My dad, who grew up in New Jersey, graduated from IU in 1952. Growing up, he would always try to get my sister and me enthusiastic about those Indiana basketball games he watched. But Indiana was a remote and foreign place from my perspective. I ended up applying to and ultimately attending IU as a result of my parents’ encouragement to get out of New York and have a traditional college experience. I had never been to the Midwest before, and I am embarrassed to admit that I spent the plane ride out in August studying the airline magazine map to get my bearings on where Bloomington was, relative to the East Coast.

Suddenly, I was meeting people from towns and cities that were as exotic to me as Manhattan was to some of them: my roommate from Chicago; girls on my floor at Forest from Zionsville, Corydon, and Terre Haute, Ind., as well as from Columbus, Ohio, San Francisco, and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. I had new friends from Ellettsville, Goshen, and Carmel, Ind. I learned quickly that Corydon was Indiana’s first state capital. I went to my first county fair in Sullivan, Ind. The world had suddenly become a bigger place.

More than 20 years later, as for most IU graduates, the friends I made in Bloomington still play a major role in my life. I came to Indiana with a New York-centric view of the world. IU opened my eyes, whether that was because my new, Midwestern college friends were more grounded, or because attending Indiana gave me the opportunity to meet people who grew up on farms and not in high-rise apartments. The person I have become and the values I have today, I credit to my IU experience. I left IU a far more thoughtful and worldly person than I was when I arrived.

Nancy Labiner, BA’91, is vice president for human capital management with Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York and a member of the College Alumni Board.

“IU opened my eyes, whether that was because my new, Midwestern college friends were more grounded, or because attending Indiana gave me the opportunity to meet people who grew up on farms and not in high-rise apartments.”
Anthropology

OVER TIME

- 1886 Department of Economics and Social Sciences established, consisting of political economy, commerce, and sociology. Anthropology studied as a sophomore foundation course in sociology.
- 1895 IU hires Ulysses Weatherly as a faculty member in anthropology. Weatherly teaches for 40 years, developing the first Museum of Anthropology and Social History at IU.
- 1935 Weatherly leaves. Anthropology left adrift for several years until Eli Lilly, philanthropist and businessman, enters the picture. Lilly, a dedicated archaeologist, provides funds to help establish professorships in anthropology.
- 1941 Charles “Carl” Voegelin appointed the first professor of anthropology. Additional faculty hired: Georg Neumann in 1942 (appointed as assistant professor of zoology) and Glenn Black in 1944, initially appointed a lecturer in zoology.
- Neumann establishes anthropology museum with collection of pioneer and Indian artifacts purchased years earlier by IU President William Lowe Bryan.
- 1945 Glenn Black and William Adams set up a laboratory to process faunal materials from excavations at Angel Mounds in southern Indiana. In 1955, it was formally established as the Zoo-archaeology Laboratory and is now known as the William R. Adams Zooarchaeology Laboratory.
- July 1, 1947, Department of Anthropology officially established, offering AB and AM degrees in anthropology. The degrees embrace four specialized subfields: archaeology, social-cultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and bioanthropology.
- 1948 the Archives of Traditional Music formed by initial efforts of George Herzog, followed later by anthropologists Alan Merriam and Anthony Seeger; anthropology of arts develops from that time to become one of the oldest strengths of the department.
- 1949 PhD in anthropology offered for the first time.
- 1956 Paul Gebhard, who joined the Anthropology Department in 1946, becomes director of the Institute of Sex Research (the Kinsey Institute) and remains its director until 1982. His appointment begins a trend in which anthropology faculty serve as directors or codirectors for several area-study programs, including African Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Classical Studies, and the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program.
- 1958 Archives of Languages of the World and the Arizona Field Station in Anthropological Linguistics founded by Carl Voegelin, along with the Research Center for Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics set up by Thomas Sebeok.
- 1963 Neumann’s Anthropology Museum merged with the IU Museum, now known as the Mathers Museum of World Cultures.
- 1965 Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology established. Through the efforts of Eli Lilly and IU, the laboratory is dedicated as an independent research facility in 1971. It includes Eli Lilly’s archaeological collection, records and collections from Glenn Black’s excavations of Angel Mounds, and more than 10,000 collections of artifacts from sites in Indiana and the Midwest.
- 1983 David Skomp Endowment established to provide support for graduate student development.
- 1985 American Indian Studies Research Institute founded.
- 1986 Annual Skomp Distinguished Lecture in Anthropology established.
- 1987 an affiliation with the Center for Research into the Anthropological Foundations of Technology (CRAFT) is established.
- 1989 Anthropology Graduate Student Association founded.
- 1990 Undergraduate Anthropology Society founded.
- August 1991 the department moves from Rawles Hall into its present location in the remodeled Student Building.
- 1992 Anthropological Center for Training and Research on Global Environmental Change established, focusing on the human dimensions of global change.
- 1996 Center of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change, a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence, established.
- 1997 Center for Archaeology in the Public Interest founded; it still offers the nation’s only doctoral concentration in “Archaeology in Social Context.”
- 2001 Stone Age Institute established, the first center in the world devoted to early human culture.
- 2001-06 the department experiences 50 percent faculty growth across subfields, consolidating areas of national excellence while expanding to new fields and regions of the world.
- 2006 Anthropology grants office established.
- 2007 PhD program in the anthropology of food established.
- 2008 Symposium “Rethinking Race in the Americas” celebrates 20th Skomp Distinguished Lecture and department’s 60th anniversary.

Thanks to the department of Anthropology and Professor Emeritus Robert Meier for their work on this timeline.
The Individualized Major Program at Indiana University has produced a number of unusual degrees — drama therapy, illustration of mythology, and captive animal social ecology, to name a few. But none have been quite so puzzling as that of 1974 graduate Will Shortz. He holds the world’s only degree in “enigmatology” — the study of puzzles.

There could be no better match for his most unconventional career path. Now the crossword editor for The New York Times and puzzle master for National Public Radio’s Weekend Edition Sunday, Shortz has also served as editor of Games magazine, founded the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament and the World Puzzle Championship, and written more than 300 books on crosswords, sudoku, and other brain teasers.

“I’m so thankful to IU for its innovative program,” he says. “I don’t know if I would have had my career if I’d gone anywhere else.”

Shortz’s devotion to puzzles dates back to his childhood on an Arabian horse farm in Crawfordsville, Ind. He recalls poring over his sister’s copy of We Dare You to Solve This!, a puzzle book published in 1957. When he was 8 years old, he started creating brain teasers for his friends and family, and by eighth grade, he was certain of his future career. “I was assigned a paper on what I wanted to do with my life, and I wrote about becoming a puzzle maker,” he recalls.

Less than a year later, Dell Publications accepted one of Shortz’s puzzles for publication. By age 16, he was regular contributor.

“I wrote him a letter and told him I wanted to make puzzles for a living,” he says. “His recommendation was, ‘Don’t do it, it’s impossible.’ I had to put that out of my mind.”

When Shortz arrived at IU in 1970, he bounced from subject to subject, studying history and mathematics and fulfilling all the requirements for an economics major. Then he discovered the Individualized Major Program, and realized how it could all fit together.

“I found an English professor to work with me on researching early American puzzles, and a math professor who helped me create a course on designing mathematical puzzles,” he says. “My senior year, I declared my major in enigmatology.”

Despite his early success and ongoing persistence, Shortz feared that a career in puzzles would be financially untenable. He was accepted to the University of Virginia School of Law, but a summer internship at Penny Press, a puzzle magazine company, convinced him that becoming an editor would allow him to focus on puzzles full-time. He still completed his JD, but never took the bar exam, instead heading back to Penny Press for several months before becoming editor of Games magazine in 1978.

“I don’t regret law school at all,” he says. “It was wonderful training for the mind. And just like solving a puzzle, law takes a complex issue, dissects it into separate strands, and approaches each one systematically. It also taught me how the business world works, which has been important for my career.”

Shortz’s influence on the puzzle world can hardly be overstated. He revolutionized the New York Times crossword, which now reaches millions of solvers every day. His sudoku books have made the best seller lists. The American Crossword Puzzle Tournament has grown to include nearly 700 contestants and was the subject of a 2006 feature film, Wordplay. In 1997, Esquire magazine named Shortz one of “The 100 Best People in the World” for the enriching diversion he provides for so many.

Yet, though he is arguably a celebrity in his own right, Shortz is delighted every time he learns of a well-known figure who does his crosswords.

“I keep a list of famous people who solve crosswords,” he says, naming Catherine Zeta-Jones, Morgan Freeman, Claire Danes, and Keith Olbermann as noted cross-words.

“I know Bill Clinton is a regular Times solver,” he adds. “Every time I put a member of the Clinton cabinet in the puzzle, I think about him filling in that answer.”

Making Indiana a hotbed of film production is the goal of Jessica Petelle-Slagle, producer for Drexel Box Productions and this year’s Outstanding Young Alumni Award winner.

Even in capricious Hollywood, a Hoosier work ethic goes a long way, says Jessica Petelle-Slagle, BA’00. The Churubusco, Ind., native arrived in Los Angeles with dual degrees in telecommunications and theater and drama, eager to learn and ready to labor.

“I came out to L.A. with my total Hoosier mentality: I will shine your shoes, I will do whatever it takes, I will work so hard you will never know what hit you,” she says.

Petelle-Slagle was thrilled to find an entry-level position as a production assistant at Gracie Films, the company responsible for award-winning animated series *The Simpsons*, as well as film classics like *Say Anything* and *Jerry Maguire*. Within three months, her dedication paid off in a promotion to an executive assistantship.

“The executive who hired me as an assistant said, ‘I know you don’t know much, but you work so hard, how can I not promote you?’” she says.

Her work at Gracie earned her an Emmy certificate for her contribution to *The Simpsons*, but her efforts didn’t stop there. Petelle-Slagle looked for more production experience on a number of side projects — particularly collaborations with her IU classmates Travis Betz, Jeremiah Jordan, and Ward Roberts. With only a crawlspace to use as an editing bay, the friends formed their own company, Drexel Box Productions.

After several years in Los Angeles, Petelle-Slagle began to notice a theme among her friends’ scripts: They were all set in the Midwest. Having married her IU sweetheart, Ian Slagle, also an Indiana native and 2000 IU alumnus, she decided to head home to lay the groundwork for Drexel Box’s feature films.

Just as she had in California, Petelle-Slagle threw herself into the effort, finding work on commercials and completing Drexel Box’s first movie, *Joshua*, a horror film set in South Bend. She also became an advocate for film production in Indiana, joining the Indiana Media Industry Network, which sought the passage of tax incentives to promote film-making in the state.

“Movie-making isn’t just Stephen Spielberg,” she says. “It’s electricians, technicians, a lot of different people with different skills. Many of my family members and friends have worked in factories their whole lives, but we’ve lost so many jobs in the state from factories closing and relocating. Film can provide new opportunities for a lot of people.”

Despite her hard work, Petelle-Slagle struggled in Indiana. Although she had no trouble finding work in L.A., in Indiana she had to wait tables to make ends meet. The tax proposals also floundered, coming up several times before the Legislature only to fail. So when her husband was offered an exciting job opportunity in California, it made sense to return to the Golden State.

Back in Hollywood, her career has continued to soar. She is now a producer for an artists’ collaborative, The Masses, which includes a number of high-profile actors, directors, and musicians. Although much of her time is devoted to The Masses, Drexel Box remains her priority.

“When I joined The Masses I told them, ‘This can’t cut into anything I’m doing with my boys,’” she says.

Drexel Box’s current projects include feel-good feature *Little Big Top* — written and directed by Roberts and set in his hometown of Peru, Ind. — due for release this winter. Betz’s series of short films *The Receptionist* is now part of Comedy Central’s online presence. The group has also begun production for a new film called *Lo*, which Petelle-Slagle describes as “a very experimental demon love story.”

Meanwhile, she remains connected to her Hoosier roots. She has continued to advocate for tax incentives through the Indiana Media Industry Network, hoping to someday help build a thriving film industry in her home state. Until then, she keeps Indiana front and center through the L.A.-based alumni group she co-founded, Hoosiers in Hollywood.

“You learn so much from other alumni in the industry,” she says, naming Angelo Pizzo, BA’71, and Michael Uslan, BA’73, MEd’75, JD’76, as mentors. “I feel like I’m in this really special club by graduating from IU. I thank my lucky stars every day.”
Jeffrey Wolin, the College Alumni Board’s 2007 Distinguished Faculty Award winner, combines photography and prose to record moving personal histories.

“I’m a generally optimistic person. I like to laugh,” says Jeffrey Wolin, Ruth N. Halls Professor of Photography in Indiana University’s Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts. Describing how his students have coached him in swapping antiquated “analog” photography for more modern digital methods, he clearly conveys the family man behind his Life at the Millennium series depicting his young sons.

The more prevalent themes of his artwork — personal histories of poverty, war, and genocide — seem at first to be less congruent with his warm demeanor. But these portraits of Holocaust survivors, Vietnam War veterans, and residents of subsidized housing projects illuminate “timeless core values” of human experience, he says.

“All of us have had pain and misfortune,” he explains. “How you process that is part of the human condition. I’m interested in memory and the way we construct memory.”

Wolin’s portraits convey memory by combining a photo image with text transcribed from a video interview with the subject. After distilling more than an hour of narrative into a few hundred words, he sends the text to the subject, who can make any changes necessary to preserve the authenticity of the account.

“Every portrait is a collaboration with the person it depicts,” he says.

Written in Memory: Portraits of the Holocaust and Inconvenient Stories: Vietnam War Veterans have both been published as books, in addition to Wolin’s latest work with recent immigrants to Indiana, New Faces at the Crossroads: The World in Central Indiana. Exhibitions of these photographs have crossed the globe, reaching as far as Italy, Poland, Australia, and Japan. Wolin’s work is also in the permanent collections of more than 30 institutions, including New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art, and Chicago’s Art Institute and Museum of Contemporary Photography.

His current work includes a commission for the Indianapolis airport to create work that incorporates the words and images from the New Faces at the Crossroads project. He is also planning a sequel to Inconvenient Stories that will feature Vietnamese nationals sharing their experiences of the Vietnam War.

In both his artwork and his teaching, Wolin says his goal is to move beyond the sphere of art criticism to participate in a broader dialogue of cultural and historical significance.

“I’m not just interested in engaging my field in a discussion. I’m interested in the larger world. I want my work to engage the culture we live in,” he says.

“I believe my photography students are also well served to think in other ways aside from the visual,” he adds. “I love that our department is in the College of Arts and Sciences. It allows students to be exposed to many different kinds of thinking.”

Elisabeth Andrews is a freelance writer in Bloomington.
A Microcosm of the College

by Anne Kibbler

The Department of Anthropology, with roots going back to the late 19th century, brings a world of understanding to some of the most pressing issues of the day.

Stone tools. Endangered languages. Human evolution. Remote sensing imagery of the Amazon. Religion. Genomics. Nationalism. Ethnicity and art. All under one roof, and all part of the Department of Anthropology, which, with 38 faculty members, is one of the largest departments in the College and in the country.

Department Chair Eduardo Brondizio, PhD’96, says anthropology is a microcosm of the College, with faculty interests ranging from the humanistic to the scientific. “The department reflects the complexity of human beings,” he says. “We deal with some of the most prominent issues that are shaping everyday life — ethnic conflict, global climate change, infectious disease, gender issues, while looking at the diversity of human societies, past and present.”

The department takes a holistic approach to both research and teaching, and it prides itself on its well-rounded faculty. Many faculty have dual appointments in other departments and schools on campus — biology, international studies, and gender studies, to name but a few. And they travel all over the world for their research. One studies medical anthropology and aging in Ukraine, another ancient DNA and population movements, another archaeology in North America, and yet another the sociocultural aspects of Islam in West Africa.

Undergraduate students — there are close to 200 of them — must take a core of classes in the subject’s four main areas: linguistic, archaeological, biological, and sociocultural anthropology. The curriculum is designed to promote cross-field collaboration and training. “It’s a big advantage because students are exposed to different perspectives and areas of expertise while selecting from a comprehensive list of courses,” Brondizio says. “It’s really important for their professional development in a globalized world requiring multiple skills.”

A tour of the department, which is based in the Student Building, reveals an impressive breadth and depth of interests. There are seven associated research centers and eight laboratories in the building, including the William R. Adams Zooarchaeology Laboratory, one of the best collections of modern comparative animal specimens in the country. Named for longtime faculty member and founder Dick Adams, the lab houses animal bones and bodies gathered from zoos, sanctuaries, and even the side of the road. About 10,000 specimens, from cowbirds to seahorses, inhabit indexed drawers beneath buffalo skulls mounted on the wall. The remains give clues to human diet and animal extinction patterns, and they can even train students interested in a career in forensics to distinguish a human bone from an animal one.

One of the few libraries focusing on the anthropology of the performing arts can be found in this building, as can an osteology and paleopathology laboratory that enables research into nutrition and disease; a human origins and primate laboratory; and a clay and ceramic analysis laboratory. The American Indian Studies Research Institute is also associated with anthropology, as are two centers studying global environmental change; the Center for Research into the Anthropological Foundations of Technology; the Stone Age Institute; the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology; the Center for the Documentation of Endangered Languages; the Center for Archaeology in the Public Interest; and the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. All serve as training grounds for students, including about 150 graduate students — one of the biggest contingents on campus and in the country.

Brondizio says the department has expanded significantly in recent years. In the 1990s, he says, there was an academic debate around the country centering on a perceived conflict between science and humanities in anthropology. But at Indiana, as elsewhere, faculty recommitted to the idea that a holistic, four-field approach is the root of American anthropology.

“That, I think, was an excellent move because it allowed us to consolidate areas of strength while opening new fronts, and to offer a good, solid degree and a diversity of perspectives,” Brondizio says. “We complement and benefit from the growth of other departments, and in the process we have positioned ourselves to offer a relevant degree preparing students for the social challenges and professional demands of today’s world.”

With a new, expanded course list and a growing faculty, anthropology is well positioned to take advantage of its long history of studying issues that are becoming more prominent on campus, such as ethnic conflict, gender, and global climate change.

“I think we differentiate ourselves in our depth and breadth,” Brondizio says. “We bring to students and to society as a whole a substantial understanding of the world and of the human condition.”

T H E  C O L L E G E / W I N T E R  2 0 0 8  9
As it celebrates its 60th anniversary, the Department of Anthropology is preparing to give itself, the university, and the entire Bloomington community a delightful gift. After seven years of planning, the department is accepting applications from prospective students to its new PhD program in food studies, the first such program in the country.

The meeting announcing this new program was extraordinary. I was invited to attend in my role of food columnist for the local paper. Approximately 20 people showed up, taking places around a large conference table. At the appointed hour, Program Director Richard Wilk introduced himself and gave a broad outline of the program. Then the attendees introduced themselves, giving descriptions of their related research and teaching interests.

What made this meeting exceptional was the passion evident as participants took turns describing how food fit into their academic specialty and research. Also evident was the intense interest on the part of every listener as each person was speaking. And with good reason — it was fascinating stuff, and a revelation.

From the sociocultural anthropologist (who’s also a cooking teacher) to the political scientist (who’s also a food writer), to the biologist (who’s also a bison rancher) to the bioanthropologist (who’s also a cheesemaker and mushroom forager), these people all had tales to tell of years of food research and field work in every corner of the globe and of their intense connection to food on a personal level.

Present, as well, were a toxicologist, geographer, folklorist, historians, more anthropologists, and more biologists. The IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs and the School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation were represented, as well. Strikingly absent in such a setting was the use of arcane jargon or intellectual one-upmanship. There were no out-sized egos at the table, just true collegiality. These people were obviously there because they were excited to be part of the new food studies program and eager for the opportunity to hear of their colleagues’ activities.

Crossing disciplines

Anthropology Chair Eduardo Brondizio, PhD’96, says the department wants to reach out beyond the traditional boundaries of the College. “Because of budgeting constraints, cross-campus cooperation can be difficult to achieve,” he explains. “Since food is a strong network across campus, we hope to draw on the strengths of many different departments, promoting an intellectual community across boundaries. We hope to leverage the expertise of the faculty to build on the strengths of the entire campus.”

Indeed, one glance at the list of faculty and courses involved finds 21 core faculty in anthropology and a number of courses offered by faculty in other College departments, but also a SPEA course and eight courses in HPER. The department has recently conducted a survey of IU Bloomington faculty to enable newly-admitted food studies graduate students to plan their post-graduate studies. There are enough enticing possibilities to make choosing among them difficult.

Professors Stacie King and Sonya Atalay are putting the finishing touches on Food in the Ancient World, the coordinated undergraduate seminar and graduate-level course they are offering in the spring. Atalay, a specialist in Neolithic Turkey, and King, an expert on post-A.D. 1000 Mexico, will pool their expertise to provide students with an opportunity to study the impact of food across time. King is enthusiastic about the cooperative nature of the course.

“Students will read ethnographic studies of the importance of food in contemporary cultures and then touch on a variety of topics to explore these same
issues across time,” she says. “We’ll be able to look at how people have used food to create identity and meaning in their everyday existence.” Atalay adds: “I hope also that students will see how different perspectives create richer views and understanding of past societies.”

Coffee Culture, Production, and Markets is the title of the course being offered by Catherine Tucker. Coffee seems like such a simple thing — most of us have a cup in the morning and don’t give it much thought. Tucker, however, has given the subject a great deal of thought, and her course is an invitation to her students to think about agricultural commodities in new ways.

She and her students will examine the ramifications of “coffee culture” on growers, middlemen, and consumers. They will look at the history of the coffee trade and its impact on international power arrangements and social justice. Students will also consider the health and environmental implications of coffee consumption and production.

Della Cook — who raises goats on a farm outside Bloomington — teaches courses in paleopathology and dental anthropology. These are courses for specialists, but even to a layman they sound intriguing. Cook states that “since we relate to food with our teeth, a great deal of information comes from the teeth of ancient skeletons.” Bioanthropologists can examine ancient teeth and tell what people ate, how healthy they were, and what food-processing technologies they used. Paleopathologists can estimate the proportion of meat versus vegetables in the diet, as well as fish versus game, and maize versus other crops.

These three courses are representative of the ways anthropologists have historically studied food and its many implications for humans. The new program will allow graduate students to pursue these subjects with the additional perspective of different disciplines, offering, for instance, courses such as the folklore department’s Material Culture and Folklore, HPER’s Advanced Human Nutrition, and SPEA’s Risk Communication, to name but a few.

A tempting prospect

The food studies PhD is garnering an enthusiastic response from prospective students. When asked if he thought the new program would greatly affect applications to the department’s graduate program, Professor Richard Wilk said, “In a normal year, I might hear from five or six prospective students. This year it has been more like 25, and many of them have been fascinating people including professional chefs and journalists. It seems like a lot of people have been waiting for something like this.”

One of these prospective students is Cathie Corrigan, a 1999 graduate of IUPUI. “Were it not for this program, I expected to have to save up, learn Italian, and eventually apply to Italy’s Universita degli Studi di Scienze Gastronomiche — after putting my kids through college!” Corrigan says. “I had a long wait. I hadn’t really considered IU for a PhD until this program was available.”
Rian Davis, a senior at the University of North Texas, used the power of the Internet to find just the right graduate program. “I found out about IU and the program by doing a Google search for the specific subjects ‘anthropology,’ ‘nutrition,’ and ‘food,’” Davis says. “I am especially excited by the fact that I can combine both sides of my interest in the anthropology of food, both the medical and the cultural.”

One applicant hails from halfway around the world. Arisa Shibagaki graduated from Kyoto Notre Dame University in Japan. She has a master’s degree in popular culture from Ohio’s Bowling Green State University and was considering applying to the IU folklore department. “However, when I heard about the food program in anthropology, I decided to apply,” she says. “I liked the idea of being able to study about food from many perspectives, not just from a folklorist’s.” Arisa is interested in studying how Americans consume Japanese foods, such as Ramen Noodles, in ways that are dissimilar to how the dishes are consumed in Japan.

Department Chair Brondizio is enthusiastic about the quality of applicants the Food Studies Program is attracting. “We’re getting the best applicants ever,” he says. “However, in the past we’ve lost many of our best prospects to schools that could afford more generous fellowships. Our major effort right now is to raise the funds necessary to ensure that we don’t lose the promising applicants we’ve seen who are interested in this new program.”

Sonya Atalay, who is teaching the Food in the Ancient World course, says, “The other day I got an e-mail from a student I never met asking about the program because she’s considering going to graduate school now rather than cooking school (her lifelong dream) — the program sparked that kind of interest and passion in her.”

The new PhD has also grabbed the attention of students a little farther down the pipeline. IU junior Sarah Almuhairi is majoring in Near-Eastern Languages, and says she’s “tempted.” Almuhairi would like to study the socio-cultural aspects of food, particularly in the Persian Gulf region, where western ideas of how to shop and how to cook are driving out the ancient food ways. Sophomore Sara Whitmer is a diatetics major who is excited by the new program: “I think it’s really cool because there hasn’t really been an avenue for the study of food until now.”

These students share Richard Wilk’s hope that there will be less of a disconnect between how the university operates and what is taught in food-related courses. “You see this when you try to find healthy food on campus and you find, instead, fast food everywhere,” Wilk says. “This sends some very strange and mixed messages to students.”

A passion for food

IU undergraduates have long had the opportunity for exposure to the academic study of food through an impressive array of food-related courses. As Atalay puts it: “It makes so much sense for the (food studies PhD) program to be here at IU, since so many of the faculty have long-term interests in food-related research.”

What student would not want to take Anya Royce’s freshman topics course, Chocolate, Food of the Gods? This course follows chocolate “from its origins in religious rituals of the ancient Maya to a drink consumed by the European upper classes to a 5-cent candy bar available to the masses and now, once again, fine artisan chocolate as a luxury item.”

Undergraduate food-related courses in the departments of folklore, biology, and political science, among others, are also offered. Their existence is evidence of great student interest in the subject, as well as the broad range of support among academics for the study of food as a serious subject. No longer confined to home economics, food has become a topic for research and publishing in many different academic disciplines.

So, looking ahead, what will be the result of all of the enthusiasm and excitement generated by the new food studies program? Ideally, it will mean increased funding for graduate fellowships that will enable IU to keep the top-quality applicants who have been attracted by this one-of-a-kind program. As exemplified by the collaboration between King and Atalay, the program offers an opportunity for cooperation between anthropologists with

“In a normal year, I might hear from five or six prospective students — this year it has been more like 25, and many of them have been fascinating people including professional chefs and journalists.”

— Program Director Richard Wilk
different areas of specialization. “I think I’ll also learn a lot myself from teaching this class because I’m going to read material that I would not otherwise think to investigate because it is outside my region of focus,” says Atalay.

For IU Bloomington, the same opportunities for inter-school dialogue and learning exist. Bronzizio hopes to “promote an intellectual community across boundaries, setting a good example of integrating study throughout campus, moving beyond inter-school budgetary barriers.” King asserts that the new program is “a real way of integrating the global nature of anthropology with people of similar interests across campus, a bridge to open up dialogue.”

For the Bloomington community as a whole, there are potential benefits as well. The current plan is to require all students in the program to work in the community researching a solution to a real, local, food-related problem. The anthropology department is currently identifying community needs in this area, speaking with local agencies such as the Shalom Community Center, which offers food, support, and counseling services to the homeless.

One person uniquely qualified to assess the possible impact of the food studies program on the local scene is Christine Barbour, Ph.D’90. Barbour has taught an undergraduate Food and Politics course for the past four years. A former food columnist for the local newspaper, current food editor of a Bloomington lifestyle magazine, and codirector of Slow Food Bloomington, Barbour is well-connected to local food producers and chefs.

“My students are there because they feel passionately about food and the land. They may be very good at farming or cooking, but they do not necessarily have great organizational or marketing skills,” she says. “If the food studies program provides interns to assist with matters such as these, it has the potential to greatly benefit the community.”

The bigger picture

Beyond potential benefits to the department, the university, and the local community, however, there is a larger picture. Many of the world’s current “hot topic” issues have been within the purview of anthropologists for generations. As Eduardo Bronzizio puts it, “Anthropologists deal with matters of great contemporary interest: health, religion, race, ethnicity and nationalism, adaptability, and sustainability, for example.”

In the past, anthropologists were, for the most part, extreme specialists, spending their entire careers studying one particular culture, at a specific point in history. The food studies program helps break that mold. “Conversation about food makes people realize how many interests and concerns they share, rather than pushing them into their own specialized and comfortable bits of expertise,” says Richard Wilk.

Such a conversation led King and Atalay to develop their Food in the Ancient World course, where their joint expertise will lead students to understand some of the profound influences that food has had, and continues to have, on our lives. These same students will be able to take HPER courses such as Community Nutrition that, in combination with their traditional anthropology studies, may lead to a new understanding of the difficulty many people in developed countries have relating to food in a healthful manner.

As farmers are forced to search for crops that will grow in an ever-warming world, they might one day be helped by a student who learned, in one of Della Cook’s bioanthropology courses, what has happened to various ancient societies when diets changed drastically. Again, this same student will have had the opportunity to strengthen her understanding of this issue by taking any of several HPER courses in nutrition.

Anthropologists, more than any other academic group, spend time doing field work in every corner of the globe. As the climate changes and the earth’s population increases, competing for ever-shrinking resources, anthropologists are out there observing it all. If the Ph.D in food studies provides a shared forum in which to discuss these vital issues across academic disciplines, it may be a step toward solving some of the pressing problems the world faces today. Now that would be a fine gift, indeed.

Cindy Bradley is a food columnist for The Herald-Times in Bloomington.
Fall 2007 marked a milestone in the advancement of the sciences at IU Bloomington. On Sept. 26, administrators celebrated the groundbreaking for the five-story Multidisciplinary Science Building Phase II, or MSB II, behind the Psychology Building on East 10th Street. Less than one month later, on Oct. 16, Eli Lilly & Co. chairman and CEO Sidney Taurel gave the keynote speech at the dedication of MSB I, known as Simon Hall.

The 141,000-square-foot Simon Hall was named for members of the Simon family in recognition of their $9 million gift. It incorporates offices and lab space for biologists, microbiologists,
molecular biologists, geneticists, analytical chemists and biochemists, and biophysicists. Space also was allocated for the Linda and Jack Gill Center for Biomolecular Science and the Johnson Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation.

MSB II will comprise 130,000 square feet, including almost 67,000 square feet of laboratory and office space. It's anticipated that the building will be occupied mostly by faculty from geological sciences, psychological and brain sciences, and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

The construction of MSB II is expected to cost about $46 million. The building will incorporate local materials such as limestone and slate. It will form a quad with the Psychology Building, the Kelley School of Business Graduate and Executive Education Center, and the Fee Lane parking garage. The building is expected to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. The estimated completion date for MSB II is summer 2009. A third multidisciplinary science building — to be designed by Flad & Associates of Madison, Wis. — is in the planning stages. The firm also designed Simon Hall and MSB II.

"On the outside, Simon Hall is a beautifully traditional building that is right at home on the Old Crescent. But inside, we can truly see the future of the life sciences."


Limestone life forms used in the life sciences decorate the outside of Simon Hall. Life forms were sculpted by sculptor Amy Brier, MFA’96. From left, bacterium, fungus, fruitfly, mouse, corn, and paramecium.
A degree in applied physics gives students practical experience that opens the door to a broad range of science careers.

Nearly every introductory physics class has a student who asks the age-old question, “When am I ever going to use this stuff?” The class probably also harbors a student whose thirst for physics can’t be quenched by an introductory course; whose ambitions include spending his or her career expanding the field’s knowledge through years of intensive research. But what about the student who finds physics fascinating but balks at the idea of working in a laboratory setting? These students — who show promise and potential — are often lost to other fields in the four-year carousel of careers called college. Indiana University, however, has found a way to satisfy their interests while helping them capitalize on their talents.

The IU Physics Department recently introduced a bachelor’s degree program in applied physics that puts its students on a fast track to high-tech industry jobs. The program replaces several higher-level physics theory classes with practical, hands-on experience labs. Some of the related career opportunities stretch to fields that don’t immediately come to mind when thinking about physics.

“We wanted to make students aware of the variety of careers that are broadly spread outside the realm of traditional physics,” says Matt Shepherd, a professor in experimental elementary particle physics and coordinator of the applied physics program. The program was conceived by two of Shepherd’s colleagues — experimental elementary particle physics professors Alex Dzierba and Rick Van Kooten — to provide a track for physics majors to move straight into high-tech jobs after graduation.

Students on the applied-physics track take most of the same classes as those who are on the traditional track, with a couple of major differences. Up to two applied laboratory classes that feature hands-on instrumentation experience and challenging computer-interfacing assignments replace more traditional, higher-level theory courses such as advanced mechanics or quantum physics. Students are also required to complete two internships — typically in the summers between the sophomore and junior years and junior and senior years — and author a capstone thesis paper.

The first students to take advantage of the new program, which officially kicked off in fall 2005, interned for the Crane Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center located in Crane, Ind. The internship was especially beneficial for C.W. Colglazier, who wrote his thesis about his internship work on designing naval lighting systems. After graduation, he accepted a job at NSWC Crane.

The capstone theses aren’t confined to students’ initial subject areas or internships. Julie DiNitto, BS’07, for instance, also interned at NSWC Crane focusing on radar repair. But the subject didn’t quite capture her imagination. Afterward, instead of writing her thesis about her work on radar, she chose to focus on the vibration modes of violins. DiNitto worked with Rick Van Kooten — now chair of the Physics Department — to create mathematical models of violin string vibrations and how the bow and strings interact. She’s currently a graduate student in medical physics at East Carolina University.

“The program has a lot of flexibility,” says Shepherd. “We want to match the students up with what interests them.”

This spring the applied physics program will move into a promising new field — applied medical physics. A new, noncalculus-based class will expose both physics and medical students to the broad but often overlooked field, which includes radiation therapy, imaging techniques, and nuclear medicine. IU offers students many unique opportunities in these fields through the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute at the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility, one of only six such facilities currently operating in the country. The institute uses proton radiation to treat patients with benign and malignant tumors.

Proton therapy is an emerging form of radiation therapy used to treat cancer patients. The difference from more traditional radiation techniques is that protons target areas affected by cancer more precisely than traditional X-ray treatments. The result is less damage to healthy tissue while a maximum amount of damage is inflicted to cancerous tissues. There is also a lesser risk of side effects such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. The procedure is still relatively young, with many new institutions currently in various stages of development.

And with more proton therapy facilities being built across the country, there will be plenty of need for skilled technicians in the world of applied medical physics. In fact, there is already a high demand in the field.

“The program has a lot of flexibility.
We want to match the students up with what interests them.”

by Ken Kingery
that models patient flow. These are areas where ProCure hopes to engage interns from IU’s applied physics program — such as Hajewski and Anuta — as employees in the coming summers.

“We would like to have them back and hope to bring in even more interns from the applied physics program,” said Nick Schreuder, senior vice president of medical physics and technology with ProCure Treatment Centers. “These guys were just outstanding. They had energy just bursting out of their ears.”

Hajewski used his computer programming skills to create a new user interface for one of the company’s computer programs. Anuta created 3-Dimensional renderings of the physics robotics, medical instrumentation, and the treatment rooms they must fit into. The internships were a success for both the students and ProCure.

“The internship was extremely beneficial,” says Hajewski, a junior majoring in both physics and mathematics who plans to return to ProCure next summer. “ProCure’s president (Dr. John Cameron) was adamant that we continue to work with the company through college. It’s really neat to already have job opportunities.”

Anuta also enjoyed his experience at ProCure, but sees the applied physics program as an opportunity to explore the different areas of physics. A three-month internship, he says, really allows students to find out whether a job fits them or not. Next summer, Anuta plans to find an internship outside of the Bloomington area in renewable resources, and he’s confident Shepherd will help him.

“Matt Shepherd is a really great guy who will discuss your options and interests,” said Anuta, a senior majoring in physics and German. “He’s very good at finding internships that will suit you the best.”

The applied physics program — while still in its infancy — is beginning to grow under Shepherd’s guidance. He has already enlisted six more students for next year and hopes to eventually double the number of undergraduates in the physics department by drawing high school students to IU. He has spoken with companies such as Cook Medical and Boston Scientific, and he is just waiting for the right students to place in internship positions with these reputable companies.

“We began the program by identifying a couple of students already in the physics program who would want to participate,” said Shepherd. “Now we want students to come to IU specifically for the applied physics program.

“Typically when students in Indiana think about physics, they think about Purdue because they have an engineering program. We want to get the word out about the great opportunities that Indiana University has in the field, and the applied physics program is just one step among many in the right direction.”

Ken Kingery is a writer in the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs and Government Relations.

… instead of writing her thesis about her work on radar, she chose to write her thesis about the vibration modes of violins.

“It’s an invisible field,” said Susan Klein, a biophysicist at the Cyclotron who will teach the applied medical physics course this spring. “The pipeline of qualified personnel is restricted because few facilities exist that provide the necessary education and training, and even fewer students are aware the field even exists. Most estimates claim there are currently more than 5,000 unfilled positions in applied medical physics.”

Two students in the applied physics program already took Klein’s advice and jumped into the applied medical physics job pool last summer. Jeff Hajewski and Phillip Anuta interned at ProCure Treatment Centers Inc., a Bloomington-based proton therapy training facility that will feed into future and existing proton therapy centers across the country. ProCure, founded by former Cyclotron director John Cameron, has built a template for the design, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of proton therapy facilities. The ProCure Training and Development Center in Bloomington offers clinical, technical, and administrative training that simulates all aspects of proton therapy treatment.

New facilities are financing a lot of work on logistics such as the organization of treatment rooms and computer software

Student Jeff Hajewski interned last summer with Procure Treatment Centers Inc., a Bloomington-based proton therapy training facility.
Communication and Culture — homeless no more

After years in cramped, temporary quarters, the Department of Communication and Culture has a new home. The department moved this fall into the new Classroom and Office Building at 800 E. Third St. “It’s made a huge difference,” says Gregory Waller, the department chairman. “We really needed it. We were exiled out there.”

In recent years, Communication and Culture faculty and graduate instructors had their offices in Mottier Hall at Ash ton Center, a former residence hall. The halls were narrow, the ceilings low, and the walls made of cinder block. Even worse, the offices were far from the center of campus and off the beaten path for students.

Before occupying Mottier, the department was in a mold-plagued former sorority house across the street from Dunn Meadow. Both Mottier and the sorority house have been torn down, the latter to make way for construction of a new Hutton Honors College building.

The $4.3 million Classroom and Office Building went up quickly thanks to the university’s use of the design-build approach, in which teams of architects, engineers, and contractors worked together to prepare bids for the project. The building features teaching labs for biology programs on the ground floor. The Department of Communication and Culture is on the second floor, with faculty offices and a conference hall arranged around the outside of the building and AI offices and media labs on an interior hallway. “Just cross the street and you’re in the heart of campus,” says Robert Ivie, professor and former department chairman.

Communication and Culture is one of the fastest-growing units in the College, with more than 20 faculty, about 400 undergraduate majors, and thriving master’s and doctoral degree programs. The interdisciplinary department explores oral and written language, film, television, and digital media, with its faculty clustered in the areas of rhetoric and public culture, performance and ethnographic studies, and media studies.

The dating — and mating — game

Indiana University cognitive scientist Peter Todd turned to a 21st-century practice — speed dating — to study the age-old question of what men and women want in a mate.

What he and his colleagues discovered may not come as a big surprise. They concluded that men are looking for beauty, while women will leverage their looks to connect with men who can provide security and commitment. The study was published in September in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“Evolutionary theories in psychology suggest that men and women should trade off different traits in each other, and when we look at the actual mate choices people make, this is what we find evidence for,” says Todd, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. “Ancestral individuals who made their mate choices in this way — women trading off their attractiveness for higher-quality men and men looking for any attractive women who will accept them — would have had an evolutionary advantage in greater numbers of successful offspring.”

The researchers used a speed-dating session in Germany to gauge what men and women were seeking. In speed dating, participants have “mini dates” with as many as 30 people in succession, each lasting three to seven minutes. After each date, they check a box indicating whether they want to see the person again.

Forty-six adults took part in the study, starting by filling out questionnaires on how they viewed themselves and what they looked for in a partner. Most said they were looking for someone with values and interests similar to their own. But when the speed dating began, men chose women who were attractive while women were drawn to wealth and security.

A lean, mean gene-mapping machine

Staff at IU’s Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics hope the acquisition of a half-million-dollar genetic sequencing machine will attract projects devoted to mapping the genomes of more and more organisms.

The GS-FLX sequencer, made by Roche, is one of only approximately 80 such devices in the world. It’s fast enough to sequence an entire bacterial genome in four to five days, a task that, not so long ago, would have taken years.

“Not only will the new sequencer allow us to do current projects faster and more effectively,” says Jennifer Steinbachs, deputy director of the Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics, “but we will be able to take on new projects in collaboration with other scientists from around the world. Needless to say, we’re very excited.”

The center was created in 2000 with seed funding from the Lilly Endowment-backed Indiana Genomics Initiative. It has been responsible for a number of genome-related projects, including the first transcribed genetic map of the sunflower, the identification of interactions among bacteria that live in the disease-carrying tick Amblyomma americanum, and the first “shotgun” sequencing of the genome of Daphnia pulex, better known as the water flea.
An investment project with Virtù

You’ve heard about entrepreneurs who claim to be doing well by doing good. Students in the Liberal Arts and Management Program at IU are doing good by learning skills they will need in order to do well.

They have created the Virtù Project, a unique venture that raises money for the Timmy Foundation, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization working to secure health care and education for children in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia.

The students solicit pledges to a mock investment portfolio. They tallied $132,000 in pledges at a kickoff gala in November. Donors agree that, at the end of one year, they will write a check to the Timmy Foundation for what their pledge would have earned in a real portfolio with the same investments as the mock portfolio.

The students learn presentation skills; market analysis, research and strategy; and record keeping and accountability. Best of all, their work benefits the Timmy Foundation, which relies on college students and has a longstanding relationship with IU, the site of its first college chapter. “In many years at IU, I’ve never seen a group of students work with such passion and intensity on a project that has no class credit and no grade. I’ve never seen a group project in which so much learning occurred,” says Jim Madison, the LAMP director and the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor of History.

LAMP is an honors-level interdisciplinary certificate program offered by the College in cooperation with IU’s Kelley School of Business. To learn about the Virtù Project, see www.indiana.edu/~virtu or e-mail virtu@indiana.edu.

Biologists earn AAAS honors

Three College biologists are among five IU faculty members who were elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the society’s annual membership meeting in February.

Election to the association is one of the highest honors in American science. The IU biologists and the reasons for which they were elected to the association include:

- Thomas Kaufman, distinguished professor of biology, for contributions to developmental biology, particularly for elucidating developmental gene action and evolution, and for facilitating research with the fruit fly, Drosophila.
- Michael Wade, professor of biology, for contributions to evolutionary biology, especially for theoretical and empirical work in evolutionary genetics, sexual selection, and the levels of natural selection.
- Miriam E. Zolan, professor of biology, for sustained and important research in meiosis and for contributions to genetics education.

Other IU faculty members elected to AAAS this round were S. Holly Stocking associate professor in the IU School of Journalism in Bloomington; and Howard J. Edenberg, chancellor’s professor and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and of medical and molecular genetics at the IU School of Medicine.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848, includes 262 affiliated societies and academies, and is the publisher of the journal Science.

Study supports prenatal alcohol evidence

A study led by an Indiana University researcher has provided some of the strongest evidence yet that prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause conduct problems in children.

The study, “Causal Inferences Regarding Prenatal Alcohol Exposure and Childhood Externalizing Problems,” was published in November in the journal Archives of General Psychiatry. It was led by Brian D’Onofrio, assistant professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences.

The study of 4,912 mothers and 8,621 of their children documented a connection between moderate drinking by the mothers during pregnancy and later conduct problems in their children, such as intentionally breaking things, bullying, cheating, and lying. The data came from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, in which mothers answered questions about substance use during their pregnancies between 1979 and 2004; and the Children of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth study, in which children between ages 4 and 11 were assessed for behavior problems, starting in 1986.

D’Onofrio said the study was able to focus on the role of alcohol in part because the sample included multiple children of the same mothers. Children who were exposed to alcohol in utero had more conduct problems than siblings who were less exposed to prenatal alcohol. “What’s most concerning now is that a large number of women in their child-bearing years are drinking when they don’t realize they’re pregnant,” says D’Onofrio.

THE COLLEGE

Statistical Profile:

40 Academic departments
29 Interdisciplinary academic programs
9,949 Undergraduate full-time declared majors (fall)
497,535.5 Undergraduate credit hours (2006–07)
2,800 Graduate full-time headcount
845 Tenure-line faculty
148 Non tenure-line faculty
2,189 Graduate associate instructors
501 Professional and support staff
$291.7M General fund budgeted expenditures
$64.2M Grants and contracts expenditure
444,023 Square feet for office areas in the College
$1 billion ‘Promise’ campaign aids IU students in need

There’s a term we use in development when we’re talking about the early stage of a fund-raising campaign. It’s called the “silent or quiet phase,” when we seek, privately, to establish a firm financial underpinning for a particular campaign before it becomes public. One such silent phase — one of the most important in recent campus history — concluded in October when the university and the IU Foundation announced publicly the $1 billion “Matching the Promise” campaign for the Bloomington campus. The primary goal of the campaign is to raise funds for endowed scholarships and fellowships that will make IU more affordable for students in need.

Out-of-Pocket Cost (Tuition, Room, and Board)  
For Incoming Indiana Resident Undergraduates  
With Family Income < $50,000  
IU Bloomington, 2004–05 to 2007–08

During the silent phase of this campaign, from 2004 to 2007, generous donors increased IU Bloomington’s total scholarship and fellowship endowment by $216 million, to a total of $367 million. Those donations alone mean that the annual out-of-pocket cost for tuition, books, and fees for incoming Indiana resident undergraduates with family incomes below $50,000 has declined from $4,278 per year to $341 per year. Last fall, the campus enrolled about 1,000 new students whose families fell into this income category.

In the same time period, the cost for incoming resident undergraduates with family incomes between $50,000 and $100,000 dropped from $10,650 per year to $8,291 per year — a decrease of 20 percent. IUB enrolled more than 1,500 new students in this category last fall.

Now we have moved to the active phase of the campaign, with a goal of reaching $1 billion. Imagine how much more we will be able to provide for students in need at the conclusion of this campaign. We at the College are thrilled to participate in this effort. And we would echo the thoughts of President McRobbie when he announced “Matching the Promise” last October: “This campaign puts the focus for Indiana’s most promising high school students back where it should be — on doing well in school — instead of on how they are going to pay for their college education,” he said. “We are extremely grateful to those alumni and friends of the university, whose generous support is ensuring that the state’s best young minds stay in Indiana and have access to the full range of learning and cultural opportunities our university affords.”

Yours for IU and the College,
~ DAVID ELLIES

“Now we have moved to the active phase of the campaign, with a goal of reaching $1 billion. Imagine how much more we will be able to do for Hoosier students in need once that goal is attained.”

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College of Arts & Sciences  
Indiana University  
Kirkwood Hall 208  
130 S. Woodlawn Ave.  
Bloomington, IN 47405

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East Asian Languages and Cultures

History

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) specializes in the languages, cultures, and societies of China, Japan, and Korea. Initially founded in 1962 as a language and literature unit, EALC was reconfigured in 1975 to bring together specialists studying East Asian societies from both the humanities and social science perspectives. The department’s 27 faculty members specialize in a wide variety of disciplines, including language, literature, history, linguistics, anthropology, religion, politics, sociology, and others. Because many faculty members have appointments in other College departments, EALC has a long tradition of designing curriculum and new program initiatives with a broad vision of the needs of the College and the campus.

The expansive basis of EALC makes it unique among top-10 ranked East Asian departments nationally. EALC faculty members in both humanities and social sciences play leading international roles, and this profile allows the department to provide Indiana University with coordinated support in its current initiative to deepen engagement with the dynamically growing countries of East Asia.

Curriculum and degree programs

The EALC curriculum is designed to meet broad goals for the Bloomington campus and to train specialists in East Asia on both undergraduate and graduate levels. As the importance of East Asia in a globalizing world has grown exponentially, EALC has developed a variety of courses to make sure that students in all College majors and campus schools can develop a basic understanding of these societies and their impact.

All undergraduate degree programs in EALC combine language training with coursework in East Asian cultures and societies, but a variety of pathways are available. Students can major in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean, focusing on advanced language training, or they can major in East Asian Studies, which provides greater emphasis on a wide range of courses on East Asian countries in traditional and modern eras.

On the graduate level, EALC offers MA degrees in Chinese and Japanese, and also an interdisciplinary degree in East Asian Studies that prepares students for government or private sector roles, or for doctoral training in humanities or social science disciplines. For students training to become teachers of Chinese or Japanese language, there is a specially designed language pedagogy track. EALC also offers joint MA/MBA and MA/MPA degrees with the Kelley School of Business and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. On the doctoral level, PhD programs in Chinese and Japanese are flexibly designed for students pursuing academic careers in humanities areas such as literature, history, and religion. EALC faculty resources in traditional and modern literary studies are unusually strong.

Study abroad

Undergraduates in EALC are strongly encouraged to devote a portion of their time in college to overseas study in China, Japan, or Korea. Working with the Office of Overseas Study, EALC guides students to a variety of university and language-center programs abroad, and has established direct program links with Nanzan University in Japan, Yonsei University in South Korea, and with the Inter-University program at Tsinghua University in Beijing, for which IU serves as the U.S. school of record.

Activities

The faculty of EALC is chiefly responsible for guiding the work of IU’s East Asian Studies Center, a federally designated National Resource Center. Through the Center, EALC faculty coordinate research and grant activity, and inform a broad public audience in Indiana and the Midwest region about East Asian culture, society, and current trends. Among the recent activities that EALC faculty have joined through the Center is the project on Science and Technology in the Pacific Century, a major new initiative launched jointly with the University of Illinois. The project brings East Asianists, scientists, and specialists in education and the sociology of science together to study the nature and implications of the rapid growth of scientific activity in the countries of East Asia.

Responding to the expanding importance of China in world affairs, in 2007 EALC established the Research Center on Chinese Politics and Business (RCCPB), with support from the College and the Office of the Vice-Provost for Research. The RCCPB coordinates research, hosts long-term postdoctoral and visiting scholars, and sponsors a variety of scholarly and public events. It is the first national center devoted to analyzing how business and political forces related to China interact in a global context.