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Civic Engagement

The Geography Educators Network of Indiana and the Department of Geography in the IU School of Liberal Arts hosted Indiana’s top 4th-8th grade geography students on April 5th as they participated in the state-level Geographic Bee, competing for a spot in the 25th annual National Geographic Bee. Sean Ives, Crown Point, IN, won the Indiana Geographic Bee after a fierce day-long competition.

Grants

Nine Liberal Arts faculty members received IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute grants to support their research activities over the next 12 months, totaling $32,052 from IAHI and an additional $9,687 in matching funds provided by the School and the researchers’ department or program. Recipients are:

- Thorsten Carstensen (German), “Teaching Goethe after Hitler: German Studies in the GDR”
- Megan Musgrave (English), “The Re-Invention of Childhood: Children’s Literature in the Age of Consumerism”
- Philip Scarpino (History), “Rivers of the Anthropocene: A Comparative Historical Analysis of the Ohio and Tyne Rivers”
- Janani Subramanian (English-Film Studies), “South Asians on American Network Television”
- Iker Zulaica Hernández (Spanish), “The Interplay of Referring Expressions, Information Structure and Rhetorical Distance: Evidence from Spanish”
- Wendy Vogt (Anthropology), “Stories from the Other Side: Migration Narratives and Digital Storytelling in Oaxaca, Mexico”

International

Christian Lola, an International Studies major, will travel to Spain to study abroad thanks in part to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. The Gilman International Scholarship Program is a congressionally-funded program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. The Gilman Scholarship Program offers undergraduates grants of up to $5,000 to participate in a study abroad program or international internship for academic credit.

Students

The 22nd Japanese Speech Night was held in March. A reception, featuring Japanese food, was followed by a speech contest. Twenty-four students competed for the best presentation in Japanese language in front of a panel of native-speaker external judges and an audience of students, friends, and family members. The event, first established in the spring of 1992, is co-sponsored by the IUPUI Japanese Culture Club and the Japanese Studies Program, Department of World Language and Cultures.

Recognition

Chancellor’s Professor of English and Zimmer Chair in Intercultural Communication Ulla Connor, a member of Finland’s oldest and distinguished Academy of Sciences, The Finnish Society of Sciences and Letters or Societas Scientarium Fennica, attended the 175th anniversary of the Society in April, at the University of Helsinki and Finlandia Hall. She is one of a total of 376 members (one of 127 foreign/external members), having become a member in 2000.

Research

Joseph V. Terza, professor of economics in the IU School of Liberal Arts since August 2012, has brought health economics research subcontracts from three universities to IUPUI, totaling $316,149. Dr. Terza, an active researcher in his own right, is sought nationally by health econometricians and cross-disciplinary teams due to his development of a number of widely used econometric techniques designed to improve the empirical analysis of health care issues.

International

Political scientist John McCormick, Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Politics, gave a lecture in the Irish Parliament in Dublin, hosted by the European Movement Ireland on April 5th as part of the Irish Presidency Members’ Activities Programme. McCormick was invited by Irish senator Jillian van Turnhout. The lecture was organized to celebrate Professor McCormick’s new book Why Europe Matters, which debunks the misconceptions surrounding the EU and makes a comprehensive case for the benefits of European integration.
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Research

Megan Musgrave, Assistant Professor of English, received $10,000 in funding from the IUPUI Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research’s Release Time for Research fund to assist her progress on a book project, “The Re-Invention of Childhood: Children’s Literature in the Age of Consumerism.” Dr. Musgrave’s book is a direct response to an ongoing conversation among literary critics concerning children’s literature and its ability to reflect changing social views on children and young adults as intellectuals, consumers, and potential activists.

Awards

Charles Reyes, Lecturer in Communication Studies, received the “Sigueme” award at the annual Cesar Chavez Dinner. Sigueme means “follow me” and the award “recognizes a faculty or staff member at IUPUI that provides extraordinary service in guidance and assistance to Latino students on and off the clock.”

Alumni

Paul J. Siddens III (BA, Speech and Theatre, IUPUI, 1976) received the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence from the University of Northern Iowa. This is the highest award given to faculty at the three State of Iowa Regents institutions, and it recognizes faculty who have “a sustained record of excellence across the spectrum of faculty.” Dr. Siddens is an associate professor of communication studies, and has been teaching at UNI since 1988. He is currently faculty designer and technical director for the UN Interpreters Theatre, where he also produces, directs and writes for the stage.

Honors

Jason Kelly, associate professor of British History in the IU School of Liberal Arts and inaugural director of the IUPUI Arts and Humanities Institute (IAHI), was honored with a 2013 Research Frontiers Trailblazer Award at IUPUI’s Research Day on April 5th. Kelly was recognized for his research on 18th-century British history and service to the field of arts and humanities. The Research Frontiers Trailblazer Award recognizes IUPUI faculty who show great promise in advancing knowledge in their fields. Honorees receive a $1,000 cash prize to help further their research.

Students

The IUPUI Speech and Debate Team experienced continued success with strong finishes at recent competitions. Hunter West and Matthew Hobson took Second Place in Parliamentary Debate at Novice Nationals in Rome, Georgia. Joshua Kats placed 3rd in Program of Oral Interpretation, 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation, and 6th in Poetry Interpretation at Illinois State’s Last Chance Tournament.

Honors

Jon Eller, professor of English and director of the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies, was named a 2013 Chancellor’s Professor and was honored during the IUPUI Chancellor’s Academic Honors Convocation on April 26, 2013. The title recognizes the extensive accomplishments and contributions by IUPUI senior faculty.

Research

The Survey Research Center at IUPUI (SRC) has been selected to conduct the Indiana Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which is administered through the Indiana State Department of Health. The SRC will collect 1,600 landline and 400 cell phone samples to report on attitudes and behaviors related to smoking in Indiana. Through the ATS data is collected on tobacco use, smoking cessation, secondhand smoke exposure, risk perception and social influences, health influences, and tobacco-related policy issues. The project will be completed this summer.

Research

Using Google books, Cornelis de Waal (Philosophy) helped identify a total of 115 books in the open stacks at Harvard’s Widener Library as having belonged to the American philosopher-scientist Charles Sanders Peirce. The books were examined for marginalia, and the handwriting was checked against Peirce’s. Over 40 books were found to contain sometimes extensive marginalia by Peirce.

Students

Museum Studies graduating master’s degree students Stephen Borden and Stephanie Hebda, along with Dr. Holly Cusack-McVeigh (Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies) were interviewed for an upcoming Full Circle broadcast. The trio discussed how to care for family heirlooms. The interview will be broadcast on WHMB Indianapolis on May 21 (12:30 pm), May 23 (10:30 pm), and May 25 (11:30 am).

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