Advances
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Liberal Arts Campaign Total Passes $35 million

Donors to Liberal Arts have given nearly $10 million during the 7-year Campaign for IUPUI. Gifts supported student learning, research and scholarship, civic engagement, as well as provided general support for the school and its eleven departments.

The campaign also marked the School's first million-dollar gift (founding the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program), quickly followed by several more gifts of a million dollars. At the same time, gifts from community friends, alumni, faculty, staff, corporations, and foundations, together funded lecture series, supported the School's centers, and provided student scholarships and recognition opportunities.

With the inclusion of grants from non-governmental sources in support of faculty research, the total rises to $35 million. Research in the humanities and social sciences ranges broadly from the sociology of HIV/AIDS to the economics of sport and from Indiana history to multinational companies in developing nations and more.

Thank you!
Visit the Liberal Arts website to view a special thank you video. It’s fast, fun and full of Liberal Arts students, faculty and staff thanking you for your support.

www.liberalarts.iupui.edu

The Campaign for IUPUI has raised over $1 billion, more than double the total of any previously completed campaign conducted by a public university in Indiana.

The final tally for the comprehensive campaign, which ended on June 30, 2004, showed that $1,039,042,828 had been raised for student support, endowed faculty positions, research, academic programs, buildings, and other initiatives that will enable the campus to better serve students and Indiana. Some 76,729 donors supported the campaign.

The landmark fundraising campaign for IUPUI underscores the coming of age of an urban research university.

This campaign "puts us in very elite company. Only 22 universities in the nation have successfully completed billion-dollar campaigns. Included in that list of institutions are such universities as Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Yale," said IU President Adam W. Herbert.

"The success of this first-ever comprehensive Campaign for IUPUI means that a university/community partnership has come full circle," said IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz. "In 1969, Indiana University and Purdue University created this partnership campus known as IUPUI because the Indianapolis community needed a comprehensive public university in the state capital. Through the Campaign for IUPUI, our community has shown us how important IUPUI is to them and to the future of this great city."

"If every dollar is a vote of confidence in IUPUI, every dollar also secures the pledge that IUPUI will fulfill its promise to the citizens of Indiana, to our friends and supporters, and to our students, alumni, faculty, and staff," Bantz said.

When the seven-year campaign began on July 1, 1997, no one thought IUPUI’s campaign would be the first public university campaign in Indiana to reach $1 billion.

The $500 million campaign goal had to be increased to $700 million before the public announcement in 2001 because of the tremendous outpouring of support during the campaign’s silent phase, Indiana University Foundation President Curt Simic said.

“And the support continued to pour in, far beyond the dreams of nearly a decade ago.”

IUPUI and Liberal Arts leadership past and present celebrate the campaign’s success on October 9th.
Sam Masarachia, 1906-2004

If you’d passed him on the street, you might not have noticed him. He dressed conservatively, in a tan turtleneck and tweed jacket, sporting a gray wool cap that shaded his lively eyes that revealed a keen intelligence and a shrewd understanding of how the world works. He was 97 years young, with a birthday just around the corner. He moved about his community with the assurance of one who knew what it was made of—because he’d had a hand in building it. Indeed, he lived in the same house on Indianapolis’ Villa Avenue in Fountain Square that his parents had moved to in 1923. It hadn’t changed much in those years, except for a few conveniences added by his next door neighbor when the stairs became too much for him and his younger brother. But, that was in the later years.

Sam Masarachia, son of Josephine and Paul (Paolo), never married. He was a war veteran who earned four bronze stars in World War II, a labor activist and union official, and later an advocate for the elderly. Sam’s family, after his parents, brothers and sister, was as big as his community. It was steelworkers, laborers, the people of Fountain Square, the elderly, and finally, it was our youth.

When he was 93, Sam began to worry about what to do with a large investment he had accumulated. He had lived frugally since retirement, putting the bulk of his union pension into an investment fund, spending little of it. But at 93, he decided that it was time to invest in something that would be longer lasting and do more good than himself. He wanted to give people the tools to become involved effectively in community issues that served the elderly and/or the nation’s workforce—his lifelong passions.

From his vision, the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program was born. Currently supporting twelve students with full-tuition scholarships, the program is in its fourth year. There will be a dozen scholars in the program each year from now on—forever—because Sam took his investment fund and gave it to the IU School of Liberal Arts to create this program. “A good use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.” Sam had written this on a little piece of paper and stuck it to his refrigerator. He lived this vision.

On November 13, Sam closed his eyes for the last time. Today, twelve students are studying in the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program, and the first cohort of four will graduate this spring. Each moment they move closer to the realization of their own dreams, touched by the simple, yet profound, act of Sam’s generosity. They are Sam’s new family—his legacy. Like him, they will make the world a better place.

Pass it on.

Sincerely,

Robert W. White
Dean

P.S. Best wishes this holiday season.
Geography Class Introduced Students to Cuba
By Professor Timothy Brothers, Chair, Department of Geography

Cuba. So close to American shores, yet still so far away. How many Americans have the chance to visit the island nation except in their imaginations?

Normally, Americans are prevented from going to Cuba by an embargo (or blockade, as Cubans call it), which requires a license from the US Department of the Treasury and is only given for a limited array of purposes, including academic courses.

Last summer, for the third time in as many years, students from IUPUI were among the few Americans to travel to Cuba. The eight IUPUI students traveled to Cuba for Geography 345: Geography of Cuba, a field course designed by the Geography Department to introduce students first-hand to life and landscapes in Cuba. Students prepared for the trip with three weeks of lectures, then enjoyed 15 days of travel in Cuba. The course, taught in collaboration with the University of Havana Geography Department, examined the interaction of natural environment, settlement history, and modern socioeconomic forces that shape Cuba.

In Cuba, part of the time was spent in the nation’s two largest cities, Havana and Santiago, with a focus on urban geography. The rest was spent in the countryside, examining natural landscapes and rural settlement/agriculture: to the west, in Cuba’s main tobacco region, and to the extreme east, in the mountains of Oriente, including the Guantanamo coast and the tropical-forest environments of the NE coast, with time spent in Baracoa, the first Spanish settlement. A large fraction of the course was spent simply trying to understand what daily life is like for ordinary Cubans in the so-called Special Period, which has been in force since the collapse of the USSR around 1990. Everywhere students were encouraged to talk with Cuban families about how they accomplish such chores as grocery shopping, washing clothes, and finding medicines. These seemingly mundane tasks can take up most of the day and commonly involve transactions on the black market. As Cubans say, everyone has had to become a “criminal” just to survive.

During the class, John Cook, a student and professional photographer for Indianapolis/Marion County Forensic Services, documented his experience on film. The work and were featured in a recent exhibit on the IUPUI campus.

John was fascinated with Cuba’s countryside, its architecture, and, above all, its people. (He once remarked that it was nice to be photographing live people for a change.) He not only captured a large portion of Cuba’s physical and human diversity but did so with an artist’s eye. He was able to capture Cubans unposed, in spite of being a foreigner and unable to speak Spanish.

Through John’s photos viewers experience Cuba as the eight students in the course did. It is an opportunity to see Cuba through the eyes of another American, bringing one’s imagination to life and going beyond the blockade.

The School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI has had an academic license for approximately 5 years. However, as of August 15, 2004, the Bush Administration imposed stringent new controls on travel to Cuba, preventing most courses from going—licenses are only given now for courses lasting at least 10 weeks. Hence, this was the last offering of the Cuba course until the policy is changed.
The School of Liberal Arts saved me—this may sound somewhat dramatic but our family arrived in Indianapolis having left our home, friends and life behind in Zimbabwe. We felt “welcomed” yet alien in our new “Hoosier home.”

Some months after we arrived, a flyer landed in our mailbox giving course offerings in the “Learn and Shop Program.” I saw a class on American History and thought it sounded interesting and that learning some history might help me understand our host culture. Coming from a totally different education system “three credits” meant nothing to me—credit hours were going to be part of this new experience!

Assuming classes offered at shopping centers were adult outreach for personal enrichment I went along to Castleton Square to enroll.

I soon learned that I had enrolled in a university course and needed to prepare to take exams which involved writing papers and essays in blue books. After successfully completing the American History course, I continued taking classes and soon decided to study for a degree—eventually graduating with a major in Political Science and minors in French and American Studies.

During my time on campus, I become part of the IUPUI community and continue to enjoy participating as a member of the Liberal Arts Alumni Association. As a nontraditional student who is also a foreign national, my education was both in and outside the classroom. I learned about the similarities and differences between European English people and our American cousins. I grew to understand linguistic and cultural grammar on both sides of the Atlantic. This continues to be endlessly interesting for someone who arrived here naively thinking the differences between American and European English were spelling and pronunciation. What a lot there was to learn!

I continue to value the ongoing encouragement I received from my professors—mentors who opened my eyes to the subject matter in their courses and to American values and culture. My enriching experience has given me a strong foundation for our life here in Indiana.

The bond formed with the School of Liberal Arts remains strong—bringing me into the Alumni Association and onto the committee for Dean’s Day. Friendships made during and after my time on campus are an important part of my life. The longer we stay in the USA, the more I appreciate educational offerings in the School of Liberal Arts—the small classes, access to our professors and ongoing encouragement we are privileged to enjoy. As an immigrant nontraditional student I have benefited enormously from my time in the School.

Christine Dowdeswell
Senior Political Science student, Beth Windisch, at the pyramids in Gaza, Egypt. Beth is the recipient of numerous scholarships including several from the School of Liberal Arts as well as the National Security Education Program (NSEP) David L. Boren Scholarship. Beth emailed us recently to say, “The scholarships I received helped me finance my study abroad trip to the American University in Cairo. I’m having the time of my life. Thank you.”

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Gray Endows Graduate Fellowship

He had a long and productive career as an Indiana University professor, teaching history first to IU Kokomo students before joining the faculty of what would become Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

After retiring from the classroom after 33 years with IU, IUPUI Professor Emeritus Ralph D. Gray spent the next five years penning the first comprehensive history of the IUPUI campus.

Gray's most recent contribution to the advancement of the university will continue his commitment to developing quality students and researchers in the history-related professions.

Through a generous gift to the Campaign for IUPUI, Gray and his wife, Beth, endowed a graduate student fellowship in the history department of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI.

“The student position will permit the department to attract and retain quality graduate students,” said Professor Philip Scarpino, chair of the history department. The Grays’ gift also will help ensure the continued strength of the history program by diversifying funding sources for the graduate program, he said.

Gray’s history of the IUPUI campus, IUPUI: The Making of an Urban University, was published by IU Press in 2003. The 376-page book weaves information from university archive publications and photographs, along with news clippings and oral histories into a tale of IUPUI's origins, growth and development.

“Ralph's dedication to researching and writing the history of IUPUI demonstrates how much this university has come to mean to him over his long and productive career,” Scarpino said.

When Scarpino came to IUPUI in 1986, Gray had already garnered national recognition for IUPUI and its history department as the editor of a major scholarly publication, The Journal of the Early Republic.

“He always valued graduate training and quality research and writing. Ralph was a public scholar before there was a field called public history,” Scarpino said.

Gray’s writing of a biography of Elwood Haynes, the then relatively unknown Kokomo man who invented the first automobile in Indiana—the second one in America—initiated the professor's intensive research into Indiana history. That research fueled the creation of the graduate-level history courses at IUPUI that would prove a source of great professional satisfaction for Gray. The retired professor hopes establishing a fellowship will promote similar accomplishments by future IUPUI students.

“I hope that the ‘Gray Fellowship,’ as it develops eventually, will help enable us to attract good graduate students who can make a mark for themselves and IUPUI in the history field through significant research and writing,” Gray said.

Gray on the Run

Between scholarly projects, Gray found time to train and complete a half-marathon last summer in Hawaii. The Kona Marathon, sponsored by the American Stroke Association, raises money for stroke research and promotes exercise for stroke victims (when medically approved). Gray, who suffered a stroke in 1992, ran the half-marathon in 3 hours, 57 minutes, or in less than 16 minutes per mile.

Liberal Arts Sponsors Women’s Basketball

IUPUI Jags vs University of Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos

Monday, January 31
7 pm, IUPUI Natatorium

Complimentary tickets for the first 50 Liberal Arts alumni who respond by January 24th. Come early (6 pm) and enjoy a free chili supper!

RSVP: Annette Hill, 317-278-1839, anjhill@iupui.edu

Brought to you by The School of Liberal Arts & Liberal Arts Alumni Association.
The crowd numbered in the thousands. Energy pulsed through the air. **Michelle Ruben**, a petite figure dressed in pink and black, stepped out from under the net and belted out the first lines of the "Star Spangled Banner."

Ruben, a graduate student in the Philosophy Department concentrating in bioethics, was just a few city blocks away from campus, but in a very different role—performer rather than student.

Singing the national anthem at Conseco Fieldhouse during an October Indiana Pacers pre-season game was amazing, Ruben said. Ruben has been singing as long as she can remember, but says she only really found her voice in her twenties.

The Pacers found her because of a demo CD. She sent the demo—an a cappella version of the "Star Spangled Banner" recorded at a local studio—to professional sports teams throughout the midwest and east coast. Little did she suspect that the first call would come from her hometown basketball team.

Ruben sings mostly pop alternative and Christian contemporary and can be found performing at churches and other venues around Indianapolis. She also has an 8-song CD and plans to record another one in the next year.

Ruben, an adult student, is fascinated by the study of theoretical, abstract ideas and approaches the study of bioethics from a perspective provided by her academic study of religion.

When not singing or studying, Ruben works in the Philosophy Department and says that the faculty are the reason she chose to stay at IUPUI for graduate school.

Unlike life as a student, where encouragement is the norm, as a singer, Ruben says, "You learn to like the word ‘no.’ You hear it a lot.”

Still, Ruben promises to keep singing whenever she has the chance, and to keep studying, too. The crowd at the Pacers game was her largest audience, yet. But, her biggest fans are right here in the School of Liberal Arts.