

Advances

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Liberal Arts: Putting LIFE into the Life Sciences



Indiana University entered the new millennium determined to become a top ranked center for the health and life sciences. As home to schools such as medicine, dentistry, nursing and **Liberal Arts**, IUPUI is at the heart of this initiative.

Yes, Liberal Arts. Indeed, we believe that the liberal arts put the LIFE in the life sciences.

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, in this year's Liberal Arts commencement address, noted that "Advances in science and technology are creating a world that seems literally without limits; there is no discipline. Without discipline, civil society cannot exist. Where do we find the discipline that gives meaning to our values, and thus preserves our civilization? That's where the liberal arts come in."

The IU School of Liberal Arts grew up on a campus that had its roots in the life and health sciences. Students and faculty were drawn here to participate in the grand experiment in urban education, and found themselves immersed in a place where research, teaching and learning were about changing and saving lives. It was natural, then, for their intellectual interests to acquire a life sciences focus, steeped in the humanities and social sciences. We look at life

through these lenses, and the result is an educated citizenry uniquely able to find successful and satisfying careers in the life and health sciences.

This issue of *Advances* shines the spotlight on just a few of our graduates whose education "gives meaning to our values" and ensures that we live in a civil society, like English major, **Dr. Wendy Smith**, who as a surgeon uses her undergraduate background in the liberal arts to communicate effectively with her patients, or Vietnam veteran and political science major Lary Sage whose work focuses on helping shape legislation of the pharmaceutical industry. Likewise, **Dr. Elizabeth Moore's** background in anthropology led her to study Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and to provide cultural sensitivity training for medical residents. German major and attorney, **Linda Clafin** lends her expertise to caring for the physical and emotional well-being of abused children.

This issue also includes a reflection by Anthropology Lecturer **Peg Williams** about developing cultural understanding and the necessity of personal relationships within life sciences-based campus/community collaborative programs.

Because of its location and the highly interdisciplinary academic culture in

which the IU School of Liberal Arts has existed since its founding, it is constantly adapting to the community it serves.

There is a growing need for trained Spanish interpreters of medical terminology to help patients and health care providers communicate. To help close the communication gap, the Department of World Languages and Cultures is partnering with the School of Medicine to create a medical interpreting program that includes hospital internships. Also, students in the English MA program will begin this fall as graduate assistants in the School of Medicine to help research scientists (not known for their ability to write in plain English) prepare grant proposals and scientific manuscripts for publication.

Philosophy graduate students can choose an emphasis in bioethics—a field explained in this issue by faculty member **Jason Eberl**. Communication Studies majors are researching ways to communicate to patients in developing countries how to properly use their medication. Anthropology students are learning about how cultural sensitivity is necessary for community health programs to grow and succeed. Students of Geography help map the spread of diseases. These

are just a few of the many opportunities available in the Liberal Arts curriculum for students with life sciences interests.

The LIFE in life sciences comes through understanding humanity, and it is the Liberal Arts that make this connection. We invite you to learn more by visiting school and department websites: <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu>.

About the Contributors

This issue of *Advances* was produced with the help of students, faculty, and alumni.

Christine Dowdeswell, a regular contributor to *Advances*, is a member of the Liberal Arts Alumni Board and a 1991 graduate in Political Science.

Jason Eberl is Assistant Professor of Philosophy and co-director of the Philosophy master's program.

Josh Flynn is an English major and photographer who has been recently and regularly published in *genesis*. He works in fiction, poetry, and a variety of non-fiction genre.

Peg Williams is a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. She traveled to Kenya in April of 2006 to meet her course collaborator, Dr. Eunice Kamaara, in person.

Chris Wilson is a graduate student in Philosophy who worked as an intern in the Office of Development and External Affairs during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Politics and Pills: One Alumnus' Approach to Health Policy

By Chris Wilson



Lary Sage, BA, Political Science, 1981; Certificate in Public Management, 1987; MPA, 1989

Modern health care depends on pharmacists to make sure that patients get the maximum benefit from their prescriptions, to advise doctors and nurses about the appropriate use of medicines, and to provide pharmaceutical information to their clients.

Indiana's pharmacists depend on **Lary Sage** and his colleagues at the Indiana Pharmacists Alliance (IPA) to keep abreast of the changing and competitive environment of pharmaceutical products, knowledge, and law. The Alliance also is a resource for pharmaceutical students and provides continuing education opportunities and other services for pharmacists. Additionally, Sage and his colleagues lobby the state legislature on behalf of pharmacists.

As the IPA's Executive Vice President, **Sage** says he uses skills honed by his Liberal Arts education every day.

He discovered IUPUI and the Liberal Arts after serving in the Artillery during the Viet Nam War. After crossing the ocean as a soldier, Sage wanted to take a different kind of journey—an intellectual one—that would enable him to learn about a broad range of subjects. He

chose political science to frame this experience.

He says, "I wanted to understand how decisions are made in political systems, and what forces are brought to bear on political issues."

After earning his bachelor's degree, Sage got a job with the Health Professionals Bureau, a state agency charged with regulating the licensure of Indiana's doctors, optometrists, pharmacists, and numerous other health professionals.

His undergraduate passion for government, professional experience and decision to continue building his career in public service, Sage recalls, made the transition to graduate school a natural next step. He was a part-time student, a full-time employee, and immersed in the public sector, both in and out of the classroom.

Today, with his BA and MPA in hand and building on his interest in supporting Indiana's health professionals, Sage uses his skills to work on behalf of Indiana's pharmacists.

"In doing this," Sage reports, "I use my Liberal Arts education in multiple ways. From considering legislative issues from various perspectives to analyzing the government's role in health care, I judge information, consider outcomes, and develop strategies using the critical thinking abilities initially developed in my coursework."

Working as an administrator in the health sciences allows Sage to help take care of people responsible for Hoosiers' physical well-being. This, he says, feels great.

It is good to be depended on, after all, and Hoosiers of every background depend on Lary Sage and the medical professionals he supports.

Speaking Out for Children: Linda Claflin's Advocacy

By Christine Dowdeswell,
BA, Political Science, 1989



Linda Claflin, BA German, 1986; JD, 1990

Immediate past president of the I.U. School of Liberal Arts Alumni Board and the Liberal Arts representative to the Executive Council of the Indiana University Alumni Association

Linda Claflin exemplifies Liberal Arts' commitment to community service. Following graduation, just after being accepted to Indiana University School of Law, and while working as a legal secretary, Linda saw an advertisement asking for volunteers to help children. She responded and thus began an 18 year commitment to Child Advocates, a national, nonprofit organization.

Child Advocates' primary goal is to assign caring, trained volunteers who assist staff advocates to represent children whose parents have abdicated their role, through abuse and/or neglect of a child. Volunteers act as advocates, facilitators, negotiators, evaluators and fact-finders.

Linda explains that, as a volunteer who assists court appointed Child Advocates social workers, she assesses family situations for children who come under the care of the State of Indiana, and then gives evidence on their behalf in court proceedings. Working with the local branch, Linda helps children from Marion County placed with families in the county and beyond.

Linda serves on the Child Advocates Board of Directors, currently as Treasurer. She also serves on the Board's Executive, Finance and Marketing Committees, and in these roles is deeply

involved in the organization's administration. Her involvement does not stop there. In 2004, Linda drove more than 1700 miles to check on home situations so that Child Advocates could become, in Linda's words, the "voice for the children when their cases come to court." During her time with Child Advocates, Linda has directly impacted the lives of approximately 500 abused and neglected children. In 2005, the Indiana Supreme Court Guardian ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate (GAL/CASA) Office recognized Linda's long and distinguished service by naming her Board Member of the Year.

Last year, Linda rounded out her volunteer schedule by tutoring a second grade IPS student. Linda and her husband, **Jeff**, also an attorney, are life members of the Indiana University Alumni Association and dedicate much of their free time to the university. Strong supporters of IUPUI and Indiana University athletics, you will find them at basketball and football games and other athletic events throughout the year.

Among all her activities, however, it is Linda's involvement with Child Advocates and her care and concern for the wellbeing of children that is the most crucial to the future of Indiana.

Jambo! Karibu, Kenya!

By Peg Williams



Dr. Eunice Karanja Kamaara (left) with Peg Williams.

After a particularly full morning meeting with anthropologists and other faculty of the School of Arts and Social Sciences at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya, **Dr. Eunice Karanja Kamaara** and I walked along the tarmac road heading toward the main administration building.

We were together in person for the first time, following an online, web-based team taught class that included her religion and ethics undergraduates and my cultural anthropology students—half a world away.

Reflecting on Project Perception, we laughed together about how wrong our perceptions of each other were before we met in person. We were perfect examples of what Project Perception strives to demonstrate to students and faculty on each end of the on-line discussion. She thought I would be high maintenance, a worry since I would be living with her family for two weeks, and I was sure she'd be extremely formal, not at all like me. We couldn't have been more wrong!

The goal of Project Perception is to overcome barriers and misunderstandings. By laying out

our misperceptions, and opening up dialogue (in real time), our students are able to break down the barriers that often prevent nations from coming together in cooperative, reciprocal partnership.

I was part of a delegation of IUPUI faculty and staff working with our counterparts at Moi University to develop collaborations with our undergraduate and graduate programs, in support of one of Africa's most successful HIV/AIDS treatment programs—AMPATH (academic model for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS)—a long collaboration between the IU School of Medicine and Moi University.

What we discovered was a university about the same age as IUPUI, filled with welcoming and kind faculty and students eager for future collaborative opportunities. Over time, we plan to develop these relationships, working with the Moi University faculty and administration on expanding their social sciences expertise, and providing opportunities for cultural and intellectual exchange that enriches our understandings and helps in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Coming to Eldoret, I was struck by the extraordinary kindness of my hosts. Resources are scarce on the Moi University campus. In preparation for meeting me, the students I knew only through "talking in text" at the on-line forum discussion, came early to class to search for and exchange beat up old chairs for new from other classrooms. Each dressed in their very best for our meeting. My heart was full as I met them and saw their faces.

Here were Finlay, John, Barrack, Elias, Ken, Kellen, Guyo, Akwam, Kimata, Esther, Anne, Wisdom, Joshua, Vincent, Martin, Michael, Collins, William, Dennis and Everlyne. "Jambo" they said to me. And I returned their "hello" with a bow, saying "Jambo". "Karibu" they replied. To their "welcome" in KiSwahili, I replied, "Asante sana", that is, thank you very much.

In any language, we all trusted we would continue unlearning misperceptions of each other through this mutually beneficial Project Perception.

A multi-cultural country with numerous languages and dialects, the people of Kenya face complex communication challenges. Kenyans are dealing with the powerful stigma associated with HIV/AIDS. The local cultural beliefs surrounding all aspects of the disease often cause a profound disconnect between patient and care-giver. For the medical and social service personnel to be successful, they need to understand multiple cultural situations. Our work with the

university's sociologists, anthropologists and others will serve both universities, and create an indigenous supply of educated and trained experts in areas that are critical to the successful detection and treatment of this terrible pandemic.

It is a privilege to play a small part in helping students, in Indiana, and in Kenya, to increase their understanding of each other.



I was honored by Masai student, Carol Nampaso, who wore her traditional Masai clothing for our meeting. Ms. Nampaso with Dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Peter Ndege.



Carol, Anne Ndetto, Esther Musyoka with the fellows and IUPUI colleague Julie Hatcher.



With the faculty and students of the school at Moi University.

Medical Anthropology: Saving Lives with Science and Understanding

By Chris Wilson



Elizabeth Moore, BA, Communication/Theatre, 1984; BA, Anthropology, 1991; PhD, Anthropology, 1998

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimate that, in certain parts of the United States, up to 1.5 out of every 1000 children are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). FAS, a 100% preventable condition, occurs when women drink alcohol while pregnant. It is characterized by a range of physical, mental, and emotional difficulties.

Because FAS can be difficult to detect, the number of cases reported by other organizations varies widely.

Dr. **Elizabeth Moore**, a Medical Anthropologist at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, hopes to change this. By using Anthropometrics, the science of using measurement to describe trends in human body forms which help researchers learn about biological issues of current populations, she works to develop new techniques for spotting FAS. Diagnosing FAS more quickly and efficiently, she says, would support interventions and programs designed to

counteract learning difficulties and socialization problems that affect children and adults with the syndrome.

Dr. Moore has come a long way from the ancient Egyptian Tomb Room at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, where she discovered anthropology.

As a college student, Moore says that exposure to field anthropology gave her a sense of how environment and culture shape individuals' lives. But, she wondered, "What good are these techniques if they do not improve the living conditions of current and future generations?"

This quandary led Moore to the courses of Professor **Rick Ward** focusing on biological anthropology and Anthropometrics. It was a light bulb moment for Moore. Together with experience as a health professional gleaned prior to her return to college, the discovery of Anthropometrics put her on the path to graduate school and to a career in

the health sciences.

Moore believes that the most important factor in transitioning from graduate school to career was networking and getting involved in academic projects—such as her undergraduate internship at the Eiteljorg Museum.

She says that her Liberal Arts education helped broaden the range of her understanding, enabling her to adapt to new work environments and subject matter. At St. Vincent's, her Liberal Arts background helps her to work well with a wide range of people from different walks of life and also to provide cultural sensitivity training for the internal and family medicine residents.

For Moore, her current assignment is a culmination of her life's work and learning. She uses anthropological understandings and scientific principles to directly impact people's lives and the lives' of generations to come.

She says, "I love what I do."

The Human Touch: Bioethics at IUPUI

Bioethics is the interdisciplinary study of various ethical concepts and issues related to clinical health care practice, research, and public policy. Scholars engaged in bioethical study include health care professionals, philosophers, theologians, legal and public policy experts, historians, economists, sociologists—the list goes on. Bioethics addresses a number of issues of public and professional concern, including embryonic stem cell research, genetic testing, international research practices, organ donation, palliative care for the chronically and terminally ill, and access to health care. Bioethics gained prominence in the 1960s and has attracted both national and international attention. Many countries, including the U.S., have established national commissions to study these issues.

As new developments in the life sciences emerge, the value of ethical inquiry regarding medical and scientific progress will only increase and both IUPUI and Liberal Arts are at the forefront of bioethics. In 2001, the IU Center for Bioethics (IUCB) was established on the IUPUI campus (www.bioethics.iu.edu) as an interdisciplinary research center.

During the past few years, the Philosophy Department and the IUCB worked together to develop the Master of Arts degree with a concentration in bioethics. This program, under the direction of Assistant Professor Jason Eberl, has an interdisciplinary advisory committee including representatives from the IUCB, the IU School of Law's Center for Law and Health, the Medical Humanities and Health Studies Program, Clarian Health Partners, and the IU School of Medicine. The program currently offers a combined JD/MA degree in bioethics and health law, and a combined MD/MA degree is currently under development. For more information visit <http://www.iupui.edu/~philosop/ma.htm>.

—Jason Eberl

Listening to Voices in My Head: From Poetry to Patients

By Josh Flynn



Wendy Smith, BA, English, 1991; MD, 1996

Otorhinolaryngologist.

For those of you with a background in the classical languages, you know that ears (oto), nose (rhino) and throat (laryng) are the focus of English major and medical doctor, **Wendy Smith**.

What's inside heads seems to have been a fascination of Dr. Smith from the beginning. "I wanted to be a dental hygienist!" However, when she wasn't accepted into the program, she turned to her great love of "reading, writing stories, and talking

about great literature" and became an English major, hoping to author children's books.

Like many IUPUI students, marriage, children, and her husband's military service slowed her progress. As a 29 year old mother of two, Wendy found her way into Professor **Sharon Hamilton's** classroom, where she found encouragement and inspiration to continue.

"Mature women returning to education need mentors," she says. In addition to Hamilton,

Barbara Cambridge and **Teri Molinder Hogue** played a role in her success. They taught Smith about writing, finding her voice, and expressing herself. Cambridge even attended her medical school graduation.

When she decided on medical school, Smith began taking Pre-med courses and English classes in the same semester. "One minute I was measuring aloquats of minute chemical substances in organic chemistry, and the next hour I was 'listening to the voices in my head' for senior English seminar. Or doing advanced calculus and then turning around in the writing center, fielding questions on the statewide grammar hotline," she says. "My right-brained classmates and my left-brained classmates couldn't understand why I had my feet planted in both fields."

The blending of sciences and humanities, which seemed a crazy mix to her college classmates, now enables Smith to understand, communicate, read, and help her patients better. Practicing medicine in a three state, eight county area in Appalachia

(specifically, the Smokey Mountains of North Georgia), Smith says, "I know I wouldn't be as effective a surgeon and physician without my undergraduate background. Being able to communicate and understand the nuances of human interaction and translating from medical Latin to common English helps in all fields of work, but especially in the life and death issues I deal with as a doctor."

Becoming a published author for the first time, in *Physician's Practice* magazine with an article about her implementation of electronic medical records in rural America, Smith says is part of a lifelong dream. "But, it's not a children's book. Hopefully that will come later."

After all, Smith says, you are never too old to learn. "I was 29 when I started my senior English/pre-med saga; 32 when I started medical school, 36 at the start of my general surgery internship year, and 41 when I completed residency in Otolaryngology/Head & eck Surgery. Whew!"

Advances is a publication of the IU School of Liberal Arts Office of Development & External Affairs.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Winter College

February 9-11, 2007, Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, Sanibel Island, Florida

Participants in this winter getaway weekend will experience a dynamic weekend of educational workshops, engaging lectures by outstanding faculty, and lively discussions, all while enjoying sumptuous food, luxurious accommodations, and the warm Florida sun. The Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa will serve as our college campus for this very special winter weekend. For more information, email Stefan Davis, IU Alumni Association at ssdavis@iupui.edu.

Want more news? E-mail LibArts@iupui.edu to subscribe to the Alumni E-mail Newsletter!!

Karl Zimmer Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at IUPUI Commencement



Karl Zimmer (center) receives the honorary degree. He is pictured with commencement marshal Rebecca Porter and IU President Adam Herbert.

Karl Zimmer, Jr., past board chairman of the Indiana Center for Intercultural Communication (ICIC) in the School of Liberal Arts, received an honorary Indiana University Doctor of Humane Letters degree on Sunday, May 14, at IUPUI's 37th Annual Commencement.

Zimmer, the former chair and CEO of Zimmer Paper Products, Inc., a past (four term) director of the Indiana Humanities Council, and longtime trustee and board member of the Athenaeum Foundation, was praised for his many accomplishments in the business world as well as his devo-

tion to the arts and humanities in Indianapolis and to IUPUI's School of Liberal Arts.

English Professor and ICIC Director **Ulla Connor** said, "Karl Zimmer is that rare individual who combines business acumen with creative and scholarly talent."

Along with his wife, **Barbara Zimmer**, who taught part-time for the Department of English for many years, and **David Frick**, Karl co-chaired the Liberal Arts Campaign during the Campaign for IUPUI.

Together Barbara and Karl established the school's first endowed chair, in Intercultural Communication. The Zimmers have been extensive travelers in both career and personal life. The endowed chair and Karl's work with the ICIC

are tied to their belief in education and in the importance of intercultural understanding and appreciation.

Zimmer has led a life in pursuit of humanitarian, business, and scholarly endeavors. From his academic studies in history and languages and his world travels for international enterprise, to his vigorous community service on behalf of various humanities organizations, at home and abroad Karl Zimmer is an impressive ambassador for the value of liberal arts education.

Dean **Robert W. White** notes, "Karl Zimmer is a Renaissance man in a modern world. His contributions to the School of Liberal Arts, to IUPUI, to Indianapolis, and to the world, inspire and motivate all who know him."