

Advances

Special Report

January, 2006

Liberal Arts Endorses Strategic Plan

The IU School of Liberal Arts is pleased to announce the adoption of a new Strategic Plan: 2006-2010.

The process took nearly a full year and involved countless individuals. It began with an online survey of all staff and faculty, continued with the appointment and work of a Strategic Planning Committee, progressed to meetings with alumni, students, community leaders, and donors, and concluded with two town hall style meetings open to staff, faculty, and students. The result is a plan created and endorsed by the school's many constituencies. It is a living document that will guide our activities and decisions and will evolve as we assess our progress.

To read the full plan, visit <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/dean/strategicplan.html>

Strategic Plan: 2006-2010

As Indiana University's only School of Liberal Arts, we offer the benefits of a small college in combination with the advantages of the large urban research campus that is Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). We are the home of 11 departments, 14 academic programs, and six institutes and research centers with national and international reputations for scholarly activity. At the undergraduate level, we offer a range of bachelor's degrees, undergraduate minors, and certificates. At the graduate level, we offer a Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies as well as master's degrees and graduate certificates in several fields. Located in the state capital, we are in a unique position to develop partnerships—in Indianapolis, across the nation, and internationally—as we contribute to social, cultural, and economic development and foster life-long learning and civic engagement.

Our Mission

Creating and exchanging knowledge that promotes understanding of the human experience.

Our Vision

As one of the premier sites of liberal arts education, scholarship, professional service, and civic engagement in the state of Indiana, the School of Liberal Arts will contribute to the social, cultural, and economic development of the state, and will foster life-long learning that engenders commitment to civil society through an engaged and educated citizenry.



Strategic Plan: 2006-2010

Our Core Values

A liberal arts education is rooted in reflection, teaching and learning, scholarship, and service to people across cultures and over time. To promote a better understanding of a complex world, the School of Liberal Arts builds on this tradition and reflects it in our core values.

Student learning: We provide an intellectual climate and curriculum that challenges students to think critically, communicate clearly and achieve in their chosen fields.

Diversity: Diversity encompasses the complexities of human beings and includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, age, physical and mental differences, religious identification, and social class. We believe the educational environment is enhanced when diverse groups of people with diverse ideas come together to learn.

Excellence: We seek excellence—quality rather than quantity—in the areas of teaching and learning, research and creative activity, and civic engagement and professional service.

Collaboration with the community: We value civic involvement as a way of enriching the academic environment, engaging citizens and enhancing our constituent communities.

Interdisciplinary, international and multicultural approaches: We take a broad perspective on intellectual questions, civic engagement, and the education of students in order to provide a well-rounded education.


Stewardship: We steward the resources of the School of Liberal Arts—and measure their impact—in the most effective, efficient, ethical, and timely manner possible.

Collegiality: Students, staff, and faculty are joined in a collaborative partnership characterized by mutual respect to promote the vision and mission of the School of Liberal Arts.

Accessibility: As a public institution, we are dedicated to making a high quality education as accessible as possible for all students through flexible scheduling, loans, scholarships and other means.

Our Goals

The School of Liberal Arts will:

- Goal 1:** Teach students well, providing them with the academic, technological, and practical skills requisite for meaningful and satisfying lives and careers.
 - Goal 2:** Be recognized as a center of excellence for both disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.
 - Goal 3:** Seek and build partnerships that shape and support its constituent communities.
 - Goal 4:** Provide a learning and work environment that welcomes top caliber, highly qualified and diverse individuals and promotes opportunities for individual growth.
 - Goal 5:** Maximize its resources to further its mission and pursue its strategic development.
 - Goal 6:** Better communicate its purpose and value to its constituent communities.
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Advances

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Liberal Arts Alumni Fuel Indiana Arts Boom

By Josh Flynn



There has been a renaissance of sorts in Indianapolis, marked by a year long celebration of the arts. In the spring of 2005, the renovated Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) and the expanded Eiteljorg Museum both celebrated fresh new looks, facilities, and programming. The Herron School of Art and Design moved from the other side of downtown to a stunning building on the south east edge of campus, locating IUPUI's schools together for the first time.

The city, state, and campus are paying more and more attention to the arts, and contributing greatly to the surge in artistic awareness is the IU School of Liberal Arts. The School has produced a number of graduates who contribute to the Indiana art scene on many different levels. Students from all disciplines of study within

the school are graduating and finding fulfilling careers that not only benefit themselves, but give something back to the community, and many of them are staying in Indiana to do so.

Over the next few pages you will meet six of those students, all graduates within the past ten years and a small sampling of many talented Liberal Arts alumni. They are artists and performers, writers and musicians. Some have transcended the boundaries of state and country and taken their skills around the world. **Gabriel Harley** runs his own music studio, Prana Recordings, and has released several albums of his own work. As a puppeteer and artist, **Robin Lee Holm** has performed around the country and beyond, and puts her talents to work in many

artistic media. **Robin Howard** is a world traveling anthropologist who uses her artistic abilities to help fight AIDS and poverty. **Daniel Incandela** uses his technological skills to help develop innovative programs for the Indianapolis Museum of Art, where **Christina Koennecke** also works. She writes grants and researches potential funders, helping the museum to grow and thrive. **Laura McPhee** is a journalist who, in the fall of 2006, will see her first book, *A Journey to Matisse's South of France*, published.

You will learn of their accomplishments, the hard work it took to achieve their goals, and the faculty who encouraged them in the process. They are examples of the quality alumni IUPUI produces, and of the many career possibilities for Liberal Arts graduates.

About the Contributors

This issue of *Advances* was produced with the help of three students from W490, Writing for Popular and Professional Publication, under the guidance of their instructor, Professor Anne Williams.

W490 is a course offered by the School of Liberal Arts English department. Building on academic writing skills students have already developed, W490 focuses on teaching new skills directly transferable to the workplace. The course also offered venues where students could practice their craft.

Anne Williams is a senior lecturer in the Department of English and an administrator in the Writing Program.

Mary Pfeffer is a non-traditional, 57 year-old freshman in General Studies. She works full-time in the Microbiology department of a medical research facility and is hoping to graduate before she retires.

Sheree Montgomery will graduate in December 2005 with a B.A. in English and a minor in Communication Studies, Organizational Comm. track. Her career goal is to work in publishing.

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.

Christina Koennecke, MA, Philanthropic Studies, 2005

By Sheree Montgomery



Christina Koennecke

"I never thought about working in a museum," **Christina Koennecke** reflects with an ironic laugh. She discusses her career in the lobby of the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) where she works as the Foundation Relations Manager.

Koennecke, at the IMA since April, has already concluded that museum work suits her. Prior to working at the museum, she spent almost four years working for a private consulting firm. She also worked for the federal government, which Koennecke describes as very boring. "I wanted to

do something effective," she says.

It was Koennecke's tenure at IUPUI that led to her current position. "I took a little break," is how she describes the ten-year span during which she earned her master's degree. Koennecke

attended college in Oregon, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English. After years of working in the private sector, she enrolled in the Philanthropic Studies graduate program at IUPUI.

The Philanthropic Studies program appealed to Koennecke because it focused on research and understanding the nonprofit sector. "I've always wanted to work in non-profit due to my background and upbringing". She cites **Fran Huehls**, a librarian, and **Kevin Robbins**, a history professor, as two influential people during her graduate studies. She describes

Huehls as a catalyst to her education. She goes on to say that, "There was a lot of research involved in the program."

Liz Kryder-Reid was another important mentor for Koennecke. Kryder-Reid taught Introduction to Museum Studies, which Koennecke initially considered "a filler course" to fulfill an elective requirement. It was that "filler" course that introduced Koennecke to the possibility of working in the arts. "It pushed me to a new trajectory," and provided a focus for her energies, Koennecke says.

At the IMA, Koennecke writes grant proposals to foundations, trusts, and corporations. She is in charge of connecting with private foundations and estates. Some notable organizations that Koennecke works with are the Lilly Endowment Inc., the Arts Council of Indianapolis, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her workday consists of lots of research and writing. She says, "It is important to research a potential funder until you know *everything* about them."

While she mostly writes and researches potential funders, the best part of Koennecke's job is the environment. "Where else," she asks, "can you take ten minutes and stroll either through a gallery or the beautifully landscaped grounds?" She speaks enthusiastically about the upcoming Asian and African galleries opening. She

describes the Fairbanks Art & Nature Park as "connecting arts to the outdoors," and says the newest addition to the IMA, the Davis X-Room, encourages patron's interaction. "You could spend hours in that room," Koennecke emphasizes.

2005 was a year of cultural convergence for the city of Indianapolis with the reopening of the IMA and Eiteljorg, the opening of the new Indianapolis Art Center ArtsPark, and the continued success of the Indiana State Museum. "For the first time, Indianapolis is being recognized for more than being just a sports city," Koennecke explains. She feels that Indianapolis' cultural reputation is improving and that the city is becoming a major contributor on the national arts landscape. IMA collaborations with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Indianapolis Opera are important and necessary, she thinks, as IMA staff work to further the city's cultural arts initiative.

Koennecke also cites Indianapolis as having a great nonprofit sector. She encourages graduates to pursue careers in the sector, stating, "It is an experience you carry with you. You learn to look outside the traditional."

It seems working in a museum has fulfilled Koennecke's goal of doing something effective. She admits, "I wish I would have pursued it earlier."

Dear Alumni,

We hope you have enjoyed reading about Liberal Arts alumni who are contributing to our society through their participation in the Arts.

We plan to run similar stories about alumni who have found careers in the life and health sciences.

If you are a Liberal Arts graduate, no matter what major, currently work in any of the life or health sciences, and wouldn't mind being interviewed for just such a story, please contact us at libarts@iupui.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

The *Advances* editorial team

Laura McPhee, BA, English/French, 1998; MA, English, 2003

By Josh Flynn



Laura McPhee received her master's degree in English in 2003 from IUPUI. Since then she has gone on to publish fourteen cover stories as a reporter for the Indianapolis alternative newspaper, *Nuvo*, and, in the fall of 2006, Roaring Forties press will release her first book, *A Journey to Matisse's South of France*.

McPhee approaches everything she does with passion. She brought passion into the literature and French classes she taught at IUPUI while earning her master's degree, which made leaving teaching a difficult decision for her to make. "I went to school to be a writer and got sucked into the academic life," she says. "I was about to turn forty, and I thought if I don't give writing a try, I'm going to be very bitter."

McPhee had no idea how to break into the writing world, so she went to the bookstore and purchased ten books on freelance writing. She never considered

journalism as a career. "I was going to be a poet, but I realized that doesn't pay the bills. Then, I was going to write the great American novel. I have thousands of pages sitting around from five different books I've started."

Her first assignment with *Nuvo* came when she contacted the newspaper asking if they would be interested in an article on a protest she was attending in New York. The editor liked the story and ran it. In the fourteen months since leaving teaching, her writing has garnered an award from the Society of Professional Journalists for a story about a whistleblower fired from Menards and a media award from Planned Parenthood for her coverage of issues involving women's reproductive rights. A news article about Republican Senator Patricia Miller and her unauthorized reproduction bill went national. *Saturday Night Live* alum and political commentator Al Franken discussed the piece on his

Air America radio network show, and McPhee made an appearance on Laura Flanders' talk show on the same network.

While searching for writing jobs on the internet, she found a posting looking for someone to write a book about a French author. She responded to the ad, and, two days later, Roaring Forties Press contacted her with a book proposal about the artist Matisse instead. It took four months for McPhee to do the research, which included a month long trip through France with her two children. But, the difference between writing a book and writing stories for *Nuvo* was a little overwhelming for McPhee. "The book is 40,000 words. *Nuvo* cover stories are 4,000 words," she says. "That's like a year's worth of *Nuvo* stories in one book."

McPhee credits her liberal arts degree as preparing her for her job as a journalist. She approaches her stories as she would an academic paper. Her

liberal arts background has helped her look at both sides and learn to keep her opinion out of the story. "The liberal arts program prepared me well," she says. "People will come up to me and say how much they enjoy my work and say how talented I am. The truth, though, is it's probably ten percent talent and ninety percent education."

Despite the success she is now finding, McPhee misses the classroom. "Writing is solitary and lonely. Teaching literature was like having my own book club. I got to hold my students hostage and make them read my favorite books. I miss talking about books and poems. I miss the students."

McPhee hopes to start writing articles on a national level in the next few months. "My dream is to have a story in *Harper's*," she says. When that happens, it will surely be filled with passion.

Pictured: McPhee's ten Nuvo covers from 2005.



Daniel Incandela, BA, Anthropology, 1999,

By Sheree Montgomery



Dan Incandela

"I can't describe it to you. You have to see for yourself." **Daniel Incandela** is speechless about the Davis X-Room, the newest addition to the Indianapolis Museum of Arts (IMA).

Incandela is the Manager of Educational New Media Projects at the IMA. His job requires him to work with "technology and various departments to create a range of educational products whether it is a CD-ROM or a website component." Incandela's work is very collaborative.

An average workday for Incandela consists of project management, deadlines, meetings, and internal communication. His job keeps him so busy, "most days I eat my lunch at my desk, but I love it." He frequently corresponds with the information technology (IT) department, educators, and curators at the museum.

He graduated from IUPUI in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. It was his association with Liz

Kryder-Reid that introduced him to the idea of working at a museum. Kryder-Reid, Professor of Anthropology and Director of Museum Studies, was Incandela's practicum advisor. For his senior project, Incandela created a museum installation.

Prior to working at the IMA, Incandela spent two years working for the Indiana State Museum. He was called upon to work for a project with the IMA in association with the IU School of Informatics. The project was the Davis X-Room, which led to the position with the IMA.

The X-Room is dedicated to experimental technology. It is highly interactive. Incandela stresses he did not come up with the idea; he worked as part of a team to develop it. The X-Room took a year of planning, and about six months to prepare it. The exhibit opened in May, and is very popular, he notes.

The X-Room consists of two projects: etx and Cabinet of Dreams. The etx consists of three projectors that project on the table and three walls. According to the X-Room fact sheet, there are three tools that provide separate functions: a "?" tool that provides information about a specific work of art, an up-arrow shaped tool that shows where the specific work of art is located within the

For more information about Indianapolis Museum of Art, visit the IMA website at www.ima-art.org

The X-Room is located on the 2nd floor of the IMA at the south end of the Pulliam Great Hall and Sculpture Court.

IMA hours

Tuesday-Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Thursday 10:00-9:00pm

Closed Mondays

museum, and an "X" tool used to provide "conneXions." The conneXion puts the selected work in the middle of the table and works of arts related to that art are grouped by various conneXions.

The Cabinet of Dreams consists of a John-e box, a 3D gallery. Visitors wear 3D glasses to interact with 3D computer graphics of objects featured in the IMA's Chinese collection. Patrons are able to examine various objects from all sides and get the feeling of being part of the art.

The X-Room is just one component of the technology now being used or to be incorporated into IMA programs. Incandela mentions several initiatives including wireless PDAs for galleries, creating a brand new IMA website, possible podcasts, making videos available on website, and blogs. Incandela is helping the IMA keep current with the increasing technology.

In terms of the Indianapolis art scene, Incandela thinks, "There's room to grow." He mentions the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art and its involvement with the community. He also cites the Star Studio, part of the IMA, in featuring local artists. Incandela has collaborated on projects with IU-Bloomington School of Fine Arts, Herron School of Art and Design, and the IU School of Informatics. He has also worked with the pervasive technology groups, that develop applications for the X-Room.

Incandela has accomplished quite a bit during his short time at the IMA. He has helped create one of the most innovative and popular new projects for the museum. Above all else, he enjoys his work. Incandela says, "I have the freedom to be creative and work with many people." For a Liberal Arts alumnus, what could be better than that?

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

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Robin Lee Holm, BA, Theatre, 1992

By Josh Flynn



Robin with friends and husband and Adzooks co-founder, David Wright.

Robin Lee Holm's career as a puppeteer and artist spans thirty years. Together with her husband, David Wright, they created the Adzooks Puppets in 1995, and have performed over 3000 puppet shows in nine different states.

Holm was studying painting at Miami of Ohio in 1975, when she decided on a career as a puppeteer. "It was right around that time that I met puppeteers in

the Cincinnati area, and realized that puppetry could combine my interest in visual arts with my love of theater," she says. "For me, puppetry is a way for my visual artwork to come to life for audiences."

Eventually, she found herself at IUPUI, receiving her bachelor's degree in theatre in 1992 and being honored for academic achievement and excellence in theatre management. While attending classes, she supervised 23 performances for the

1992 IUPUI Youth Theatre Spring Tour and acted as business manager for the 1991 IUPUI theatre fall production. "My fondest memories of being a student at IUPUI are those of working with retired faculty **Drs. Dorothy and Edgar Webb** on theatre productions," she says. "After graduation, Dr. Dorothy Webb asked me to teach her *Art and Craft of Puppetry* class as an

adjunct instructor." Holm said yes and continued teaching at IUPUI for the following eleven years.

Holm has put her skills to work in many countries. The opportunity to work on the film "Prancer," a story about a young girl who finds a reindeer and believes it to be one of Santa's, came in 1989. "The stand-in for the reindeer was a puppet stunt double that was on standby for scenes the live reindeer either couldn't do or refused to do," she says.

Next up was a tour of Japan in 1990 which traveled through 17 cities over the course of five weeks and included puppeteers from five countries. "I only had a couple of weeks to learn my show in Japanese and prepare a portable workshop before leaving for the tour," she says. "The experience is one of my favorite memories of my career. The camaraderie between performers despite language obstacles, the appreciation for puppetry as fine art, and the community's gracious hospitality and

celebrity treatment of us as performers were all rewarding aspects of my time there."

Recently, Holm has begun a new artistic endeavor with her husband, alongside their friend Dave Deyoe, called Copperwright Designs. Using wood, copper, and stained glass, along with other materials, they create wall hangings, tables, and other home furnishings. Currently, their Asterion Mask Collection is being displayed at galleries in Indianapolis and Bloomington. "The works are a line of masks which I think of as shadow puppets in metal," says Holm.

It has been a great career for Holm, with many accomplishments to be proud of. But to her, the best moment is always when an audience member approaches her after a performance and exclaims, "Now that was a great puppet show!"

More information can be found about Robin Lee Holm and her projects at www.adzooks.com and www.copperwright.com.

Robin (McCorkle) Howard, BA, Anthropology, 1998

By Mary Pfeffer



Robin with women of the Poket tribe in Kenya.

Robin Howard waited until she was on her own to take steps toward a bachelor's in anthropology. Working full-time in a veterinary clinic while taking classes full-time left

little time for sleep, until after her graduation in 1998. But, she loved every minute of her time at IUPUI. She is the first in her family to get a college degree.

Originally, Howard majored in biology. As a farm girl she always knew she wanted to see every "speck of dirt in the world" but didn't know that desire translated into anthropology until she took an introductory course as an elective. A fellow archaeology student helped her understand that her love of the mystery and history of artifacts had a place in the world. One of her instructors, **Professor Rick Ward**, helped her believe

in herself and saw her as "an intelligent, unique person and as a scientist," she says.

Last year Robin took a trip to Africa with the mission to instruct HIV positive women in the art of making paper. She says, "Today, with the help of some great people here and in Kenya, they are making the coolest stuff and exporting to the U.S." The journey has allowed the women to have the income to feed their children and send them to school. She says of the experience, "I don't know that I get to ask for more in my life than that honor and opportunity."

Robin collects artifacts

from around the world, such as Tibetan prayer flags, chopstick wrappers, and African bottle caps, and combines them with poetry and words of spirituality from such people as Ghandi, Fred Rogers, and Jesus to create meditation beads, bracelets, and art. Some of her artwork is donated to non-profit organizations and to fundraising events. In addition, she paints, makes handmade paper, and silk screens.

In Robin's words, she is "married to the amazing Bill Howard who lends his engineering advice to my creations," and who helps make Indiana as special as her Kenyan journey.

Gabriel Harley, BA, English, 2003

By Mary Pfeffer



Gabe Harley at right with wife, Cori Rengnette (second from right) and Nettwerk recording artists Deb Talan and Steve Tannen (aka "The Weepies").

Gabriel (Gabe) Harley is a producer, songwriter, and performer. With the help of his bachelor's degree in English, he also teaches *Technical Writing for the Workplace* at Ivy Tech Community College.

Gabe is the owner, creative director, and chief engineer of Prana Recording and Multimedia located in Greenfield, Indiana. Prana is

an official 'studio partner' with DiscMakers, "the largest manufacturer of CDs, DVDs, etc." When he works as a recording engineer he is on the technical side of recording and must make sure everything works together to get the right combination. "It's actually more challenging than it sounds, because you have to pay attention to so many

things at the same time," he explains. According to Gabe, "A song isn't a singularity..." Hundreds of elements go into getting the right sound, such as placement of a microphone, comfort of the musician, and properly functioning software. Gabe says, "Recording a song takes both art and science."

Gabe knew as a young teen that he was destined to be an artist and musician. He played his first professional gig at age 13. He says, "It was more of a realization and acceptance than a conscious choice." He loves the freedom he has to create music that transcends "the limitations language."

Knowing the volatility of the music industry, Gabe is planning to finish his MA in English so that he can teach as a "back up" when music gigs are sparse. He recently took a semester off to regain some balance, he says, in his

life and bank account.

Gabe plays the trumpet and guitar, has released two independent CDs, "Talisman" in 1999 and "Shuffling off the Darkness" in 2002, and is working on a third. He performs his own songs, both solo and with a band. His performances have included large outdoor festivals, college fraternity parties, clubs, and coffee houses. While Gabe likes all types of music, he is especially fond of jazz, pop-rock, and classical.

According to Gabe, being an older student definitely makes it harder to juggle "a business, a marriage, and a household along with academic pressures. Education is important; being able to eat and stay married still takes precedence."

To learn more about Gabe and his music, visit www.pranarecording.com or read his blog at <http://gabrielharley.blogspot.com/>