

# Advances

Special Report

October 2007

## Dean Plans Return to Faculty Role



Dean Robert White announced in August that he will step down from the school's deanship effective June 30, 2008. He will resume his faculty role as professor of sociology with the school.

During his tenure, Dean White oversaw the first, comprehensive strategic planning process for the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, involving staff, faculty, alumni, and community members in the year-long activity. Shortly after the strategic plan was adopted, he appointed the Dean's Research Advisory Council, composed of alumni and community volunteers dedicated to assisting the School of Liberal Arts in achieving its long-term goals.

Under White's leadership the School created the Center on Global Health Communications; the Center for Ray Bradbury Studies; and the Institute for Research on Social Issues, an IUPUI Signature Center. In addition, the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture and a number of other long-standing interdisciplinary programs with ties to Liberal Arts became IUPUI Signature Centers.

"I have been privileged to work with a talented and committed group of people as dean," White said. "My reasons for stepping back at this point are quite simple. I miss my research; I miss teaching; and I want to spend more time with my family. I am announcing this now to give the School and the campus the time to search for my successor."

With Dean White's leadership, the school launched new degree programs, including a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, a Master of Arts in Museum Studies, and a Doctorate in Philanthropic Studies, as well as several academic certificate programs.

The School also entered into partnerships with Moi University, Kenya; The University of Derby, UK; Hakuoh University, Japan; and the University of Newcastle, UK, thus expanding international study opportunities for both students and faculty in the Liberal Arts.

"Bob White has led the IU School of Liberal Arts through an important transitional time and put in place an excellent plan for the future," Chancellor **Charles R. Bantz** said. "I thank Bob for his leadership and service to IUPUI and look forward to

his continued scholarly contributions."

White, an expert on Irish political violence and international terrorism, is author of *Ruairí Ó Brádaigh, The Life and Politics of an Irish Revolutionary* (Indiana University Press, 2006) as well as other books and articles on the subjects of political violence and terrorism. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he was called upon by the IUPUI campus to lead town hall discussions to help students, staff, and faculty deal with the issues related to that tragedy.

### Lilly Endowment Grants \$1.25 Million to Centers

Lilly Endowment Inc has awarded two School of Liberal Arts centers grants totalling \$1.25 million.

The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture received a five-year grant of more than \$850,000 for its Young Scholars in Religion Program. The funding will allow the center to continue and expand the program that conducts annual seminars that help new religious studies professors across the country improve their teaching and research skills.

The Polis Center received a \$400,000 Lilly Endowment grant to improve the annual Spirit and Place Festival. Spirit and Place officials say the Lilly grant will allow them to focus more on the quality and depth of programming; enhance civic engagement by encouraging patrons to undertake meaningful civic action as a follow-up of festival programming; and offer an annual training workshop and online resources to enhance collaboration among festival partners. (See back of newsletter for more information on the festival.)

# Living Generously



Patte and Frank Owings

"Living Generously" is this year's theme for the Spirit and Place Civic Festival managed by the Polis Center of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. It is also a good description of how **Frank Owings, Jr.** (BA 1971, English) and his wife, **Patte**, have spent their time since retiring from Service Supply Co., Inc. nearly a decade ago.

This is the story of how one couple, with the love and support of a generous family, makes a difference in our community. It begins with the inspiration of **Edith C. Seitz Owings**, Frank's mother and one of Service Supply's first employees. Edith Owings set an example of spending her life in the service of others through her work as a civic volunteer and community leader for many cultural and philanthropic organizations.

Music, literature, and art were part of the Owings family life, contrasting with the nuts and bolts and other fasteners that made up the product line of the Company for 50 years. Indeed, when Frank was old enough to go to college, despite his initial foray into business studies, it was writing and literature, art and architecture, and history and historic preservation that held his attention. Attending IUPUI in

the summers and for his final two semesters, Frank graduated in 1971. He went on to get a Master's in Library Science and English Literature from Butler University and a Master's in Library and Information Science from Indiana University Bloomington. His passion for books found expression in working at bookstores and ultimately, he took a chance and started one. His passion for music (rock and roll in particular) and literature took form in music composition and in playing in bands; it continues today with the group Graal.

He is, however, a generous man. Instead of following a career in the arts or academia, he worked for over 20 years in the family business, devoting his efforts to streamlining processes and adding efficiencies that would later make the business attractive to others. With two degrees in library science, as a specialist in archives, Frank was able to work at least part of the time as the Company's archivist/historian, organizing Service Supply's extensive archival holdings and maintaining the company's corporate records.

During this time, he met and married Patte,

a talented artist and photographer who shares his enthusiasm for historic preservation. Together, they have stabilized and revitalized a **Frank Lloyd Wright** designed house in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. Their interest in Wright's design philosophy and architecture is further evidenced by their involvement with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. The Fall 2006 issue of the *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly* features Patte's photograph of a Wright designed sculpture on its cover, which accompanies the feature article, "Frank Lloyd Wright: Shaping the Spirit," authored by Frank.

Over the years, the Frank N. Owings Family Foundation and its predecessor, the Seitz-Owings Foundation, have established a number of important endowed scholarships at Butler University, where both Frank and Patte hold degrees.

Recently, in recognition of their generosity, and of the years of service of Frank's mother, Clowes Hall dedicated the Edith C. Owings Reception Suite. Perhaps their greatest satisfaction, though, comes in the shape of the 50 plus students who have benefited from the Edger C. Seitz, Sr. and Mabel B. Seitz Memorial Scholarship that was established honoring Frank's maternal grandparents. The opportunity to meet these students and watch their successes inspires the Owings' interest in helping others, which they carry out in many ways throughout the community.

Today, Frank and Patte head up the Frank N. Owings Family Foundation. They offer their time, talent, and treasure in support of the culture of Indianapolis, working behind the scenes to assist various nonprofit arts organizations achieve their stated missions. Theirs is truly a story of lives lived generously.



**WINTER COLLEGE**  
February 15-17, 2008

**Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa  
Fort Myers, Florida**

**Join fellow alumni and friends at the  
Alumni Association's Winter College  
in Fort Myers in February, 2008.**

Participants will experience a dynamic weekend of educational workshops, lectures and lively discussions, while enjoying sumptuous food, luxurious accommodations, and the warm Florida sun. The Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa will serve as our headquarters.

Accomplished faculty will join us for the weekend to lead our educational program.

For additional information email: [www.alumni.iupui.edu](http://www.alumni.iupui.edu)  
or email [ssdavis@iupui.edu](mailto:ssdavis@iupui.edu) or call Stefan Davis at  
317-274-2317 or toll free at 866-267-3104.

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

# Advances

Volume 8, Number 3 Fall 2007 News from the IU School of Liberal Arts

## *Celebrating 20 Years* MOVING PHILANTHROPY FORWARD SINCE 1987

Twenty years ago, a group of prescient leaders came together with a vision of how to make the world a better place, through the philanthropic efforts of its citizens. Their ideas would ultimately result in the internationally-recognized Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

**Henry A. "Hank" Rosso**, founder of The Fund Raising School (TFRS), was a pioneer in educating and training people in the precepts of ethical and effective resource development for social causes. He believed in the social contract between people that allows them to work together to address society's needs.

Nearing retirement, Hank was searching for a home for the school he and his wife **Dottie** had founded. Indiana University proposed the establishment of a Center on Philanthropy that would include The Fund Raising School and be a multi-disciplinary research and teaching center with its academic home in the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI. They proposed that Lilly Endowment Inc., which supported the idea of helping nonprofits become more effective and self-sustaining, provide the initial funding.

Working together, leaders from IU, IUPUI, TFRS and Lilly Endowment conceived of a university-based center that would create a new academic discipline called Philanthropic Studies, serve the nonprofit sector, and examine and

perpetuate the philanthropic tradition.

In 1987, the new Center was approved by the IU Trustees. It started small, and at its core was The Fund Raising School, continuing its tradition of high quality, comprehensive courses in fund raising practice. The first director of the Center, the late **Dr. Howard Schaller**, guided the Center through its early, formative years, developing important alliances, and setting the stage for its future development. Soon, a Master of Arts degree program was approved, and the Center's intra-school collaborations began to take shape.

**Professor Robert Payton**, the first professor of philanthropic studies, who also founded the Joseph & Matthew Payton Library on Philanthropic Studies at the IUPUI University Library, succeeded Schaller, followed by **Dr. Warren Illchman**.

Today, under the leadership of **Dr. Eugene R. Tempel** (named frequently as one of the nation's most influential nonprofit sector professionals), the Center continues to offer the MA in Philanthropic Studies, a dual degree combining the MA with the MPA in Nonprofit Management offered by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and a PhD in Philanthropic Studies, the School of Liberal Arts' first doctoral degree.

With its roots firmly in liberal arts education, the Center engages faculty from over 25 disciplines and

programs, primarily at IUPUI and IU Bloomington. Its students explore philanthropy qualitatively, quantitatively, and as a uniquely human phenomenon. The Fund Raising School, still a core outreach program, trains over 8,000 people annually throughout the world.

The Center engages in research on all areas of philanthropy, and is a leader in the establishment of this field of study. Additionally, it provides research services and resources to nonprofits around the world. Today, elements of the Center include the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, the Women's Philanthropy Institute, and the Third Millennium Philanthropy and Leadership Initiative.

The Center's 20th Anniversary Celebration extends over 18 months and includes receptions across the country, culminating in a two day event in Indianapolis this November where leaders and practitioners from all over the world will celebrate, reflect and plan for the future.

The Center received vital, substantial early funding from Lilly Endowment, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and The Atlantic Philanthropies. Their generosity and that of all of the Center's funders and donors have enabled it to fulfill and build upon the original mission. In 2006, Lilly Endowment announced that it had given the Center a \$40 million endowment, to ensure its continued and successful development.



Henry Rosso



Howard Schaller



Robert Payton



Warren Illchman



Eugene Tempel

To learn more about the Center on Philanthropy and its 20th anniversary celebration, visit [www.philanthropy.iupui.edu](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu).



# Stepping Stones on a Philanthropic Path



J. Dallas Dishman (BA 1992, Geography)

"My life has been a winding road, with someone always placing another stepping stone in my path."

A self-described "poor kid" from Indianapolis' near east side, **Dr. J. Dallas Dishman** is glad he didn't listen to his high school guidance counselor. "You'll never make it in college; trade school is probably more appropriate," the counselor told him. None of his family had completed high school, let alone considered college. His high school academics and SAT scores were "marginal at best." He didn't really know how to afford college or even how to go about applying, but after a year of taking electronics classes at DeVry Institute, and working almost full time, he knew soldering wire wasn't what he wanted to do the rest of his life.

Back home again in Indianapolis, he decided to give IUPUI a shot. The first year was a near disaster, and he seriously thought about dropping out. Dallas wondered if maybe his high school guidance counselor was right and hard work wouldn't make up for an apparent lack of aptitude. But in his third semester, Dallas found himself in his first geography course and everything changed. "Fate and an effort to complete a general education requirement had placed a stepping stone at his feet." He loved the "synthesizing nature" of the study of geography. He plunged right in, even becoming a work study student for the department.

Then, he met **Professor Sue Grimmond**, from IU Bloomington, who hired him to work for her in the summers--on projects that utilized his earlier technical training. He didn't know it at the time, but those summers were the next stones in his path.

By his senior year, Dallas' special qualities had attracted the attention of other faculty. **Professor Rosalie Vermette** (French) challenged him throughout his language studies, becoming a mentor, leading and prodding him along through his college career. **Professors Tim Brothers** and **Catherine Souch** (Geography) observed his interests and skills and challenged him to consider focusing on human geography, for which they thought he had a special talent. Another stepping stone appeared in his path.

This unlikely "kid" who all signs suggested shouldn't have made it in college, couldn't get enough of it. He set his sites on a master's degree and found the University of Southern California (IUPUI's master's in geography did not yet exist). Dallas chuckles as he remembers his professors' reactions. They knew him well, and knew his abilities. They just weren't confident that USC would see it the same way. In these relationships with his faculty mentors, Dallas found the support he needed to pursue his goals.

Souch and Grimmond, as well as others, were willing to

recommend him. His GRE's would meet USC's minimum requirement, but it was the recommendations and his persistence (he contacted **Michael Dear**, the USC professor he wanted to work with) that landed him in the geography graduate program at USC. Dallas was one of only three US citizens admitted to the department's MA program that year.

Professor Dear became his academic advisor, taking a chance on him, first as a student, and later as a colleague. Throughout his graduate studies Dallas continued to work at least 20 hours a week, a reprieve from his 30-40 hour work week of odd jobs as an undergrad. Another stepping stone took shape when Dr. Dear offered him work as his graduate assistant and a project director at the Southern California Studies Center, an urban studies center based at the university. At last his research interests were aligning with his employment. The MA lead him to a PhD, and serendipitously, he was given a large body of data on hate crimes in California from which he derived his dissertation topic. According to Dallas, "Friends and Fate charted a course for me."

Indeed, it was while attending a dinner honoring USC's Lambda Alumni scholarship recipients, that Fate made another move. At the dinner, Dallas met the program officer of the David Bohnett Foundation, and before long, he'd accepted a position as a consultant, writing and editing the Foundation's web-site. This led to an internship at the Hilton Foundation, and a one year interruption in his academic journey. Although he was intrigued by foundation work, he knew he needed to complete his PhD (a lot of folks were counting on him) so he returned to USC. But now he was known in foundation circles, and shortly after he completed his degree, he was invited to join the Geffen Foundation as a program officer.

Dallas might have stayed in academe had the fit not "seemed so perfect." But the

Geffen Foundation was doing things that overlapped his research interests, and his experiences throughout his academic career had increasingly moved him toward activism. He wanted to make a difference in the day-to-day lives of others, just as his teachers (now friends) had done for him. The Geffen Foundation would provide him this opportunity with its focus on health, HIV/AIDS, issues of civil liberties, cultural arts, and Jewish communal giving.

Dallas' own research had led him there. First, his master's work on the rise of "virtual community" on the internet, and then his doctoral research on anti-gay violence in the City of West Hollywood, where he now lives. He had been politically active and the Geffen Foundation work aligned with the issues that were already central to his interests. He has now worked for the Foundation for five years, the first four as program officer, and now, as executive director.

Asked what it is about his current work that attracts him, Dallas is quick to respond. "Stewardship. This work continues a rich tradition within the Liberal Arts of good stewardship. At the core it is important to be a good steward of the information and skills that are derived from Liberal Arts study, but also, I want to help shepherd good programs along, in much the same way that others shepherded me, from my first day in the geography department through my entire collegiate experience. I'm doing in the nonprofit world what my professors did for me."

From geography to philanthropy, from the study of how places intersect with and affect people to providing the means for positive effects on people, Dallas Dishman continues to step to the next stone. In doing so, he makes a path for others, stewarding information and resources so that good programs can thrive in service to their communities, even if at first glance there might appear to be "an apparent lack of aptitude."

# The Ideas that Make us Tick



Nancy Nakano Conner in front of the book club lending library that is among her responsibilities at the Indiana Humanities Council.

In an age of expanding technology and scientific breakthroughs, we are especially fortunate to have people like **Nancy Nakano Conner** (MA, History, 2005) and her colleagues at the Indiana Humanities Council (IHC) who work to help us see the world from the human perspective.

Listening to Nancy, one quickly understands that there are no apologies. Through the humanities, communities come together in understanding to strive for common goals. Funded through foundation support and Indiana's share of the National Endowment for the Humanities' \$31.2 million annual budget for state programs, the Indiana Humanities Council focuses on helping Hoosier communities through leadership development, enhanced educational opportunities, and by raising cultural awareness.

Whether it's by

learning enough Spanish words to communicate with a new neighbor, admiring a restored 1920s building on a weekend drive, undertaking a genealogical project online to discover and document family history, or viewing a presidential debate on evening television, we cannot escape the humanities in virtually every aspect of modern life.

Conner knows better than most the shape the humanities take today. Her work for the last twenty-five years has been to help communities celebrate their history and culture. As Director of Grants for the Indiana Humanities Council, Nancy works on the organization's grantmaking program, which allocates funding to groups across the state. Currently, she also serves as Director of Metadata and Collaborations on the smartDESKTOP project, a

web portal for teachers--"today's technology for today's teachers"--chock full of advanced resources for curriculum planning, assessment, and collaboration, all with a humanistic focus.

The IHC is the Hoosier state's official humanities outpost and has an ambitious mission of strengthening communities through three diverse areas: leadership, education, and culture. "Using literature to think about these three emphases or using historical perspectives to approach various kinds of problems is what ties our work together," explains Nancy.

Nancy's academic background, with a Ph.D. in literature from UCLA, gave her a head start in making these connections, but she wanted to better serve grant seekers with historical projects. To fill her own self-perceived information gap, she began taking graduate courses at IUPUI as a non-degree student in 1999.

The history coursework dovetailed with her passion for Indiana history and, at the same time, taught her about the methods of historical research, ultimately making her a better advisor to and collaborator with those seeking IHC funding for historic projects.

Of her professional projects, Nancy reports, those with a cultural focus have particular meaning. Her own ethnicity (Japanese American) shapes her understanding and perspective of the many hidden ethnic and

cultural groups in Indiana. "Belonging to a minority group, coming from an ethnic community, and seeing the cultural variety in Indiana has been a long-time interest," she says. From East Chicago Mexican communities and rural Jewish groups, to the people of the Miami Nation, Nancy and the IHC have helped organizations with projects celebrating all manner of Hoosiers.

At IUPUI, Nancy blended professional, personal, and academic interests, writing her master's thesis on Japanese and Japanese Americans in Indiana. The thesis traced the stages of formation of this ethnic community, from people released from the internment camps of WWII; to war brides; to the scientists, professionals,



<http://www.indianahumanities.org>

and manufacturing executives of more recent years.

Ideas matter, Nancy smiles, not just to her, but to everyone. And, underlying many of our ideas about life and being are the humanities. The technologies used today to transmit these ideas are tools that ease and expand the opportunities to reach wider audiences. It doesn't matter if a person reads about their world on a computer monitor or from a book. What matters is the world of ideas. Nancy has devoted her life to providing the people of Indiana with the means to connect with their world, and we are richer for it.

Know an extraordinary Liberal Arts alumnus?  
Nominate her/him for the Distinguished  
Alumni Award. Email [ssdavis@iupui.edu](mailto:ssdavis@iupui.edu)  
for more information.

Want more news? E-mail [LibArts@iupui.edu](mailto:LibArts@iupui.edu) to  
subscribe to the Alumni E-mail Newsletter!!



# Where There's Wellbeing...There's Peace



Linda Proffitt with a neighborhood friend and fellow avid gardener.

It's a warm, clear summer day, and **Linda Proffitt** (BA Political Science, 1991; MSW 1995) stands beside a picnic table in a community garden. Six bright-eyed teenagers crowd around the table.

The young people have just arrived in Indianapolis from their homes in southern Indiana and central Ohio. They are fresh from a night spent on cots at a local church, and are bearing brown-bag lunches made with help from the church ladies. They are volunteering in the garden for a week of digging, watering, weeding, and mowing as a means of learning to connect service and spirituality.

Linda, a vigorous woman with twinkling eyes and a way with words, says, "Where there's a vacuum you can fill it with something. And, that's what we've decided to do: fill it with a lot of love and beauty."

Linda is talking about the formerly overgrown, garbage-strewn, empty lot in a troubled city neighborhood where 784 of the 2000 homes are abandoned. It is now a Peace Garden, meant to "nurture a lifetime of respect for nature, wellness and fellowship within the community."

This garden, and one like it at a nearby retirement community, are part of Linda's longtime quest to

make the world a better place. Her journey has taken her across the globe to teach in Southeast Asia and then back to Indianapolis and to a new home in her childhood neighborhood—the very same area where the Peace Garden is located.

She is passionate about combining the international and local and acting for the common good through teaching and community service; and it all began at IUPUI. "**Dick Fredland** was the chair of the Department of Political Science, and he asked me to speak about the

American electoral system to a group of international visitors. Later, as a graduate student in social work, I worked with the same program that had brought those people to IUPUI. Beginning to think globally was really an exciting shift for me."

Ironically, going around the world, she says, taught her that she could do the most for others by coming back home to Indiana.

Linda's ideas about community-building and passion for helping people generated Global Peace Initiatives (GPI), a grassroots organization formalized in early 2006 and focused on instilling peace consciousness through the arts, education, and service. Most peace organizations emphasize conflict resolution; GPI is different, Linda explains. "We are focused on the essence of being at peace, starting within, and creating the environments that allow peace to exist."

In coordination with this mission, the Peace Gardens are meant to both benefit those who spend time in their creation and also to transform the experience of the people living close by. In addition, GPI hosts regular

Peace Hikes at sites ranging from Eagle Creek Park to the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, brings Peace Art to blighted neighborhoods, and will host multiple Peace Workshops during the 2007 Spirit and Place Civic Festival.

In the garden, the teenagers are hard at work, even going so far as to mow the lawn of a disabled homeowner; he comes out with grateful words and a smile on his face. Some young boys from the neighborhood "help" water the plants and carry tools; the teens accept their assistance with grace and affection. A woman from across the street comes by, and Linda asks about her children and offers to show her how to cook fresh green beans; she's only ever prepared vegetables from the can, and not surprisingly, doesn't think much of them.

It's each of these small acts of kindness and exchange that, as Linda says, "nurture the human spirit for all involved." Collectively, they instill a sense of inner peace that Linda hopes will stop conflict before it begins, providing "an ounce of prevention, rather than requiring a pound of cure."

Linda's future plans for GPI include the development of a themed neighborhood house with rooms featuring humanities disciplines as well as fine and culinary arts and, globally, a round-the-world peace walk.

She can't wait to get started, and we can't wait to see what emerges.

Find out more about Linda's organization  
<http://www.globalpeaceinitiatives.net/>



The Group Workcamps gardeners with Linda at the Tacoma community garden "door".

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Editor  
Gail M. Plater  
gplater@iupui.edu  
Managing Editor  
Genevieve Shaker  
gshaker@iupui.edu

# A Life of Olympic Proportions



Mike Furnish in front of a larger-than-life model of the new Special Olympics license plate.

"I'll pick you up at 6 o'clock. Have your bathing suit."

These words, spoken by an electronics distributing company employee one afternoon in 1973, sounded to co-worker **Mike Furnish** (BA Religious Studies, 1977; Certificate in Nonprofit Management, 2002) like an invitation for an evening of hanging out with friends. Instead, that Tuesday night, Mike found himself at Noble Center of Indiana, a nonprofit which creates opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives.

One evening spent in the pool under the watchful eye of his co-worker, a

part-time Noble lifeguard, became two evenings, then a weekly commitment, then an opportunity to coach a Special Olympics basketball team for Noble's clients. In the midst of the happy splashing and bouncing basketballs, Mike discovered his personal calling and life-long vocation.

"It imprinted on me," he says. From the parents who thanked him to the bond he felt with the adults in the pool and the men on those first basketball teams (from 7 members the first year to 58 members in year 3), Mike quickly made the kind of connection he was seeking in life and work.

Coming of age in the 1970s, Mike recalls with a grin, "We all wanted to save the world." After two years at Valparaiso University straight out of high school, he returned to his Speedway, Indianapolis, hometown, got a job, and took classes at IUPUI in the mornings. Majoring in Religious Studies, driving his parents crazy, and no closer to figuring out what to do with his life, Mike's path was a mystery to everyone including

himself. That is, until that fateful Tuesday afternoon.

At Noble Center (now Noble of Indiana) volunteer work led to his first "career job" as a houseparent at a group home for teenage boys. This assignment was followed by a series of professional positions through the 1980s.

Meanwhile, Mike continued his involvement with Special Olympics and found ways to connect the two organizations' programs Unified Sports, an innovative idea partnering those with disabilities and those without on competitive athletic teams. In 1990, the state headquarters of Special Olympics moved to Indianapolis. Mike was hired with the move and has been with Special Olympics since. In March of 2007, Mike became the organization's president and CEO.

"Special Olympics was designed to be a place where people could go and cheer for everybody," reports Mike, giving those who were usually picked last in sports and life the opportunity to come in first.

He says, "I've been lucky to live through an era when that has been a grand discovery. A person with a disability can live a productive life."

Today a world-wide organization headquartered in Washington DC serving some 2.5 million people in 165 countries, Special Olympics has undoubtedly affected the changing climate in relation to disability.

Still, challenges remain a reality for disabled people. Mike recalls leaving work one day to the sound of jeers from a passing truck in reaction to the Special Olympics signage on the building's façade. In that 10 seconds, he says, he was ready to turn around, walk back into the office, and get right back to work. "It's not a typical job."

As the organization's Indiana chief executive,

Mike's responsibilities span the spectrum of nonprofit management. From raising the 3 million dollars the organization needs to operate each year to strategizing about organizational structure, and from conceptualizing the new website and working with the board of directors, the job requires an ability to shift gears constantly as well as a great team of employees and volunteers to make it all work.

In Special Olympics Indiana, more than 12,000 Hoosiers participate and thousands more serve as volunteer coaches or volunteer their support for various fundraising drives. Events are held throughout the year culminating each June in Terre Haute with the Special Olympics Summer Games. Twenty-one Olympic-type sports including tennis, volleyball, skiing, soccer, and bowling enable athletes to compete from childhood through adulthood should they be so inclined and able.

Many are prone to stay involved, building communities of teammates and coaches that last a lifetime. At a recent event, a woman stood. She said, "I'm a child of Special Olympics." Mike got emotional immediately. That woman was 38 years old and had participated in Special Olympics since she was a 10-year old child.

Mike says there's nothing better than an annual Christmas card from **Chuck Hulén**, a member of one of the first basketball teams, or receiving congratulations from **James Strong**, another team member, upon his appointment as Special Olympics' chief in Indiana.

It should be no surprise, then, that when Mike sleeps at night, he dreams of people in sports uniforms laughing and competing and celebrating who they are. He's there with them, coaching the basketball team just like he did back in 1973.

Special Olympics, an international not-for-profit founded by **Eunice Kennedy Shriver** in 1968, provides year-round opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in sports training and competition. Inspired by sister **Rose Kennedy**, who had such a disability, Mrs. Shriver envisioned an organization to empower all who participated, enabling them to become fulfilled and productive members of their families and society.

Learn more about Special Olympics Indiana  
<http://www.specialolympicsindiana.org>

## Spirit & Place 2007: *Living Generously*

A festival of fun...  
a marketplace for ideas...  
an explosion of creativity...  
a place to practice  
conversation...and more!  
Don't miss the Spirit &  
Place Festival, which will  
celebrate Living Generously  
from November 2-18, 2007.

The Festival, managed  
by the Polis Center in the  
IU School of Liberal Arts at  
IUPUI, celebrates the arts,  
humanities, and religion in  
Central Indiana.

More than 130 national  
and local presenters—  
artists, musicians, poets,  
ensembles, scholars,  
community leaders,

authors, researchers, and  
storytellers—will illuminate  
how living generously  
matters in our cultures and  
communities. What  
constitutes a generous  
community? How do we  
welcome the “other” in our  
midst? What are the social,  
historical, religious, and  
cultural contexts for living  
generously?

Begin your exploration  
with the **Opening Night  
Celebration** at the  
Harrison Center for the Arts  
on Friday, November 2, 6-9  
p.m., which features  
numerous festivities to  
engage all your senses.  
The popular **Public  
Conversation** on Sunday,  
November 4, 2 p.m.,  
Clowes Memorial Hall, will  
feature **Patty Stonesifer**,

Indianapolis native  
and CEO of the Bill &  
Melinda Gates  
Foundation; **Dr.  
Bernice Johnson  
Reagon**, composer,  
scholar, and founder  
of the Grammy  
Award-winning  
ensemble “Sweet  
Honey in the Rock”;  
and **Nathan Dungan**,  
author and founder of  
*Share Save Spend*, which  
helps youth and adults  
understand the relationship  
between money and values.  
In the days that follow,  
choose from 71 events for  
all ages: workshops,  
concerts, intergenerational  
gatherings, worship servic-  
es, plays, poetry readings,  
panel discussions, and  
exhibits. Held in venues

throughout central Indiana,  
festival events will examine  
living generously from  
many perspectives.  
Immerse yourself in stories  
from teenagers and older  
adults, from veterans and  
incarcerated girls, from  
singers and poets, from  
sacred texts and local  
history, from people around  
the corner and people  
around the world.

