SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT
1999

The millennium ended with a bang for the School of Liberal Arts. 1999 marked an all-time high both in faculty and staff giving, and in external support. Support came from 1091 donors who made gifts totaling $3,326,421.54. This included gifts to the Center on Philanthropy of $1,618,686.70. The support of faculty, staff, friends, and alumni have, together, helped make the School of Liberal Arts a place to learn and grow and explore by providing student scholarships, operating and research funding, and enhancements to student life.

In December, Sam Masarachia endowed the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program. The program will eventually provide full tuition and fees for up to twelve students annually. The merit and need-based student scholarships are for students interested in working in labor unions, senior organizations, and similar advocacy groups. While pursuing a variety of majors, students in the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program will follow an approved course of study, including internships and community service. (see prior page for details)

Mrs. Mary O’Brien Gibson, a long time friend of our public history program endowed her second internship (the Cornelius O’Brien/Mary O’Brien Gibson Internship in Public History) with her gift of $225,000 in November. The Pearson Family Foundation, headed by Charls and Claire Pearson, has issued a challenge grant on behalf of the Peirce Edition Project, offering to match up to $22,500 in gifts made to the Project before June 2001. The $45,000 thus raised will be matched by the National Endowment for the Humanities 1:1, resulting in $90,000 additional funding for the Peirce Project. A gift from Robert and Mary Looker, of Carpinteria, California, continued their on-going support of Dr. Laurence Lampert’s work on Nietzsche with a significant grant allowing him to spend the current academic year in research and writing. Gifts have made possible events that enrich the intellectual experience for students, faculty and community like the Rufus Reiberg Creative Reading Series (see page 11 for details), the First Annual John Barlow Lecture in the Humanities, 1999 Giving to the Liberal Arts: and the Eleventh Annual Joseph Taylor Symposium. The School would be a different and less vibrant place without the support of Sam Masarachia, Mrs. Gibson, the Pearson Family, the Lookers, and other donors like them.

Gifts to the School of Liberal Arts come in many forms. Over the years, the school has received a variety of gifts-in-kind, real estate, appreciated stocks, trusts and bequests. Outright gifts made through the Annual Fund address immediate opportunities and make a huge difference, while deferred or planned gifts provide for important long-term needs. Because the School of Liberal Arts receives less than 30% of its budget from the state, gifts from alumni, friends, faculty and staff partner with student tuition and grants to provide the other 70% necessary to run the school.

Gifts to the School of Liberal Arts are eligible for federal and state tax deductions as allowed by law. In Indiana, the Indiana State Tax Credit will apply If you would like information on how you can make a difference, either with an outright gift, or one made through any of the planned giving instruments available, please contact the Office of Development and External Affairs, (317) 278-1839.
Sam Masarachia: A Life Long Passion for Philanthropy

Sam Masarachia has been a union and community advocate throughout his life. The second of eight children born to parents who married after immigrating to America from Sicily in the 1890s, Masarachia quit high school to help provide for the family after they moved to Indianapolis. Masarachia began work at an Indianapolis saw manufacturing plant in 1923 at age 17. In 1937, he helped organize a union that successfully negotiated a pay raise, paid holidays, vacations, and insurance coverage for the employees. In 1941, Masarachia was appointed as a United Steelworkers staff representative, a position he maintained until his retirement in 1968.

For 27 years he organized, negotiated, and arbitrated on the behalf of workers, interrupted only for a stint in the army during World War II. As a soldier Sam Masarachia earned four bronze stars in combat.

As a long-time union leader and advocate for senior citizens, Mr. Masarachia has improved the quality of life for countless members of this community. A labor service, and senior citizen activist throughout his adult life, Mr. Masarachia is a founding member of several organizations including the Fountain Square Senior Citizens Center, now known as the Southeast Senior Citizens Center, and the 16,000 member United Senior Action, Indiana’s premier independent senior advocacy organization. He also served on the first board of the Indianapolis Task Force on Aging, the forerunner of the Central Indiana Council on Aging.

Recently, his attention turned toward a different part of the community. I want to do something for young people,” noted Sam in an interview.

The ninety-three-year-old philanthropist decided to offer others the chance to gain the formal education he never received. “I want to give young people today the chance I never had for a college education.” He approached Elizabeth Hogan, a volunteer at the Southeast Senior Citizens Center and a long-time employee and associate faculty member at IUPUI, to discuss his idea. Knowing Sam’s passion for labor concerns, Elizabeth contacted James Wallihan, Professor of Political Science and labor specialist in the School of Liberal Arts. Sam, Elizabeth and Jim met. Sam and Jim connected immediately.

Sam charged Professor Wallihan with finding the proper “home” for the type of scholarship program he had in mind.

The size of the gift Sam was considering ensured that this would be no ordinary scholarship. Rather, it was sufficiently substantial that the idea of an endowed scholarship program, with a curricular focus, a community service component, and program-specific activities, was born. The home would be the School of Liberal Arts, with its broad offerings and interdisciplinary nature. Following a meeting with Dean Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr., Director of Development Gail Plater and other interested parties, Sam endowed a merit and need-based student scholarship in the School of Liberal Arts for students interested in working in labor unions, senior organizations, and similar advocacy groups. While pursuing a variety of majors, students in the Sam Masarachia Scholars Program will follow an approved course of study, including internships and community service. Eventually, a cohort of twelve or more students will form a lasting tribute to the effective citizenship and leadership of Sam Masarachia.

The first scholarships will be awarded for the Fall 2001 semester. Professor Wallihan, the chair of the Sam Masarachia Scholars advisory board, and seven to nine other community and university members will guide the program.

With his gift to the School of Liberal Arts Sam Masarachia will continue to impact the lives of others by making the dream of a college education into a reality for many young people.
The Rufus Reiberg Creative Reading Series: Celebrating the Spoken Word

In 1997-98, the IUPUI English Department launched a series of readings celebrating the spoken word. Named for the late chair of that Department, the Rufus Reiberg Fund has given friends of creative writing the opportunity to hear outstanding poetry, fiction, and literary memoir performed aloud and to talk with established writers about their work. All events take place in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium of the IUPUI Library and are free and open to the public.

Directed by English Department faculty Karen Kovacik, the Fall 1999 series opened on September 9 with a fiction reading by IUPUI alumnus Keith Banner (photo at top), who performed pieces from The Life I Lead his novel recently published by Knopf. In October poets Maggie Anderson (second photo from top) and David Hassler (third photo from top), authors of the anthology Learning by Heart: Contemporary American Poetry About Schooling gave an entertaining reading in tandem and led IUPUI University College students in writing poems about schooling, too. The final event for Fall 1999, sponsored in conjunction with the Spirit and Place Festival, featured Sister Helen Prejean (fourth photo from top), author of Dead Man Walking. To a standing-room-only crowd in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium, Prejean told the story of how she came to be a spiritual director for men on death row and an activist working to end capital punishment.

The Spring 2000 Reiberg Series opened with an audio-visual performance by distinguished Language poet Susan Howe. Co-sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts’ Peirce Edition Project, Howe’s reading dramatized the life of American philosopher and semiotician, Charles Sanders Peirce, showing slides of his letters, drawings, and photos. In conjunction with International Women’s Day, on March 8, African-American poet Allison Joseph read from her books Soul Train and In Every Seam, and storytellers, poets, and dancers from the Indianapolis community contributed their talents to a celebration of women’s creativity. Poet and translator Daniel Bourne also gave a powerful reading on March 22, and the season concluded with poet and playwright Adam David Miller on Tuesday, April 11.

For more information or to join the Rufus Reiberg Creative Reading Series mailing list please contact Karen Kovacik at 317-274-9831 or kkovacik@iupui.edu.
A Message from the Dean

A liberal arts education has many benefits. These include a facility with language and analytical thinking that is prized by all societies. In addition, liberal arts graduates gain an understanding of the celebration of life through literature and language as well as a critical appreciation for the complexities of human nature and societies. No other degree offers better preparation for a productive, distinguished, and valued life.

During my first two years as Dean of Liberal Arts, I met many of our community’s leaders. I am impressed by how many government, business, and not-for-profit organizations have liberal arts graduates in leadership roles. But this is not surprising. Those who study the liberal arts sharpen their abilities to write and speak clearly and effectively, to listen and to think critically and positively, and to appreciate and understand the values and viewpoints of different cultures. Indeed, all the recent studies of the characteristics most needed for responsible citizenship and for an effective workforce have indicated that the very attributes of a liberal arts education are in great demand.

Even so, the challenges for liberal arts are clear. Federal and state funds are a decreasing percentage of the support needed to maintain our programs. No one wishes to see a future generation without a sense of history, without the ability to reason well or to convey thoughts in a clear and convincing manner. Yet, there has not been a national call to support urban universities or the requisite programs that will assure the education of future generations. Indeed, the support for urban universities and liberal arts falls more and more on local leadership. And I am pleased to say that many people are rising to the occasion, as this publication recognizes.

The community support for our School of Liberal Arts is remarkable. We finished a banner year in 1999 with more than three million dollars in gifts from 1,091 donors. As a result, students will have the opportunity for education they would not have otherwise had, and faculty will be able to advance their scholarship to the benefit of our students. Yet, there is more to be done.

All universities must foster the best relationships between students and faculty, making possible the transmission of knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next. In order to achieve this, we will work in the coming years to increase student scholarships, the opportunities for student research and learning, and the advances of knowledge through faculty scholarship and teaching.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Herman J. Saatkamp, Jr.
Dean, School of Liberal Arts