New Horizons
IUPUI is making its mark worldwide

Celebrating 40 Years:
From Idea to Impact

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE INSIDE
features

news
From the sciences and the arts to health care, IUPUI students, faculty, researchers and staff are making their presence felt on the world around them.

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Benefactors like Gene and Marilyn Glick and the late Jesse and Beulah Cox are opening doors of eye care and educational opportunity.

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Athletes from China to Uganda are giving the IUPUI intercollegiate athletics an international flavor and creating fans on the far side of the globe.

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Graduates from the IUPUI-based School of Education are expanding horizons for students from both far (the Caribbean nation of Honduras) and near (the heart of Indianapolis).

Welcome to IUPUI Magazine, the alumni publication celebrating the men and women whose careers and accomplishments highlight the best our campus has to offer. This Winter ‘09 issue features not only their stories and photos, but in many cases their voices and personalities through video interviews that are available through the following Web site: http://magazine.iupui.edu. And this issue includes a special bonus: a pullout magazine commemorating IUPUI’s 40th birthday, celebrating four decades of impact.

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Two world-renowned universities one dynamic campus
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It hasn’t taken Sapna Deo long to make her mark on the IUPUI campus or the Purdue School of Science — or on the world of chemistry and research expertise, for that matter. The assistant chemistry professor was one of the roughly 30 most recent recipients of the National Science Foundation’s “Early Career Award,” honoring excellence in the laboratory and the classroom.

Deo, a native of Mumbai, India, is one of the rapidly growing number of international faculty, staff and students giving the IUPUI campus a more cosmopolitan feel. She has been featured on the cover of the prestigious journal Analytical Chemistry and is a published author in her field.

Her research team’s work is already opening new avenues of inquiry in dealing with disease and combating the threat of biowarfare, since her work focuses on identifying the RNA markers that exist in those divergent fields.

Senior Kellen Knowles, one of IUPUI’s “Top 100 Students” last spring, flew to Washington, D.C. this fall to be part of an American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) photo shoot promoting the organization’s new “Engineering Go For It” Web site.

Knowles, a biomedical engineering major in the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, is a Bepko Scholar and has been a regular on the dean’s list throughout his IUPUI career.

The native of Jamaica — one of the campus’s record number of international students — has taken full advantage of IUPUI’s growing interdisciplinary nature, working as an undergraduate in numerous research projects under the guidance of Dr. Jack Windsor of the IU School of Dentistry.

Dentistry is one of the fields that Knowles considered as a career path, and one of many compatible with the biomedical engineering program.
THE ‘HOLE’ TRUTH …

Few things say as much about our culture as the food we eat, according to the new book *Glazed America: A History of the Doughnut* by IUPUI anthropologist Paul R. Mullins (featured in *IUPUI Magazine* in 2004). Mullins explores the development of America’s consumer culture through our relationship with the doughnut, beloved by many, a symbol of temptation and unhealthiness to others.

Sometime in prehistory someone dropped flour into oil and the ancestor of the doughnut was born. Since that time every culture has fried flour and many have added something sweet to the dough.

Mullins traces the arrival of the modern doughnut to American shores to the early 18th century when the Dutch pastry, olykoek, began to appear in New York and other cities. The first cookbook mentioning doughnuts was an 1803 English volume that included doughnuts in an appendix of American recipes. By the mid-19th century the doughnut looked and tasted like today’s doughnut and was viewed as a thoroughly American food.

Like the automobile, automation came to the doughnut in the early 20th century. During the 1920s machines began to make doughnuts in bulk — producing tons and tons of fragrant doughnuts at a low cost to consumers. Unlike bagels, whose manufacture was closely controlled by unions, the mass-produced doughnut spread rapidly across the U.S., becoming the staple of mom-and-pop shops, regional outlets and national doughnut chains (Krispy Kreme opened in 1937 and Dunkin Donuts in 1950).

Over the past quarter-century doughnuts have survived onslaughts from competing foods, including the bagel and muffin, and from anti-carbohydrate diets. The most damaging attack has come from the health community concerned about the food’s contribution to the nation’s rising obesity rates. Yet doughnuts remain popular and doughnut chains are expanding.

Doughnuts have always elicited strong feelings among Americans. “Americans don’t sit on the fence — they either love doughnuts or they don’t. You just can’t say the same thing about lettuce or tomatoes or salt, all of which also have interesting cultural symbolism,” says Mullins.
LIFE’S CHANGING DIRECTIONS …

Art directors in advertising firms try to change people’s lives by changing their minds, but that wasn’t enough for Malene Abell. Intrigued by the prospect of helping people with brain injuries, she wanted to become a clinical neuropsychologist, despite the daunting prospect of starting a new college career from scratch. Bolstered by support from IUPUI faculty member Drew Appleby of the Purdue School of Science, Malene left advertising behind.

Like a duck to water, she took to her new path, eventually finding herself studying the early recovery phase of patients with brain injuries, thanks to an undergraduate research fellowship with the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI). Malene’s research project for her senior thesis has won awards, been presented at the Mayo Clinic and to the neurosurgical team at Methodist Hospital, and will take her to conferences in Toronto and Miami this fall. More importantly, it has helped RHI improve patient care through more focused screenings of patients and their medication schedules.

eBay payoff

A $1,500 investment in an eBay purchase is paying big research dividends for the IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Science’s physical therapy department. Faculty member STUART J. WARREN and the department found a specialized scanner on eBay that has helped the school in a variety of research projects valued at more than $1 million. The scanner, which is a key tool in a new clinical lab in the department, is helping on projects ranging from NASA to pharmaceutical companies.

Portrait of success

The career of ANGELA BARRON McBRIE, dean emeritus of the IU School Nursing, was celebrated this fall when her portrait — painted by Herron School of Art & Design graduate Mark Dillman — was unveiled at the Indiana Historical Society on the Downtown Canal. McBride’s career achievements helped advance the field of nursing both academically and in practice.

Honor for career courage

LARRY ZIMMERMAN of the IU School of Liberal Arts earned the Peter J. Ucko Memorial Award earlier this year from the World Archaeological Congress for his 1978 decision to rebury Native American human remains — an act then considered academic suicide. The anthropologist/museum studies professor is one of IUPUI’s public scholars of civic engagement and holds a dual appointment to the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in White River State Park, just south of the campus.
ENGAGING THE POWER OF HOPE

Modern medical research and high-powered technology are changing the face of healthcare, but for Joan Haase, there is still a place for a low-tech approach that empowers the human spirit by engaging hope and spirituality.

Haase is internationally recognized for her research into how children, adolescents, young adults and their families adjust to dealing with cancer and other chronic illnesses, building on the innate resilience of human nature.

“We’ve long known that one of the most important tools to fight cancer and other diseases is the human spirit,” says Haase. “What we’re trying to do is find the best way to use not only the spirit of the child — or the person — with the disease, but those around them, who make up their support group.”

Her adolescent resilience model (ARM for short) is widely used around the world by professionals who help youngsters and their families cope with both the physical and mental stress caused by diseases like cancer.

Haase is the Emily Holmquist Professor in Pediatric Oncology Nursing in the IU School of Nursing at IUPUI, an honor named for the former dean of the IU School of Nursing.

She has won numerous awards for her work, including the 2008 Connie Henke Yarbro Excellence in Cancer Nursing Mentorship Award (from the Oncology Nursing Society) and the 2007 Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award (from the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing).
IUPUI is one of 70 “up-and-coming schools” in the United States that everyone should be watching, says U.S. News & World Report. For its 2008 college rankings, the national magazine asked college presidents and administrators to identify schools that have made “striking improvements or innovations” for placement on the up-and-coming schools list. According to the magazine, IUPUI and the other institutions are “firmly focused on improving the job they’re doing today — at least in the judgment of their peers.”

Chancellor Charles R. Bantz says the magazine’s report reinforces what many on his campus and elsewhere already know.

“IUPUI is a school to watch because the faculty focus on transforming lives through learning,” Bantz says. “The willingness to be creative with teaching strategies, to be innovative in research and to engage the community in finding solutions creates a cascade of impact that attracts attention and influences opinion-makers.”

IUPUI was recognized for having three outstanding programs that are commonly linked to student success: first-year experience, learning communities and service learning.

Enrollment milestone
For the first time in its four-decade history, IUPUI’s enrollment figures topped the 30,000 mark this past fall, and included students from all 50 states and a record 1,300-plus international students hailing from 122 countries. According to Rebecca Porter, IUPUI’s executive director of enrollment services, IUPUI’s “growth in reputation as an urban research campus” helped push upward not just the number but the quality of students. In all, the average SAT score for IUPUI students increased by 15 points.

30,000+
Cycling for a cause

“Trick or treat” became a trek for treatment this past Halloween for IUPUI oncologist and researcher Rafat Abonour of the IU Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer Center, part of his third annual “Miles for Myeloma” fund-raising effort.

Abonour, the associate dean of clinical research at the IU School of Medicine, launched this year’s effort with a 60-mile midnight run from the IUPUI campus to IU’s Memorial Stadium on Halloween, then led a bicycling contingent back to the Simon Center to help him in his drive to top the $1 million mark in money raised to combat the incurable but treatable blood cancer. In his first two years, Abonour raised nearly $700,000 for researchers at the cancer center.

A human tunnel greeted the researcher at the football stadium prior to the IU-Central Michigan football game, then again on Sunday when he led a pack of cyclists back onto the campus.

VIDEO VICTORS

IUPUI underclassmen Robin Licht, Erik Osburn and Mariah White used their video skills to capture the top prize in this fall’s “Celebrate IU” student video contest.

The three collaborated on the winning entry out of more than 50 entered in the contest, which highlighted the favorite aspect of IU and its campuses for each student (or group of students).

Light, Osburn and White built their video upon a rap music foundation that highlighted IUPUI’s status as one of America’s top urban campuses. It featured IU-related images and themes, as well as successful IU alumni such as astronaut David Wolf and actor Kevin Kline.

Graduate student Prathik Gadde made it an IUPUI sweep of the two spots with his second-place video “I Love IU,” based on the cultures and traditions of IU’s eight campuses.
Olympic hero returns

Record-setting Olympic standout MICHAEL PHELPS will head a star-studded field back to the Natatorium at IUPUI this summer during the 2009 USA Swimming Conoco-Phillips National Championships and World Championship Trials. Phelps, who won a record eight gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and numerous other Olympic medal winners and future hopefuls will compete July 7-11 in the same pool that has hosted 11 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Sports journalism

Former Indianapolis Star editor TIM FRANKLIN is heading up the IU School of Journalism’s new sports journalism program, which aims to become one of the leading such efforts in the country. Franklin will hold the Louis A. Weil, Jr. Endowed Chair and direct a program that will be based at IUPUI.

Making a Difference

“Giving back” isn’t just part of Marty Posch’s job at IUPUI — it’s his passion outside the office, too. The assistant director of the Office of Community Relations spends his workdays overseeing the campus’s commitment to civic engagement. He oversees the IUPUI-hosted Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure, the “Jam the Jaguars Bus” food drive, the “Backpack Attack” school supplies drive, and IUPUI’s involvement in community events like the United Way Day of Caring and Indiana Black Expo.

But his desire to make Indianapolis an even better place to live goes further: Posch and three fellow IUPUI students in the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs master’s program have launched a new nonprofit organization called Giving Sum to provide financial support, advocacy and hands-on expertise for groups in need of a helping hand.

Those efforts earned Posch the 2008 Edna B. Lacy Community Service Award for outstanding civic accomplishments and made him the 2008 United Way of Central Indiana Volunteer of the Year.

For more on Giving Sum, visit www.givingsum.org.

To watch the first-place entry, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cg1qP7iBiMQ

To see Gadde’s entry, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5Ug_jjc-7g
A VISION OF HOPE

Glick Foundation launches new center

A clear vision of the future is a little bit closer for Hoosiers after groundbreaking ceremonies this past fall for the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute on the IUPUI campus.

The center was launched thanks to a $30 million gift from the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Family Foundation and will be the home of the department of ophthalmology in the IU School of Medicine, based at IUPUI.

The Glick Center, expected to be open for patients by the summer of 2010, will give ophthalmology a cutting-edge home for vision care. The four-story, 70,000-square-foot building will be built in front of Coleman Hall on Michigan Street near the west end of the IUPUI campus. Nearly half of the building will be dedicated to space for research.

The new center will be increasingly vital to the future of Indiana and its aging population, according to the head of the department.

“The number of people suffering from vision loss will double over the next five years as our population ages,” says Robert D. Yee, department chair and the Merrill Grayson Professor of Ophthalmology. “This new building, combining research, patient care and education, will be an important resource for people in central Indiana and beyond. Gene and Marilyn Glick will touch the lives of thousands of people of all ages with their generous gift to preserve sight.”

The Glick Foundation gift included $10 million to the medical school for an endowment to advance research in eye diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and other eye diseases of aging, as well as eye diseases in children.

“It is my hope that some day researchers will find a way to prevent or cure glaucoma, macular degeneration and other diseases that
rob us of our sight,” says Marilyn Glick. “My dream is that as a result of our gift, major breakthroughs will be made at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Eye Institute of the Indiana University School of Medicine.”

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE EUGENE AND MARILYN GLICK EYE INSTITUTE AND THE IU DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AT THE IU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, SEE WWW.IUEYE.IU.EDU/.

IUPUI on Forbes.com list
IUPUI ranked among the top 15 percent of America’s best colleges this year on the first annual Forbes.com list honoring schools for the quality of education they provide and how much their students achieve.

The new ranking system is an attempt by Forbes.com to put itself in a student’s shoes and evaluate the quality of faculty, ability to help students achieve career success, cost and value of the education received, etc.

Students strongly prefer smaller schools to big ones, according to Forbes.com. Michael Patchner, the IUPUI-based dean of the IU School of Social Work, wasn’t surprised by the outcome. “Even though we are a large campus, people get a high-quality education in a small-school environment where they get to know the faculty members,” Patchner said in describing IUPUI for Forbes.com. “We’re right downtown. Students are able to have a social life and they’re able to have an academic life with internships in the city.”

Campus visitors
Frances Mayes, author of the renowned novels Under the Tuscan Sun and A Year In the World, gave the first Efroymson Lecture on International Art, Culture and Heritage at the Campus Center, sponsored by the IU School of Physical Education and Tourism, Conventions and Event Management … Renowned medical researcher Dr. Charles A. Dinarello of the University of Colorado School of Medicine received the 2008 Steven C. Beering Award for Outstanding Achievement in Biomedical Science this past fall from the IU School of Medicine. He also delivered the annual Beering Lecture, part of the annual celebration of the former dean of the IU School of Medicine and president of Purdue University.

On the move …
Eugene R. Tempel, the former executive director of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University headquartered at IUPUI, has become president of the Indiana University Foundation. Patrick M. Rooney, the director of research at the Center, is the interim executive director. Tempel led the Center from September 1997 until the end of last August. He played an integral role in envisioning and founding it in 1987 and was involved in its development throughout its 20-year history. He previously served as vice chancellor for external affairs at IUPUI and vice president of the Foundation from 1985-89.
Impact

Jesse H. and Beulah Chanley Cox Scholarship program

IT’S LIKE HE KNEW ME …

Sometimes, the people you never meet can help shape your life. For IUPUI senior Sarah Sexson, Jesse and Beulah Cox will always hold a special place in her heart, whenever she ponders the role they played in her pursuit of a career in child and family therapy. Sarah is just one of the IU Bloomington and IUPUI students whose life has been altered by the vision and passion of the couple (Jesse died in May 2008, his wife in 1999), through the Jesse H. and Beulah Chanley Cox Scholarship program.

Cox scholarships are reserved for students who maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.0 every semester, and work to earn at least one-quarter the cost of their education. The scholarship program “is about balancing work and school and life,” says Sarah, who delivers pizzas 25 hours a week, carries 16 hours of classes and works 20 hours a week as an intern at Family Works, Inc., a home-based family counseling agency in Indianapolis. “It all keeps me busy,” she laughs, “but the scholarship takes off a lot of the pressure to pay for college.”

Sarah never met either Jesse or Beulah Cox; the Cox Scholars were scheduled to meet him last spring at his home in Carmel, but he became ill and died a few weeks later. All she could do was attend Cox’s funeral and write his family a letter of appreciation. “I really wanted to tell him how much his dream has meant to me,” she says. “The Cox program is so personal — it’s like he knew me and the other students, knew how much it means to us to have someone understand how hard it is to work and study.”

Sarah planned to become a teacher and before college spent three years as a preschool teacher in an Indianapolis daycare center, working with children ages 2 and 3. She had to get a Child Development Associate credential from Ivy Tech during that time, and a class on child abuse and neglect “opened my eyes to what I was seeing all the time. It made me feel helpless.”

She enrolled at IUPUI in 2005, and her increasing interest in dealing with the root causes of what she had experienced drew her to the IU School of Social Work at IUPUI. She’s never regretted the decision, which will include graduate school, also at IUPUI.

“This is what I want to do with my life,” says the 24-year-old student. “It’s a calling. There are so many career paths within social work, and so many internships and service learning opportunities to see what the ‘real world’ is like.”

Those practical experiences make IUPUI a special place for students in all schools, not just social work.

“At a lot of campuses, college is a stepping stone, a place between Mom and Dad’s house and your career,” Sarah says. “But at IUPUI, we have so many choices that it’s like we’re already making the transition. It feels like we’re way ahead when we graduate.”

FOR MORE, VISIT: COXSCHOLARS.INDIANA.EDU
Investing in science education is good business.

Indianapolis Power & Light Company (IPL) is committed to bettering the communities it serves. Two of IPL’s top priorities are the environment and education, which make its partnership with the Discovering Science of the Environment program at IUPUI a perfect fit. Combining IPL’s support and IUPUI’s environmental education expertise enhances science education for middle school students in nine Central Indiana counties. So even if they don’t all grow up to be scientists, they’ll be ready as environmental caretakers.

IPL and IUPUI: Partners in powering a better Indiana.
Once upon a time, people wondered, “What in the world is IUPUI.” These days, the better question is, “where in the world is IUPUI.” And increasingly, the answer: as close as next door, and as far as the other side of the planet.

The campus is determined to make an impact on the 21st century world, forging partnerships with universities in such diverse lands as Kenya (Moi University in Eldoret), Mexico (Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo) and China (Sun-Yat Sen University in Guangzhou). Those relationships expand horizons for IUPUI students and faculty, and perhaps just as importantly, help Indiana build a stronger future in the global economy.

Such relationships are the heart of IU President Michael McRobbie’s plan to establish Indiana University as a global force, with IUPUI playing a pivotal role through exchange programs for teachers and students, study-abroad opportunities, research partnerships, service learning efforts and more — much more!

Career essential
To Caitlin Dugdale, a second-year student in the IU School of Medicine, international experiences are an essential part of college life. She traveled as an IU undergrad in Bloomington, and again as part of the family medicine department’s service projects in Honduras early in her graduate school career.

“It shapes how I view the world, and perhaps more importantly, how I view my place in it,” says Dugdale. “These experiences have caused me to think of folks I meet in distant lands as neighbors and friends, rather than exotic strangers in National Geographic.”

Juhanna Rogers, the director of IUPUI’s Hermano a Hermano program, believes the ability to experience other people, other places and other cultures firsthand gives new meaning to the lessons being learned.

“One day, you read about the history of enslavement in the Caribbean, and the next afternoon you are sitting in the living room of a descendant of a freed African-American...
slave,” says Rogers of the program, in which IUPUI students spend 10 days each spring gaining real-world experience in the Dominican Republic.

For many IUPUI students, international travel revolves around service learning opportunities. For others, it’s an international internship or a chance to put their lessons into action.

“Medical students complete rounds overseas,” says Stephanie Leslie, the director of Study Abroad, part of the Office of International Affairs at IUPUI. “Business students work as consultants. Anthropology students analyze other cultures.” The possibilities are virtually limitless.

For some students, like 2008 graduate Devika Bellamy, the impact is more personal.

“I had a chance to work with international students as a mentor, and I wound up learning more than they did,” she laughs. “They have so many things to share with us, and they are so eager to learn from our culture.”

Her experience intensified one of her own desires: to join the Peace Corps. “I want to just immerse myself in another culture, and helping others at the same time seemed like a good way to do that,” Bellamy says.

City gains, too

The impact of IUPUI’s international opportunities isn’t limited to students.

To Susan Sutton, the associate vice chancellor of international affairs, Indianapolis itself derives benefits.

“IUPUI is playing a key role in welcoming new immigrants, and assisting the city in understanding their needs and backgrounds,” says Sutton. In addition, “the international expertise and networks IUPUI offers are a critical resource for the businesses, organizations and government agencies engaged in international work.”
The partnerships with universities like Moi, Hidalgo and Sun-Yat Sen have energized IUPUI faculty and researchers, too.

“The boundaries of our intellectual world do not stop at the edge of the campus, or even the border of the state,” says Sutton, who says IUPUI-based experts are excited about the opportunity to join “international networks of research and learning. Faculty who never saw themselves as internationally engaged now are collaborating with colleagues abroad.”

The benefits of cross-cultural experiences go both ways, according to those who have come to IUPUI from abroad. Students and faculty from abroad are finding the campus a warm and inviting place.

“Every student you pass, you see a smile or hear a “hello.” It makes your day,” says Perez Agaba (feature, page 32), a freshman in the Purdue School of Engineering and Technology and a native of the African nation of Uganda. “I’ve met people from so many more backgrounds than I ever expected. The diversity here gives you experiences with people and cultures you’ve never imagined.”

Angeles Martínez Mier (feature, page 21) is a native of Mexico and an IU School of Dentistry faculty researcher who has been both a student and faculty member at IUPUI. Indianapolis has “changed in so many ways since I first came here,” she says.

“It has always been a friendly place,” Martinez Mier adds. “But the food and the culture and all the new people coming here are making Indianapolis a truly international city.”

Thinking about the campus as “international IUPUI” may sound a little like an airport, but the departures and arrivals in this venue are anything but flights of fancy: they are real relationships becoming a strong foundation.

And for students like Dugdale and Agaba — people from very different worlds — education in another country is a life-altering experience.

“When students like me go on trips to places like Honduras, for study abroad or for service work, we might not be able to “change the world,” but the world sure changes us!” says Dugdale.

“The world is not an island,” adds Agaba. “Those friends we make here will help us have a better, richer life.”

The partnerships with universities like Moi, Hidalgo and Sun-Yat Sen have energized IUPUI faculty and researchers, too.

Getting to know international students as a mentor and campus guide helped Devika Bellamy (bottom right) fan the flames of her passion for a career in the Peace Corps. Bellamy, whose father is from the Caribbean, is a well-traveled person less than a year after graduation. But her experiences with other cultures while at IUPUI has her dreaming of plunging head-first into life in other lands.

To learn more about the world of international affairs at IUPUI, visit the office of international affairs at: http://www.iupui.edu/~oia/.
TOUR OF DUTY

For most people, a career in tourism conjures up visions of sandy beaches, warm days and cooling breezes, and lots of action.

By Ric Burrous

Kelsey Rigdon got it all — sort of. The 2006 graduate from the IU School of Physical Education & Tourism Management at IUPUI spent her tour with the United Service Organization — better known as the USO — with plenty of sand (from the desert surrounding her base in Kuwait’s Camp Buehring), warm days (140 degrees in the summer), cool nights (40 degrees in winter), breezes (otherwise known as sandstorms) and plenty of action (the war in Iraq) to fill her six-month stay in the Middle East.

Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, the 26-year-old from Sullivan High School in west central Indiana considered her tour in Kuwait, Dubai and Iraq “a privilege,” and “a good way to bring a bit of home back to soldiers who keep us safe.”
And now she’s back in the Middle East, this time working for Central Texas College (CTC) as part of the first wave of men and women who will coordinate for-credit courses for soldiers seeking to turn their free time in Iraq into the next step on the road to a college degree.

**Test of skills**

Rigdon believes her USO stint provided an excellent test for the skills she picked up in the tourism, conventions and event management program at IUPUI.

As the program manager for the USO at Camp Buehring, 10 miles from Iraq, “my main duty was to plan special activities for the troops to take their mind off the reality of war,” she recalls. “We had small Wii tournaments all the way up to huge Halloween and Christmas festivals.”

The 26-year-old from Sullivan High School in west central Indiana had other duties that few college grads of any age can claim: she looked after more than a few famous faces during her tour, such as singers Kid Rock, Jessica Simpson, Third Day and the Pussycat Dolls; actors Scarlett Johansson and Robin Williams; and athletes like Tour de France champ Lance Armstrong and numerous NFL players.

“It’s fun working with stars like those, but it’s not all that glamorous,” Rigdon chuckles. “Everybody dresses pretty casually — we were in the desert, after all!”

Rigdon’s ability to bring a touch of home to those stationed far from family and friends doesn’t surprise Amanda Cecil, one of Kelsey’s teachers and faculty mentors at IUPUI.

“Kelsey thrives on adventure and the opportunity to bring happiness or enjoyment to others,” Cecil says. “She is fully aware of what will be expected and the conditions she will have to overcome, and she will conquer these obstacles with humor, grace and determination.”

Those “conditions” and “obstacles” tested one of the school’s more valuable — and practical — lessons: learn to adjust.

“On any given day we knew we might run out of power or water, so I had to be extremely flexible with my events,” Rigdon laughs.

**Positive outlook**

Cecil marvels at Rigdon’s ability to impact others despite trying circumstances.

“Kelsey has a unique outlook on life, and always brings a positive perspective to every situation,” Cecil adds. “She is not only bright, but creative and innovative.”

Susan Benko, another member of the tourism faculty, isn’t surprised Rigdon handled the demands of working in a war zone.

“I have seen her on good days and even on a rare bad day,” says Benko. “When the going gets tough, that’s when Kelsey really ‘gets going.’ ”

Her friends and teachers believe that her core strength is based on empathy for others, a trait that is invaluable in a war zone where loss is never far away. Rigdon knows loss: her father, Keith, died of brain cancer when she was a high school freshman; and Kory, one of her two older brothers, was born with cerebral palsy and passed away two years after their father.

That strength was tested again when one of her closest friends on the base was killed in a traffic accident that occurred when he hit a semi stalled in the dark of night without hazard lights. Some Kuwaitis, it seems, don’t use lights in the belief that it improves gas mileage.

Kelsey credits her family for being able to handle such situations, as well as being a driving influence in her life.

“My parents were very active in our church in Sullivan, and helped me grow in my walk with Christ,” says Rigdon. “They always taught me to follow my dreams.”

From her father, a radio sport commentator, Kelsey “inherited the gift of gab,” while...
Her mother, Twila, “gave me my independence. She has a love for party planning and making every party special.” The latter gift came in handy in her USO assignments.

“Kelsey has never been shy about going after what she wants, and she loves working with others,” says Twila Rigdon. “She has a knack about helping people feel good and enjoy themselves.”

Fan of tourism program
Rigdon is an unabashed fan of her school and the tourism program, considering many of her faculty friends as well as teachers and mentors. She credits Cecil with offering advice on financial aid options that helped keep Rigdon on track to graduate, and guidance in the usual problems all students face. And she considers program chair Sotiris Hij-Avgoustis “an exceptional teacher — he put up with all kinds of questions from me in the classes I took from him!”

Her international horizons expanded while at IUPUI, too. She and other tourism students took a Mediterranean Sea cruise to the Greek Isles one spring, and also traveled to Iceland for study, as well.

“I had an amazing spring break with both Amanda and Sotiris when I went with the cruise class to Greece,” Rigdon says. “We all learned so much and got exposed to such a different culture. That experience is invaluable in our career.”

In the USO, Rigdon found herself regularly using the skills she learned in the IU School of Physical Education and Tourism, Convention and Event Management. And that is continuing in her new job, which has her back in Iraq working for Central Texas College.
She and her fellow physical education and tourism students also gained practical knowledge from a trip to another IUPUI and Indiana University asset: Camp Brosius in Wisconsin.

“The tourism students learned how to cater events and plan menus and other hands-on things, while the phys ed students learned how to be creative in activities,” says Rigdon of the lakeside camp. “It’s a wonderful resource for the school to have — fun, but definitely educational, too.”

She’s excited about her newest challenge with CTC, since one of the recurring themes she heard from soldiers during her USO tour was their desire to further their education.

“Now I’ll have a chance to help them do that,” she says. “I’ll have to find people to teach the courses, or help the soldiers find online courses that fit their needs. But it’s something they really want and really believe in, and it’s a great feeling to help them achieve those goals.”

Her travels and her career experiences make her a passionate advocate of world travel.

“Everyone should go overseas at least once in his or her lifetime,” she believes. “It’s important to walk in someone else’s shoes every once in a while. I have lived and worked in places like Iceland, Greece, Japan, Dubai, Kuwait and Iraq, and the common thread we all share is this: we are all human and trying to develop a better world for our children than the one we live in now.”

Features

People who want to support U.S. troops can make a donation to the USO by going to the Web site www.uso.org and clicking “donate.”
As vice president of Boyle Construction Management, Inc., Allen Galloway knows the building business. But Galloway — who earned a master’s degree from the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI in 1985 — also is building something else near and dear to his heart: bridges linking Indianapolis with a world full of possibilities.

Outside of work, Galloway is the current president of the Nationalities Council of Indianapolis, Inc. (NCI), and in that role headed up the 2008 International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds last November. The role, like his passion for all things international, comes naturally to the 50-year-old Galloway: after all, he was born in Turkey, the son of an American Air Force non-commissioned officer and a Turkish mother.

“I always tell people I am a product of the Cold War,” Galloway laughs. “My dad was a Hoosier stationed in Turkey, and met my mother when she was interpreting for the Air Force.”

Roots around the world
The SPEA graduate is proud of both halves of his heritage; in fact, he holds dual citizenship, after becoming an official Turkish citizen in 2006.

He traces much of his international interest to “growing up in many places” as an Air Force kid. Being stationed abroad (in Turkey, West Germany and Libya) gave him a glimpse of a world that most of his fellow students never saw.

“Ever since I was young, I’ve been curious — I fell in love with geopolitics and economics,” Galloway says.

He came to northeastern Indiana as a high school freshman, attending West Noble High School, and earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics in 1981 after transferring from IPFW to IU-Bloomington. He later got a public management certificate from SPEA at IUPUI, where he earned his master’s in financial administration in ’85.

Galloway says his interest in economics and finance is a departure from the “family business.”

“My friends always thought I was destined for a post office career,” he laughs. “After all, both my grandfathers were postmasters, one in Cromwell, Ind., and the other the postmaster general of Istanbul!”

His family history was so intriguing, in fact, that it was one of those included in the new book New Faces at the Crossroads: The World in Central Indiana (Indiana Press, 2007).

“At 50, I’ve discovered that the world is my home,” Galloway says, which is why he is the current president of the Nationalities Council of Indianapolis, Inc. (NCI).

“I always tell people I am a product of the Cold War”
"Spice of life"

Galloway's split heritage fueled an “interest in multiculturalism and diversity.”

Getting to know people from other nations “is the spice of life for us — all these new people in our community are a great resource,” he says. “They all have ties back to their homelands, and they talk about Indy and all the wonderful things happening here!”

That belief inspired Galloway to plunge headfirst into international life in his adopted hometown, where he settled in 1982.

“In my family, it’s always been considered your civic duty to give back to the community,” Galloway says. His two-year stint as president of the NCI is just one part of his community involvement, particularly its featured event: the Indianapolis International Festival.

“Our event shows the customs, the food, the sports and the heritage of other lands,” he says. To Galloway, the International Festival is an educational event that just happens to be fun — or is that the other way around?

It’s become a big hit with Indiana students in elementary, middle and high schools, too, something that doesn’t surprise the curly-haired IUPUI grad a bit.

“Kids are naturally curious, and they love to explore things they don’t see every day,” Galloway says. “The festival may be the first — and for some kids, the only — chance to connect with other cultures and customs.”

Galloway is pleased that his alma mater played a pivotal role in the International Festival.

“Great community partners like IUPUI help make the festival a success,” Galloway says. “IUPUI is so focused on international matters that it’s a natural fit for them, and the campus is a great fit for us, too. We both consider it vital for Hoosiers to be exposed to the food, the entertainment and the music of other lands. The festival shows us all of that, while giving other countries a chance to market their own travel and work opportunities.”

Lots to learn

The city and state still have a ways to go, though, he believes.

“We have lots of things going on that touch on international themes, but we don’t work together,” Galloway says. “That dilutes all our efforts — we need a more comprehensive approach, the way the city used public-private partnerships to build Indianapolis into the amateur sports capital of the world.”

Sports, the theme of this year’s International Festival, has played a pivotal role in Galloway’s own life. He has a long-standing love of soccer — he lettered in the sport at IPFW — and got immersed in cycling while at IU in Bloomington, home of the world-renowned Little 500.

Galloway has ridden competitively for nearly 30 years. This past fall, he rode for the U.S. national team in the Pan American Masters Championships in Argentina, earning fourth-place finishes in the 200-meter sprint and the match sprints. He also was a member of the same team in 2002 in Cuba. “I’ve always been an athlete; I love to compete,” Galloway says with a smile. “Cycling is a great way to stay in shape and still test myself. It’s a great feeling out there,” even when he’s pushing himself with 12- to 15-hour training regimens weekly.

The construction management expert believes IUPUI is “pushing itself” in the right direction with its commitment to growth in international students, faculty and programs.

“(International) students know they will come here and get a high-quality education, and they’ll feel welcomed,” Galloway says. “That’s what builds relationships. Those students who come here to get degrees, or faculty who come here to work, all have friends back home. And when they tell stories of their experiences on the campus and in the city, others will want to follow.”

He is convinced that students from other lands leave their mark on IUPUI, as well.

“When students hear the insights and perspectives of students from other nations and cultures, they can’t help but have their eyes and minds opened,” Galloway says.

TO KEEP UP WITH INTERNATIONAL LIFE IN INDIANAPOLIS, VISIT THE NATIONALITIES COUNCIL OF INDIANA, INC. WEB SITE: NATIONALITIESCOUNCIL.ORG/
Nearly two decades ago, IUPUI student Juana Watson had a dream: to inspire faculty and students from IUPUI’s health schools to travel to her native Mexico to provide a few days of health care for those in her mountain hometown of Calnali. It was just a small seed, really. But that one spring break trip to reach out to those in need grew into another, then another, growing year after year. The IUPUI travel party grew: more faculty, more students, more schools joining the cause.

And now, the dream of one Mexican émigré has become the passion of another. E. Angeles Martínez Mier, like Watson a former IUPUI student and graduate, is now an internationally renowned teacher and researcher in the IU School of Dentistry. But she also is an integral part of the Calnali International Service-Learning Project’s steering committee, along with Armando Soto-Rojas of the dental school, Sarah Stelzner, Diane Lorant and Joan Henkle of the IU School of Medicine, and Mary Beth Riner of the IU School of Nursing.

By Ric Burrous
Watson’s “seed” has blossomed. Its impact is felt throughout the IUPUI campus. It has become part of the curriculum of health schools. Calnali remains a service learning opportunity for budding doctors, dentists, nurses and other health professionals, as well as a practical internship. Lessons learned in those mountains have become an international research opportunity for faculty in one of IUPUI’s dynamic new signature centers.

And the vision, spawned by one Mexican woman and now tended by another, has become an international partnership linking IUPUI with Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Hidalgo, a major health-minded Mexican university.

“It all started as purely a service opportunity,” says Martínez Mier. “Through the years, it caught fire and has become so much more. But most of all, it’s still about helping those who need our help.”

Perfect blend
To Martínez Mier, her role in the Calnali project is “a perfect blend” of her career aspirations.

“From the time I was in high school, I knew I wanted a career in the sciences,” says the native of Veracruz. No surprise there, considering that both her mother and maternal grandmother were dentists, her father an engineer, and her brother a physician.

As an IUPUI student earning her master’s (in 1994, followed by a Ph.D. in 2000), she was first exposed to research work and “fell in love with it.” She continued her investigations after graduation, returning to Mexico to teach and work. And that love remains strong at her alma mater: Martínez Mier is the director of the world-renowned fluoride research program in the IU Dental School’s Oral Health Research Institute.

But she also has had a lifelong goal to incorporate professional service into her life, and Calnali has played a significant role for her.

“The Calnali Program has moved from a service model to an academic model, a wonderful teaching opportunity,” Martínez Mier says. “But I began to wonder if we were missing a significant research opportunity.”

She and other IUPUI-based researchers had already begun gathering information from the mountain villages and other sites in Mexico, studying the impact on the health habits and concerns of those who live there compared to those who move to the United States. Out of that grew another of Martínez Mier’s professional missions: the Bi-national/Cross-Cultural Health Enhancement Center (BiCCHEC).

BiCCHEC was created to overcome obstacles to health and well being caused by differences in language and culture for Indiana’s recent immigrants. Research and wellness projects tackle such issues as oral health, nutrition, health behaviors, obesity and more. The center links experts from several IUPUI schools, and also offers students an opportunity to get involved in research and community outreach with Indianapolis’s rapidly growing Latino population.

“The center is a way for us to enhance what we already were doing,” says Martínez Mier, “gathering information both in Mexico and here, to see what influences existed.” One of the advantages of creating such a center on the IUPUI campus, she adds, is that it enjoys ready access to so many disciplines: medicine, dentistry, nursing, social work, liberal arts, public policy and more.

Creative thinking
That type of creativity intrigues Watson, now the senior advisor for Latino Affairs to Gov. Mitch Daniels.

“Angeles is the right person in the right place” to take the program to even greater heights, Watson believes. “Angeles looks for every opportunity for her students to learn from other cultures, to prepare them for their careers. She sees the whole picture, how her students can learn while making an impact on the lives of others.”

Watson says the personal contact between IUPUI students and faculty and the villagers in Mexico has made “an incredible difference” in the lives of both. But the impact has grown beyond a one-to-one touch.

“The work of the people from IUPUI has helped universities throughout Mexico, who have seen the value of service learning that is such a part of life at IUPUI,” Watson says. “Now those universities in Mexico wish to do the same.”

For Martínez Mier, the Calnali program “has given me the opportunity to serve hundreds of children in more than 20 rural isolated communities in Mexico, those who need it the most. And it has allowed me to work with professionals from nursing, medicine, public health, pharmacy and optometry, to learn new approaches to solving problems. It has taught me to value the opportunities I have been handed in life.”
Cherishes research

One of the opportunities she cherishes most is her research work, which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; Clarian Health; Delta Dental Insurance; the West Foundation; and the Borrow Foundation.

“It allows me to combine my scientific interests and public health orientation,” Martínez Mier says. Her inquiries have led her to research pairings around the world, working with investigators from nearly a dozen countries in Latin America, Europe and Africa.

“The world is definitely shrinking,” she laughs. “We’re all connected, whether we realize it or not.”

Martínez Mier has even found an international component to research in her own back yard, at the dental school and its research institute.

“We’re the United Nations of dental research,” she chuckles. “We have more than 20 nationalities working here … we’ve had to get used to many different working styles, but it has always made us — and our work — stronger.”

At IUPUI, Martínez Mier has earned a 2008 Distinguished Research Faculty Award and a 2007 Boyer’s Scholar honor among other awards. In 1999, she won the First Dental Award in Medical Research in Mexico from the Glaxo-Welcome Foundation while working at the Universidad Intercontinental in Mexico City. Her expertise is widely known; she has consulted for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Enjoying life

Martínez Mier and her family enjoy life in Indianapolis, which she says includes a growing interest in adopting other cultures. When her husband, an engineer, got a job opportunity in Indiana in 2000, they decided that the city was a place they could call home, though it made the family’s passion for scuba diving a bit harder to indulge.

Martínez Mier admits that she finds a bit of irony in a career that has taken her to IUPUI and Indianapolis twice — as both student and teacher — yet still leaves so much of her professional life inextricably tied to her native land.

But “the impact of the Calnali Program goes well beyond the Mexican border,” she says. “It has a direct effect on what I do in Indiana. I soon realized that migrant and binational health were natural extensions of the work we conducted in Mexico, so I started to work directly with the Hispanic community in Indiana.”

Because many of the problems Hispanic populations face stem from poor access to health care, Martínez Mier has become a strong advocate of recruiting Latino students for the School of Dentistry. She also is heading a multidisciplinary research partnership teaming dental researchers with counterparts from the IUPUI-based schools of medicine and nursing.

“We all want to make the greatest possible impact on the health of our communities,” she says. “That’s why most of us choose these fields in the first place.”

FOR MORE ON THE BINATIONAL/CROSS-CULTURAL HEALTH ENHANCEMENT CENTER, GO TO THE WEB SITE: WWW.IUSD.IUPUI.EDU/BICCHEC_SITE/DEFAULT.ASPX
Glass walls, bright overhead lights and computer screens built into modern desks sit before a dais built for some of the world’s pre-eminent legal minds, working on complex criminal cases in the heart of the modern city known as The Hague, due east of England across the waters of the North Sea.

It’s a long, long way from Terre Haute, the western Indiana city where Sean Monkhouse grew up. But the setting is a dream come true for the IUPUI alumnus (B.A. ’96, IU School of Liberal Arts; J.D. ’06, IU School of Law-Indianapolis), now a court officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The ICTY, part of the United Nations (along with the nearby World Court, based in the Peace Palace), deals with crimes involving the countries that once made up Yugoslavia, the Eastern European nation torn apart by a bloody conflict and unspeakable war crimes during the 1990s.

By Ric Burrous
“I always felt like life was something that happened somewhere else; I always dreamed of traveling the world and going to exotic locations”

Monkhouse’s trek from Terre Haute to The Hague was anything but a straight line, and was fueled by one of the challenging international programs offered by the IUPUI-based law school: the Program on International Human Rights Law (PIHRL), run by Prof. George Edwards. PIHRL, built on a mixture of internships, partnerships and projects that stretch from one end of the Earth to the other, has produced a host of talented and knowledgeable lawyers and legal experts.

“It was a program that was made for me,” says Monkhouse. “It opened my eyes and exposed me to the world. I couldn’t be where I am, doing what I’m doing, without it.”

Unusual path

In his early years, law school wasn’t even on the radar screen of the Terre Haute native, who was born with a bit of wanderlust, growing up in a family that belonged to a travel-camping club.

“I took my first camping trip when I was three weeks old, and spent every summer on the road seeing America,” says Monkhouse, who adds he loved traveling but was bored during the school year; he even flirted occasionally with trouble.

“I always felt like life was something that happened somewhere else; I always dreamed of traveling the world and going to exotic locations,” he says.

After he graduated from Terre Haute North High School, Monkhouse moved to Indianapolis and earned a bachelor’s degree in English in 1996, though it took him seven years to complete the work. During those years, he squeezed in as much travel as he could: motorcycle trips across the U.S., as well as trips to Europe, Mexico and Central America. After earning his degree, Monkhouse got a job as a technical writer and editor in Indianapolis.

Then came Sept. 11, 2001.

“I’ve always been rather opinionated politically and a bit of an activist,” says Monkhouse. He opposed a war with Iraq, and events “devastated me like most people in the world.” When his activism didn’t produce the results he wanted, Monkhouse decided to “take my street-level activism into the courts,” so he entered law school at IUPUI.
“International human rights law demands that individuals be afforded a fair trial, irrespective of how heinous the charges may be.”

“The law school happened to have one of the top international programs on human rights law in the country, and the intern program really attracted me,” Monkhouse says. PIHRL proved a perfect fit for a young man on a mission.

“Sean knew early on that he wanted to make a difference,” says Edwards. “He was willing to go to virtually any country in the world to do human rights work.”

Monkhouse’s first internship was in Uganda in 2004, turning his classroom training into legal research for people in need. In 2005, he went to the Netherlands, this time as part of a team working on one of the legal world’s biggest stages: the case against former Yugoslavian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. He was an intern legal officer in the registry, doing research on the rights and duties of the self-represented accused in international tribunals, since Milosevic represented himself. When he returned to the IUPUI campus, Monkhouse joined a team of students put together by Edwards to work on Milosevic’s defense.

“I loved the work,” he says. “The contacts I made during that internship led to my current position as a Court Officer, and my goal is to become a prosecutor at the International Criminal Court,” the permanent version of the type of court he works for now.

Monkhouse shares Edwards’ passion for justice and long-held assertion that “international human rights law demands that individuals be afforded a fair trial, irrespective of how heinous the charges may be.”

Monkhouse has immersed himself in life in The Netherlands, sailing on the wind-blown North Sea and taking advantage of the beaches just blocks from his home. Though he says he has “never been a jock,” he has become a regular at a nearby gym in the past year “to blow off stress after a day in court.”

He has been surfing here and hopes to take up kite boarding — popular sports in the area — and has become an enthusiastic bicyclist, regularly riding through the dunes along the sea and plentiful green spaces. Those spaces are part of a city he has grown to love, filled with the energy of urban life, with clubs and cycling paths, top restaurants and museums, even “awesome graffiti” that dots the cityscape.

Monkhouse admits he’s “become addicted” to the Dutch music scene, the ubiquitous “techno” sound popular in clubs — and just about everywhere else.

“You can’t walk into any kind of shop here without hearing the thump-thump-thump of hip-hop or techno music,” he says. “Buying groceries? Techno music. Buying shoes? Techno. Stopping by the hardware store to pick up a few things for the house? Techno. It’s a very urban, hip-hop scene.”

Monkhouse occasionally “daydreams about sailing around the world, or maybe writing the great American novel,” but his passion for justice has him focused squarely on a full-time prosecutor’s job at the International Criminal Court.

“My goal is simple: I want to prosecute the thugs who target civilians whether they are wearing suicide vests or directing air campaigns,” says Monkhouse, though he says his “end game is changing” and that the ideal is to “prevent criminals and crimes before they happen,” which he considers the “Holy Grail of foreign policy and international diplomacy.”

The PIHRL program — little more than a decade old and already with interns in more than 50 countries on six continents — is one of the biggest reasons Monkhouse feels upbeat about his prospects.

“I’ve got my foot in the door of the international law arena, and hope to gain experience in the years to come, with an eye to eventually move into a more diplomatic role,” one which Monkhouse believes he “never would have had if it weren’t for Professor Edwards.”

Life in Europe
His work keeps him busy, but the single father of two — 18-year-old Ian and 12-year-old Samantha — has settled into life in northern Europe.

“Both kids lived with me last year, though Ian moved back to Indy to finish school,” he says. “Sam is still here and loving it; she’s in a great international school, and we have a great group of friends from all over the world.”

His children share his sense of adventure, and the city’s location is ideal for the Monkhouse clan.

“The Hague is a great central location for exploring Europe; we’ve made weekend road rips to Belgium, France, Spain and Germany.”

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia uses photos, maps and illustrations as evidence in its proceedings.
Monkhouse has made many friends in his international work (above), but it has brought him face-to-face with photos and other evidence of war crimes (right and below).

The Hague is an historic European city (top) and a cornerstone of United Nations work in Europe. Monkhouse (on one of his internships) spends time working in the courtroom or watching the recorded proceedings in the ICTY building (below).

During one of his PIHRL trips, Monkhouse spent time working with children in Uganda (above).
Sports are all about big moments, the razor-thin edge between success and failure, between smiles and heartache.

But for the Jaguars players and coaches who traveled more than 7,000 miles to the mountains of Peru this past summer, the distance between smiles and heartbreak never seemed so close — or so painfully distant.

The trip to deliver thousands of pairs of shoes to children in those mountain villages in far-away South America “changed the lives forever” of players like John Ashworth, coaches like Matt Crenshaw and Austin Parkinson, and the rest of the IUPUI crew that delivered on last winter’s pledge by head coach Ron Hunter to provide a pair of sneakers for thousands of children in South America, in Africa and in other countries in need.

“I think we all sensed the trip would be something special,” says Parkinson, who joined the IUPUI staff after the game that drew worldwide attention to Hunter’s support for Samaritan’s Feet, the organization dedicated to providing 10 million pairs of shoes for kids doing without.

“The trip changed how I will act in the future; I will make sure I do not take anything for granted, and I will teach my kids the importance of living in a country as great as the one we live in.”

“I have a new appreciation for how lucky I am to live in a nice house, have food to eat, have clothes and shoes, and to have an opportunity as a college student to make a better future for myself,” he says.

“I have a new appreciation for how lucky I am to live in a nice house, have food to eat, have clothes and shoes, and to have an opportunity as a college student to make a better future for myself,” he says.

“You see people, especially young kids, living in sand dunes and sleeping on dirt floors — and you have a chance to bring smiles to their faces, if only for a moment,” says Crenshaw, a former IUPUI standout.

“If we Americans were put in that situation for just two days, we’d be frowning and mad and unhappy,” he adds. “But they are smiling, ready for the best of life. How can you not be changed by that?”

Ashworth, a sophomore from Indianapolis, felt the impact of the poverty that surrounded the team on its trip.

“The trip changed how I will act in the future; I will make sure I do not take anything for granted, and I will teach my kids the importance of living in a country as great as the one we live in.”

The players and coaches didn’t expect the warmth and generosity of those who may forever face lives in poverty.

“Too, so he gave me the bracelet off his arm. Who knows how much that cost him, but that touched me. I wear it often.”

“What I’m not sure any of us expected was the joy those kids gave to us,” adds Parkinson. “They have so much less than we do, but their joy in living, in spending time with us and in their smiles is something that will stay with us forever.”

By Ric Burrous
From the 10-meter platform, Chen Ni may not be quite able to see her native China, but she finds herself able to visualize what will happen next: a leap from three stories up, mid-air acrobatics, a clean vertical entry into the deep blue waters of the diving well — and another record-setting score.

“Sometimes, when I’m on the platform, I can feel the dive is going to go well,” says the diminutive IUPUI sophomore, who is routinely shattering Jaguars’ diving records during her first year with the swimming and diving program. Already, she has established new school records in 1- and 3-meter springboard diving, as well as excelling off the platform that was her forte during her early years in the sport back in Beijing.

Not bad for a 21-year-old who admits that she’s “afraid of heights” unless she’s wearing a swimsuit and geared up for competition.

Started as gymnast
Chen’s route to IUPUI was circuitous. China’s national drive to excel at Olympic sports swept up the slender diver — but not for the pool. Instead, the native of Qingdao started gymnastics around age 6, but “I didn’t have a special talent,” Chen says. “So they said I could do diving.”

So at age 8, she started diving, something she wasn’t at all sure she wanted to do. “My first dive was off the side of the pool, in five meters of water,” she recalls. “I told my coach I didn’t want to do it, that I was scared of it. She kept telling me to try, but I wasn’t going to. So she pushed me in!” Chen laughs.

That nudge was all she needed. The girl who was nicknamed “little white rabbit” as a child took to her new sport like the proverbial duck to water. By age 11, she was com-
Above left, Chen Ni executes one of her springboard dives during a Jaguars win over Butler during a meet at the Natatorium at IUPUI. Above right, coach Johannah Doecke (on the deck) analyzes a practice dive with Chen, whom the coach calls a “once-in-a-coaching-lifetime” kind of athlete.

peting in the Chinese nationals, and made a trip that changed her life: she competed in a meet in Atlanta, Ga. For Chen, it was love at first sight.

“I enjoyed the weather, and the people were so nice to me,” she recalls. The memories of her time abroad stuck with her, and when it came time to choose a college, she knew what she wanted: to come to America.

It wasn’t easy, though. She had to convince her parents to let her come, and “there were many steps we had to go through” to make the move. And when the time came to choose her university, one name leaped out: IUPUI. It offered a world-class training facility in the Natatorium, led by the U.S. national training program, and it offered Chen something more — a first-class School of Education that would help her take her first steps toward becoming a kindergarten teacher.

“Children that age are so fun,” she explains. “They have their own way of thinking. They want to know why. Sometimes, it’s hard to answer, but watching them is so much fun and so rewarding.”

American classrooms differ from those she knew in China. “Kids have to be more disciplined in China,” Chen says. “It seems to take all the fun out of learning. It almost becomes a job for the students.”

Some feelings are universal, though. “Parents in China are very competitive,” she laughs. “It’s always ‘my kid can do more than your kid!’ ”

**Struggles with language**

Chen’s biggest struggle at college is one that affects many of IUPUI’s record number of international students.

“Language!” she laments. “Grammar is totally different, totally opposite. I always wonder if I am saying the right thing, or the right way. Sometimes I feel a little behind in conversations.”

That made one of her first IUPUI classes — conversation in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program — a bit tricky. “I never opened my mouth in my conversation class,” she laughs. “I just kept quiet, but I still got a good grade. I was confused; how could I get such a grade in such class without talking?”

Despite the occasional language hurdles, she loves life in the U.S. “Here people are very nice to each other,” she says. “In China, social life can make people tired” because many people have hidden meanings to what they say.

She stays in touch with her family regularly, talking “on phone at least once a week, and also we communicate by email,” Chen says.

Though her parents are aware of her budding athletic career, “they care most about my education,” Chen says. “They always ask if I am working hard, if I am learning my lessons.”

She’s grown to love campus life so much that it’s raised a bit of a problem with her parents.

“They always ask if I miss them and miss China” she says, then sighs, adding with a rueful shake of her head that “I always tell my friends that I feel like such a bad daughter because I tell my parents ‘no, I am enjoying my life here so much.’ ”

**Life at IUPUI**

She also enjoys her diving, and she has added luster to IUPUI’s legacy of top-flight divers in the Summit League. Teammates Jaron Tuttle and Elizabeth Scott have each earned “Diver of the Year” awards from the league (both in 2006-07), along with past men’s champions Ryan Orzechowicz (2002-03) and Bryce Cox (2003-04).

Chen is a perfectionist at heart, a trait that she admits can be frustrating, even in practice.

“I want every dive to be just right,” she admits, but contends she’s getting better. “When I was little, I cared about the result of each dive. But now that I am older, I want to make each dive the best it can be.”

Learning a new skill — springboard diving — has helped. In China, platform diving was dominant. Springboard “is a new thing for me,” she admits. “I am still learning, every dive, every day.”

Her Jaguars diving coach, Johannah Doecke, finds Chen an apt pupil.

“She listens carefully and communicates with me during practice because she knows we are both working toward the same goal—a perfect dive,” says Doecke. “Chen Ni is that one in a million athlete who has the ‘whole package’ — mind, body and spirit.”

Chen credits her life at IUPUI with a key role in her achievements, compared to earlier training.

“Then, all my work was focused on the diving,” she says. “Here, I have my diving, but also my friends, my education and my teaching. Being here has changed me so much — I feel so much more confident in myself.”
PASSION PLAY

SOCcer SтанаDоUT 
LOVES GAME’S DISCIplINE, 
HARD WORK

When he runs up and down American soccer fields with the rest of the IUPUI Jaguars men’s soccer team, Perez Agaba’s passion for the world’s most popular sport is obvious.

After all, he’s playing the game he’s loved since he first played as a child with his older brother in pickup games on the heat-baked soccer fields of Uganda.

There are differences, to be sure. The game here is more physical; the fields are covered with lush green grass. The weather? “It’s much colder than anything I imagined,” admits the soft-spoken freshman in near-perfect English with a sheepish smile.

And the ball? An official NCAA soccer ball is light years from the one-pint milk cartons Perez and his soccer buddies in Uganda used to blow up and tie into a round ball for that day’s game.

But the game remains what it has always been for him: the training ground for the discipline and hard work that made him not only a rising young soccer star, but a world-class biomedical engineering student who chose IUPUI over prestigious Ivy League universities like Harvard and Yale.

“The game helped me discover my true self,” says Perez. “I admired the discipline soccer players must have to excel, and I thought I would love to be that kind of person.”

Blending education, soccer

In Uganda, young soccer players often find themselves choosing between soccer and education to make their mark in life, Perez says. But the youngest of six children found a way to combine the two, earning him recognition as the “second-best youth achiever” in his country, based on athletics, community service, academics and leadership.

His mother’s influence played a pivotal role after his father died when Perez was 6 years old. “She was always there for us and taught us there were three things that were important to our lives: God, discipline and hard work,” he says. “She taught us to do our best at all times.”

The young Ugandan took up soccer because “I grew up with a brother who loved the game, and I got addicted to it,” he smiles. The brothers often skipped lunches to play, and ignored the pain of feet bruised by fields baked hard by the sun. By the time Perez joined league play at age 11, his game was honed by years of playing against older kids, and he quickly stood out. One of his teams did so well it “played some games in our national soccer stadium,” he recalls. “That was my first experience with pressure, and a moment I will never forget!”

But soccer wasn’t the only thing on young Perez’s mind.

“When I was very young, I saw what a doctor meant to people in need, and I knew that was what I wanted to be when I grew up,” he says. Perez’s academic record throughout school, including Kings College Budo in his homeland and the prestigious Brooks School in Massachusetts, north of Boston, put that goal well within reach.
Family key for IUPUI
Harvard or Yale could have helped him on his path to a medical career. So could the world-renowned engineering program at Purdue. But he also knew that IUPUI — with its own highly regarded biomedical engineering program — had a key advantage: family living in Indianapolis. Still, Jaguars men’s soccer coach Steve Franklin felt like the recruiting shoe was on the other foot when Agaba and his uncle came calling.

“Perez walked into our soccer office in a three-piece suit on an 80-degree day with his uncle and a one-inch folder with academic documents and clippings of his athletic merit,” Franklin recalls with a laugh. “Instead of us asking about him and his life, he was interviewing us.”

Perez knows now that his decision was the right one for him.

“This university is so well balanced, between academics, athletics and social life,” he says. “The diversity we have here brings out the best in students, and the bond between faculty and students facilitates great relationships. These are all things I knew would bring out the best in me.”

The amount of student interaction at IUPUI was “one of my best surprises. Older students feel free to interact with younger students, to mentor them,” he says. “You can learn many valuable lessons from your fellow students.”

Perez is determined to make the most of his time, spending much of his team’s long road trips immersed in homework. “You can never get those hours back,” he says simply.

“I like to have my work done and on time,” he adds. Though Franklin teases him about spending “40 hours a week in the library,” Perez finds it an inviting setting.

Warm or cold, the soccer field remains his special place.

“Whenever I am on the field, I tend to forget the other world,” he says. “I just love the atmosphere on the field, knowing that you are not only playing your best sport, but you are representing the school you love the most as well. The soccer field is my second home.”

Being part of the Jaguars’ traditions and one of the growing number of international students at IUPUI feels special, too.

“I am so honored to be part of this great institute,” Perez says. “There is a unique bond between the students and the faculty. The student-faculty ratio is one that enhances more academic interaction, and hence allows us to be the best we can be. That is important to our growth as students.”
The walls and blackboards in Ann’s classroom in the IPS Center for Inquiry (CFI) are covered with the usual papers, posters, instructions and drawings that fill second- and third-grade classrooms across the country.

But in her desk are other drawings, by students from an orphanage school in Honduras called Flor Azul (Spanish for “Blue Flower”), far from downtown Indianapolis. The drawings, by boys she has befriended in two short trips to rural Honduras as part of the Heart in Education Teacher Outreach (HETO) program, are near and dear to the former IUPUI student (a 1999 graduate from the IU School of Education).

“When I first got these, I was in tears,” she says. “They have so little in their schools, and yet they gave me so much” for her work with Honduran teachers and students in the rural mountains of that Caribbean country.

Mennonno already has made two trips as part of HETO, a project partnering Indianapolis schools with schools in the poor Central American country. This winter, she’ll head back to meet with “my other class” and with the teachers she and HETO support. Her IPS class has gotten involved in the project. “Our kids wrote dual-language books for the kids down there and their teachers to use to learn English,” Mennonno says. “Our kids feel like they are teachers, too.”

She also brings back stories and memories from her travels that help achieve one of CFI’s main goals as the state’s only International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

“We teach our kids that the world is very small, and one of our goals is to learn social action and responsibility,” Mennonno says. Since the IUPUI graduate doesn’t speak Spanish — “though I am learning the language” — they work through interpreters while in Honduras. Back home, CFI students regularly use Spanish in the classroom.

“It’s the best way to become bilingual,” Mennonno says. “Just get immersed in the Spanish language.”
Chris Leland, one of Mennonno’s former teachers and mentors at the School of Education, isn’t surprised her protégé is involved in the venture.

“Ann is always looking for creative ways to teach her students,” says Chris Leland of the School of Education, who was one of Mennonno’s mentors during the IPS teacher’s days at IUPUI. “She makes learning fun and exciting, something kids will want to do their whole lives.”

The experience has been transforming for the IPS teacher.

“It was scary the first time, especially working through an interpreter,” Mennonno says. “But your life changes when you do this. I absolutely love it!”

### CHASING DREAMS …

As a Wayne Township school principal, Nicole Law considers it her job to help her Garden City Elementary students confront challenges and pursue their dreams — and that’s a subject Nicole knows quite a bit about.

Throughout her life, the former IUPUI student and IU School of Education graduate has battled Sickle Cell Anemia, a painful genetic disease. But Nicole’s determination and dedication in battling the disease — her personal “no-excuse” credo — has helped her build an atmosphere of achievement for Garden City students, many of whom must overcome the challenges of a life of poverty. The impact of her work and that of her staff recently earned Nicole the prestigious 2008 Milken National Educator Award — nicknamed the “Oscars of Teaching” — making her one of an elite group of educators that are helping shape the academic future of America.

Sickle-cell anaemia is a blood disorder characterized by red blood cells that assume an abnormal, rigid, sickle shape. Sickling decreases the cells’ flexibility and results in a risk of various other complications.

“We teach our kids that the world is very small, and one of our goals is to learn social action and responsibility.”
Alumni

Honors

PRATIBHA VARMA-NELSON, professor of Chemistry and executive director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at IUPUI, has been selected as a recipient of the 2008 James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry. DIANE M. VON AH of the School of Nursing is one of 15 junior faculty nationwide to receive an inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar Award. The three-year, $350,000 grant will support her research into helping breast cancer survivors improve their memory. WILLIAM BARTON of the IU School of Social Work faculty recently received the Natalie S. Bimel Award for Outstanding Contributions to Juvenile Detention Reform by a Community Leader. He was honored for his work with Indianapolis area juvenile detention officials to help revamp the local system.

Appointments

The IU School of Nursing’s associate dean for research, VICTORIA L. CHAMPION, the Edward W. and Sara Stam Cullipher Endowed Chair and Mary Margaret Walther Distinguished Professor, recently was appointed to the National Cancer Advisory Board by President George W. Bush, covering a six-year term. VIRGINIA MAJEWSKI will become the associate dean of the IU School of Social Work this academic year. Until coming to IUPUI, she was chair of the division of social work at West Virginia University. The school has the oldest university-affiliated social work program in the nation. ZEPHIRA M. BRYANT recently was named the director of the Multicultural Center at IUPUI.

In memoriam

JAMES R. EAST, an education pioneer who created IUPUI’s renowned Weekend College and Learn & Shop programs to make higher education more accessible to Indianapolis-area residents, died this fall at the age of 77. East also was an early leader in the development of the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, and remained a key figure in the growth of the campus as president of the Senior Academy. He received several notable IUPUI awards, including: the Glenn W. Irwin Jr. Excellence Recognition Faculty Award, the Edward C. Moore Top Administrator Award and the Maynard K. Hine Alumni Leadership Award Medal.

ALUMNI NIGHT …

“Ice fishing,” slides and more wintry features highlighted December’s IUPUI “Alumni Night” gala at The Children’s Museum.

The annual event gives alumni and friends of the university an opportunity to share an evening of holiday fun and camaraderie, and is one of many events in which IUPUI graduates renew relationships with alumni or with faculty and staff.

Other major events on the IUPUI Alumni Relations calendar include the IUPUI Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet (this year at Lucas Oil Stadium, welcoming the 2009 inductees into the Jaguars “ring of honor”), Winter College (in Sanibel Harbour, Fla.), the IUPUI Alumni Leaders’ Dinner (with the annual conferring of Maynard K. Hine Medallions) and the Top 100 Outstanding Students Recognition Dinner, when the campus celebrates top academic achievers.

Besides special events, alumni can stay engaged with their alma mater through philanthropic and educational events, mentoring undergraduate students, and indulging special interests through such alumni-oriented programs as the Jaguars Athletic Club (former athletes or athletic followers) or the Neal Marshall alumni group (for African-American alumni).
CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT TO BUILD A DYNAMIC FUTURE

As the outgoing Indiana Secretary of Commerce and CEO of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Nate Feltman knows the power of connections, the links between people and organizations which fuel economic and societal partnerships that are part of our community's foundation. And as a past president of the law school's alumni association, Feltman knows that such connections are vital to a major urban university like IUPUI. Help shape future generations of IUPUI students by joining your school's alumni association, by taking part in special events and alumni activities throughout the year, by mentoring students, serving as grass-roots advocates for the value of higher education, and a wealth of other advantages available to IUPUI graduates who become IUAA members.

Indiana University Alumni Association
Connecting alumni, serving IU

www.alumni.iupui.edu

Nathan J. Feltman
Law Partner, Baker & Daniels, LLP

J.D. ’94, IU School of Law-Indianapolis

Life Member, Indiana University Alumni Association
We’re giving them hope

IUPUI men’s basketball coach Ron Hunter was named one of ABC’s “Persons of the Year” for his efforts to raise hundreds of thousands of pairs of sneakers for impoverished children around the world. Hunter led an IUPUI contingent of coaches, players and others to Peru to deliver some of those shoes last summer, and believes that “we’re making an impact that we hope stays with them their entire lives … the shoes represent hope. We gave a lot of hope to a lot of kids, but we’re far from through.”