MESSAGER
A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO

BUILDING A Vision OF PUBLIC SERVICE

“Knowledge that Works!”
2007 Commencement
Called to Serve
An Intern’s Story

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As of graduation 2007, IU Kokomo has more than 9,600 living alumni. Yes, you read that right—9,600—very close to a milestone of 10,000!

‘Indiana University Kokomo has a huge impact on public service.’

When I mention that number, I get a lot of disbelieving looks. Many people have no idea that this campus has gotten big enough to have graduated so many students. Alumni are involved in public service as professional employees, elected officials, or volunteers—many here in north central Indiana. This edition of our magazine features some of these graduates.

Public service has always been an important part of my life. I grew up in Washington, D.C., which is a “company” town—the “company” being the Federal government and related organizations that provide services to it. I was surrounded by public servants in my family and among our friends and neighbors. I developed a real understanding of the value they provide.

My Dad was a career civil servant who rose to the position of Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Army. Although he had several opportunities to pursue a corporate executive career, he chose to remain in public service and relished his role with the Department of Defense. I was a Federal employee while attending college, and had the valuable experience of working for the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, quite a challenge for an 18-year-old! I continue to be involved in public service as a volunteer on many boards and committees.

Public service has its own challenges. Individuals who choose to serve in the public sector often make a decision to forego significant financial rewards that might be obtained through private sector employment. Moreover, many public servants are on the “front lines,” dealing with citizens who have problems that need to be solved and can sometimes be difficult “customers.”

In the volunteer sector, elected officials and volunteer board members contribute hundreds of unpaid hours to advance the public good. While many of these individuals are praised for their efforts, some are criticized (often unfairly), making such service a personal challenge. I applaud all of those who choose to serve.

Here at IU Kokomo, we demonstrate our commitment to public service in a number of ways. We use our resources to offer a Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs, and now, a new Master of Public Management. We have substantially modified the bachelor’s degree to focus more broadly on public sector management (as opposed to only the criminal justice sector). We offer continuing education programs related to public service issues. These programs will help educate the next generation of public service leaders for our region and beyond.

Members of our campus community are deeply committed to tackling significant issues confronting our region. They spend thousands of hours during the year on service, learning, and research projects that focus on issues ranging from domestic violence and early childhood literacy to downtown revitalization.

Indiana University Kokomo has a huge impact on public service. I feel confident that this impact will only expand and grow as we move forward in the years ahead.
Called to Serve

Service Award

Tobacco Free Campus

M.A.S.H. BASH

Academic News

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When a new dean was appointed to lead IU Kokomo’s School of Arts and Sciences (SOAS) in 2003, Vice Chancellor Stuart Green praised the selection committee’s “uncommon wisdom” in offering the position to then associate professor of communication arts and acting dean Susan Sciame-Giesecke, Ph.D. “She is innovative, smart, and aware of and involved in all the key issues and opportunities facing today’s schools of liberal arts and sciences,” Green said. “Moreover, she deeply respects the faculty and is one of the most student-centered educators I know.”

With the Indiana University Kokomo faculty since 1977, Sciame-Giesecke’s appointments have included acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (1996–98), Chair of Humanities (1998–2006), and Coordinator for the Communication Arts Program (1984–96). In 2006, she was selected for the inaugural IU Leadership class.

Rick Aniskiewicz, chairman of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, said his colleague “provides first-rate student-based service at IU Kokomo. One of the defining characteristics of Sue’s work is her dedication to fostering the development of a solid freshman year experience.”

In volunteer service to the community, Sciame-Giesecke has directed leadership training for the city of Kokomo and facilitated public discussions on the renovation of downtown Kokomo and Kokomo’s outreach to international constituencies. She is active with St. Joan of Arc Church, the Arts Train steering committee, and Northwestern High School athletics.

On the board of directors for Family Service Association of Howard County, Inc., Sciame-Giesecke has enthusiastically supported fundraising for FSA’s domestic violence programs and shelter. “Sue is a serving person,” said Family Service’s executive director Judy Dennis. “She always brings great energy to tasks, and is wonderfully resourceful in brainstorming ways we can get things done.”

The IU Kokomo Alumni Association honored Susan Sciame-Giesecke, Ph.D., dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, with its 2007 Distinguished Service Award May 5, at the annual Cream and Crimson Dinner.
“Dad had an expression for people who had ambition, but were being held back by circumstances. He’d say, ‘Just give them the ball, and they’ll run with it.’ In other words, if you simply give these people a chance, they’ll do the rest.” — Dana Scruggs

Charlie Scruggs’ belief in the potential of others inspired the “Your Chance” Scholarship, established for Indiana University Kokomo students by Charlie’s daughter Dana Scruggs. While many scholarships benefit those with the highest academic standings, she wanted C+ (2.5 GPA) students to be able to compete for the scholarship honoring her father, a Kokomo attorney who died in 2006.

This different approach reflects Charlie’s style. Respected for his common sense and courtroom professionalism, Charlie also loved riding motorcycles and once served on an Indianapolis 500 pit crew. “He’d do things other people wouldn’t do,” Dana said, such as the time he convinced an IU dean to give a second chance to Charlie’s young neighbor, who had dropped out of IU Bloomington. Charlie negotiated an agreement that, if the young man earned good grades at IU Kokomo for one semester, he would be readmitted at Bloomington. The student lived up to Charlie’s beliefs. He graduated from IU and became a podiatrist, as did his younger brother and another neighbor. “Just look at the ripple effect [Charlie’s actions] had,” Dana said.

Dana established the scholarship at IU Kokomo to set off a similar ripple effect. Her dad worked his way through law school; many IU Kokomo students also handle jobs and families while studying, she noted. “They have a lot of ‘real life’ on their shoulders . . . It’s harder for them to get as much out of school as they can. Yet school seems to make the biggest difference in these students’ lives and in the lives of people around them.”

Dana Scruggs’ own life has been and continues to be transformed by higher education. A nationally competitive cyclist in the 1970s, she moved from Kokomo to Boulder, Colo., to attend college, but mainly to “ride my bike in the mountains.” Four years after graduating with a degree in German, she was hired by a German corporation in Indianapolis to work as a bilingual secretary and translator.

Ten years ago, she became a self-employed technical translator. Under contract with her former employer, and has branched out into patent translation for other German corporations. “Patents are written by engineers, so I realized I needed two languages—German and ‘engineering,’” she said. Dana has taken courses through technical schools and IUPUI, where she’s now a student in the School of Engineering and Technology. Classes allow her to better understand and describe the technical details of patents and products, ranging from automotive to medical. In 2006, her business reached its first million dollars in transactions.

“When you own the business, you do things you never thought you could,” she said, “Mainly because you have to, but also because you love it.” Or, as Charlie Scruggs might say, you take a chance.

Contributions may be made to the “Your Chance” Scholarship fund by contacting the Office of External Relations at (765) 455-9415.
NEW FACES OF IUKAA

Welcome the five new at-large representatives to the IU Kokomo Alumni Association Board

Judy Golitko, B.S.N. (nursing) ’02, J.D. ’06, works as an attorney with Bolinger Golitko PC. She wants to increase IUKAA networking and reunions for nursing alumni, and is “open to anything to make the public more aware of the excellent IU Kokomo faculty.”

**Faculty Influence:** Clinical instructor Lucy Tormoehlen—one of the most knowledgeable, compassionate woman one could meet.

**How Classmates Remember Me:** Someone who was never afraid to ask questions or give my opinion.

**IU Kokomo Taught Me:** Education knows no age—without constantly challenging our mind, we wake up “old.”

Liz Foreman, A.A.G.S. ’06, B.G.S. ’07 (general studies), is a human resources generalist for Howard Regional Health System. She’d like to bring attention to the links between IU Kokomo and communities.

**Faculty Influences:** Communications professors Raul Mosley—he supports active learning for each individual, making the curriculum meaningful—and Donna McLean—she welcomes divergent thinking in her classroom and encourages a global mindset.

**IU Kokomo Taught Me:** A “B” won’t kill you. And you can live on less than 8 hours sleep per night.

Gary McKay, A.A.G.S. ’05, B.G.S. ’06 (general studies), is acting chief of the Kokomo Police Department. He serves on boards for the Haynes Apperson Festival, Kokomo Substance Abuse Council, Howard County Emergency Management, and Gilead House Counseling Center. A volunteer basketball and football coach, McKay wants to raise IUKAA’s community and student involvement through athletic programs.

**Faculty Influence:** Continuing Studies Advisor Lori Collins took an old man with no collegiate experience and guided me through the good and bad times of my education.

**How Classmates Remember Me:** Someone who could make them smile and get through class with less stress.

Gary’s wife, Rhonda, earned a Master of Science in Nursing through IU Kokomo. Their son plans to enroll in fall 2007.

Amanda Musgrave-Jolliffe, B.S. ’02 (business), directs marketing for McGonigal and Button Dodge in Kokomo. She volunteers with Kokomo Rescue Mission, Open Arms shelter, and Relay for Life. She wants to recruit more School of Business alumni into IUKAA, and work on the Old Ben 5K and Commencement.

**Faculty Influence:** Professor of Economics Kathy Parkison [with her] enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge truly inspired me to be a successful woman in business.

**IU Kokomo Taught Me:** Desire to achieve great things, by believing in yourself and what you can contribute to the world.

Her sister Kathleen Musgrave-Farinans attended IU Kokomo in 1990, and then graduated from IU Bloomington.

John Brown, B.G.S. (general studies) ’06, commands the Kokomo Police Department’s Division of Uniformed Enforcement and Special Operations with the rank of major. He volunteers with United Way, Haynes Apperson Committee, and the American Red Cross. Brown hopes to concentrate energies on IUKAA’s membership committee.

**Faculty Influence:** Instructor in Music Cindy Ison is hands down my favorite. She made every class a hoot and was very informative.

**Favorite Campus Activity:** The Halloween Open House. I have worked security for it almost every year. Everyone has a good time. His son, John E. Brown, is a current IU Kokomo student.
Hugh Thompson, Ph.D., the fourth chancellor of Indiana University Kokomo, died on March 15 in Florida, at age 82. Under Thompson's leadership from 1980–1990, the campus doubled in physical size, built the Kelley Student Center, and added 14 degree programs.

“Hugh Thompson and his wife, Pat, were both fun-loving people and very well received here,” said Kokomo attorney Gene McGarvey, who assisted campus fundraising through IU Kokomo's Foundation Council. Thompson initiated an annual benefit golf outing. It proved so popular that participation often sold out, McGarvey recalled. “It was a fun day to thank IU supporters.”

A “visionary” intent on “warming up the community” to the campus’s value, Thompson and his staff “were extremely successful in cultivating friends and donors for IU Kokomo,” McGarvey said. One of the most important of those friends, McGarvey added, was Tipton County native and entrepreneur Ed Kelley.

“Our first major gift was a $100,000 donation from Mr. Kelley,” said Vice Chancellor for Student Services Jack Tharp, who assisted Thompson in fundraising. “The gift was designated for land acquisition and given with the stipulation that it be matched. Within eight years, the campus size had been doubled, making way for new buildings.” Thompson's close relationship with another benefactor, Kenneth Herrick, quietly generated a total $1 million in gifts to IU Kokomo during Thompson's tenure, according to Tharp.

Charlie Nelms, Indiana University’s Vice President of Institutional Development and Student Affairs, praised Thompson as “an ardent and steadfast advocate for regional campus development. Many of the current baccalaureate degree programs at IU Kokomo resulted from Hugh's leadership.”

Hugh Thompson earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Case Western Reserve University in 1969. He served as the president of colleges in Michigan and Kansas before joining IU Kokomo. His wife, Patricia Thompson of Cape Canaveral, Fla., survives him, along with four daughters, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**THOMPSON MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP**

Memorial contributions honoring Chancellor Hugh Thompson may be made to the Thompson Minority Scholarship. Contact IU Kokomo Director of Donor Relations Cheryl Currens at ccurrens@iuk.edu or (765) 455-9410 for details.

The endowed scholarship was established at the time of Chancellor Thompson's retirement as a tribute to him and his wife. It followed Thompson's wish that the funds specifically assist the education of minority students.

Tempe Thompson said her father's convictions about equal opportunity, regardless of race, formed as early as his undergraduate days at Sheppard College in West Virginia, where he played football. “The team won the national championship and was invited to play at the Tangerine Bowl. At the time, African-American players were not allowed to play in the bowl game, so the team declined the invitation,” Ms. Thompson said. “He really was a man of integrity with strong moral ethics.”

Later this year, IU Kokomo will honor Chancellor Thompson's legacy by naming a room in Kelley Student Center in his memory.
IU Hoosiers fans had a great time at the annual IU vs. Purdue Basketball TV Party, hosted January 10 by the IU Kokomo Alumni Association and the Howard/Tipton Counties Chapter of IUAA. IU players delivered an 85–58 victory over the Boilermakers, while BW3s restaurant served up plentiful hospitality to those watching the game in Kokomo.
S miling from the stage of IU Kokomo’s Kresge Auditorium on March 22, Landon Turner proudly displayed the plaque given to him the previous day, when he was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

It was especially great, Turner said, to enter the Hall of Fame alongside Randy Wittman, his IU teammate when the Hoosiers won the NCAA championship in 1981. “But I’ve already won the brass ring in life,” he said. “I’m alive.”

Turner came close to dying in an auto accident four months after the NCAA championship. Paralyzed below the waist, the once-powerful athlete could barely lift a 2-pound weight when he began his recovery therapy. “I had to learn how to dress myself, and lift myself into my wheelchair,” he recalled. Turner’s former coach Bob Knight offered special encouragement and later coordinated efforts to help pay Turner’s massive medical bills.

Turner completed his IU degree in physical education in 1984, and has become an author and a motivational speaker. His appearance at IU Kokomo capped activities marking Disabilities Awareness Month, coordinated by the Office of University Division. The IU Kokomo Alumni Association hosted a reception, where Turner signed copies of his memoir, Landon Turner’s Tales from the 1980–81 Indiana Hoosiers.

In his talk, Turner recalled being drafted by the Boston Celtics and exchanging practical jokes with IU great Isiah Thomas. “That dude was crazy,” Turner said with a laugh. He talked about coaching for Southport High School and about playing wheelchair basketball, which he didn’t find competitive enough. “If you’re doing something and you don’t love it, you shouldn’t stay in it.”

Turner said his biggest challenge in living with a disability is convincing others to not set limits for him. “Just look at people as human beings—nothing else,” he said, “Ladies, my parents raised me to be a gentleman. If we meet at a door, let me open it for you.”

Turner said his life has too many blessings to count. “Life is precious, no matter what situation you’re in. Please, don’t limit yourself.”
If you were asked to describe the “personality” of Indiana University Kokomo, what words come to mind? Is it “vibrant and upbeat,” “visionary and perseverant,” or maybe “committed and stable”?

Defining the personalities of the IU campuses was one of the exercises of the recently completed, system-wide, integrated image initiative. Indiana University contracted Noble BBDS to review the perceptual and graphic images of the campuses and make recommendations to develop an underlying consistency of public message across the system.

That task is much more difficult than it seems. Just at IU Kokomo, we have eight academic units. If you multiply that across the IU system, with all the campuses, schools, divisions, units, constituencies, and departments, it becomes quite complicated.

The consultants visited all IU campuses and met with students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. Through those conversations, they discerned the “personality” of each campus and developed some system-wide graphic standards that you may have already noticed.

IU Kokomo was described in six adjectives . . . Engaged, Committed, Available, Supportive, Innovative, and Dynamic. Do these hit the mark for you? Are these accurate representations of the campus? It might depend on whom you ask. I do know that our faculty and staff work very hard to make sure students receive the best education possible.

One of the great benefits of IU Kokomo is that we can deliver an Indiana University degree in a small school setting. This is reflective in our personality. The students are engaged, the staff is committed, the faculty is available and supportive, program offerings are innovative and, as a whole, it is a dynamic campus. A dynamic campus working hard to meet the needs of our students and provides knowledge that works to the community we serve.

These positive descriptors accurately convey IU Kokomo’s direction as the campus continues to grow and provide Knowledge that Works to our students.

You’ll be seeing the Knowledge that Works theme frequently during the next several months and into the 2007–2008 school year. Although a relatively simple phrase, it means many things—Knowledge that Works in helping our students find successful careers; Knowledge that Works as IU Kokomo plays a key role in regional economic development; Knowledge that Works through the civic engagement of our students, faculty, and staff.

Recent evidence of Knowledge that Works could be seen on the morning of May 8, 2007, as 503 graduates received their Indiana University degree from our campus. We know that these individuals are already vital contributors to our area and will continue to be so for many years to come. More than 72 percent of IU Kokomo alumni still reside in our immediate service area, and 84 percent reside in the State of Indiana. No brain drain here….just Knowledge that Works.

If you are an Indiana University Kokomo alumnus, a local employer, or an interested citizen and would like to share your example of Knowledge that Works, please send it to alumni@iuk.edu.
STOP SMOKING BEFORE IT STARTS

Nearly all smokers start the habit before legal age. Stephen J. Jay, professor of medicine and public health at the Indiana University School of Medicine, ranks three effective strategies for decreasing tobacco use among young people.

• **No. 1** —Price increase. “It has been shown in study after study,” Jay said, “Each time you increase the price of tobacco products by 10 percent, you can predictably decrease the use rate in adults by 4 percent and in teens by 7 percent.”

• **No. 2** —Smoke-free environments. “Smoke-free ordinances, smoke-free schools, and smoke-free campuses effectively ‘de-normalize’ tobacco. The tobacco industry knows that if they can weave tobacco into the culture, kids will begin smoking . . . because ‘everybody does it.’ ”

• **No. 3** —Crack down online. Internet sales are largely unregulated and undermine state efforts to control underage tobacco use, Jay said. “In 2005, there were more than 500 Web sites selling tobacco, and 15 percent of U.S. sales were by the Internet. These sales evade state tobacco taxes. Young people can buy cigarettes at low cost and often without age identification.”

(From IU Media Relations)
Indiana University Kokomo honored a record 503 graduates during its 38th Commencement on May 8, 2007. Twenty-five individuals received master’s degrees. The tally of degree recipients in the various divisions and schools was:

- Allied Health Sciences, 11
- Arts and Sciences, 56
- Business, 81
- Continuing Studies, 114
- Labor Studies, 4
- Education, 37
- Nursing, 167
- Public and Environmental Affairs, 33
Christopher Dewhurst of Fairmount received the 2007 Hoosiers for Higher Education Scholarship. He was selected from among constituents of State Senator David Ford of Hartford City.

Dewhurst and Ford were both honored on Hoosiers for Higher Education (HHE) Day in February. HHE brings hundreds of Indiana University students, alumni, and other supporters to Indianapolis to talk with state legislators regarding budgetary support for university programs. Some 80 IU Kokomo representatives attended this year.

Indiana University recognized Ford on HHE Day with its Welsh-Bowen Distinguished Public Official Award, given every year to a veteran state legislator for contributions to higher education and to IU.

Christopher Dewhurst is in his second year as an English major at the Kokomo campus. Raised in Frankfort, Ind., Dewhurst is pastor of Pilgrim Holiness Church, which he describes as “a small start-up church in Fairmount.” He and his wife, Constance, have a daughter Madelyn, 2, and a son Joshua, born in January.

Dewhurst holds a bachelor’s degree in religion from Union Bible College in Westfield. He enrolled at IU Kokomo one year ago, pursuing an English degree with a licensure to teach secondary English. Dewhurst said he decided to return to school both to be able to supplement his pastor’s salary with a second career, and to reconnect with the stimulation of higher education.

“Academic networking is a very important part of my life. I have a very supportive family and church congregation and good friends. But I thrive on the mental stimuli one gains only from members of the academic world.”

Dewhurst plans to switch to IU Kokomo’s Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education degree program beginning in fall 2007. “I intend to go to school as long as it is financially feasible for me—grad school and beyond.”
Sure, your IU degree is shining new, and your head is stuffed with current professional knowledge, thanks to demanding courses. But, can you pass a future employer’s handshake and soup tests?

IU Kokomo junior and seniors found out during an April 11 New Professionals Conference, sponsored on campus by the IU Kokomo Student Alumni Association and the Office of Career Services. Facilitators Audrey Beckley and Ann Hyer led students through sessions on the “Art of Grip and Grin,” mingling at business social occasions, and how to look great when dining with your would-be boss.

“As soon-to-be graduates, you will want to make a good first impression at a dinner with a prospective employer,” Beckley said as she guided them through eating a multi-course meal with civility. “You’ll want to know, ‘Is my glass on the left or the right?’ (right), ‘Which direction do I pass the rolls?’ (counter-clockwise), and ‘Which spoon do I use for the soup?’ (the one with the large, round bowl, on the far right of the place setting).

Pennye Siefert, director of human resources for Kokomo Center Schools, spoke to participants on “Successful Interviewing.” Alumna Amanda Jolliffe offered ideas on “Negotiating Salaries and Budgeting.” Jolliffe directs marketing for H.E. McGonigal and Button Dodge, whose owners Don Button and Rex Gingerich, underwrote the New Professionals Conference.

“It is our privilege to support this conference,” said Gingerich, “The basis of our business is to create, build, and maintain relationships. To do this effectively, while separating ourselves from the competition, we must attract individuals who are capable of effectively networking and cultivating relationships that will support our bottom line.

H.E. McGonigal, Button Dodge, and other local entrepreneurs have vested interests in “prospecting our community’s colleges and the graduates that they can offer to our corporation,” Gingerich added.

Connect to your university, fellow alumni, friends, and family with IU Connect. This e-networking services from the IU Alumni Association offers lots of ways to keep in touch including:

- Free e-mail and calendar
- Text, audio, and video chat
- Space for blogging and photo sharing
- Expo online community, the place to buy, sell, and swap great stuff
- On-the-go access via cell phone or PDA

More connection options are offered as exclusive benefits of membership in the IU Alumni Association. IUAA members can find old friends and network through the searchable Alumni Directory of nearly 490,000 IU graduates. At the online Career Services Center, you can post your résumé, find jobs posted for IU alumni, or search for a mentor who can provide career advice.

Go to IU Connect at http://alumni.indiana.edu/connect and get connected today.
CALLED TO SERVE
Whether they want to “save the world,” as Tom Sugar believes, or just be “a positive influence” in their community, like Jackie Gray, many Indiana University Kokomo alumni chose to serve the public of north central Indiana. Alumni work in local, state, and Federal government. They enforce the law. They promote public health, philanthropy, and education. They volunteer on countless boards and committees.

Messenger asked graduates in public service to reflect on their work and how IU Kokomo can provide knowledge that works for future public servants.

To be a successful public servant, State Representative Ron Herrell says, “you must have a “servant’s heart—you must want to help and serve others.”

Herrell has been doing that his entire adult life, as an Army medic, an ambulance driver, and, for 27 years, as a Kokomo fireman and fire inspector/investigator (pictured, page 16). While working, he earned an associate’s degree in Fire Science Technology in 1981 through IU Kokomo. “It took a while to get the degree, but it was worth it. I’m proud to be an IU Kokomo alumnus,” Herrell said.

Herrell represented District 30 in the Indiana General Assembly from 1998–2004, and regained the seat in 2006. Vice chair of the Veterans Affairs & Public Safety committee, he also sits on committees for Insurance, Labor and Employment, and Ways and Means. When faced with tough legislative decisions, Herrell reminds himself, “I was elected to represent Kokomo in Indianapolis, not to represent Indianapolis in Kokomo.” A public servant must be able to take criticism without offense, he added. “Some friends will agree with you, some will disagree, but you must listen to both sides.”

Knowing Who You Serve

Local Republicans counted on Jackie Buttice Gray’s skills as a bookkeeper when they ran her for city clerk-treasurer in Peru. Now in her second term, Gray learned that the job involved more than accounting. “To know the community and best serve it... I had to join community organizations and serve on public boards,” she said. “Being here at city hall gives me the opportunity to meet other community leaders and to influence many lives.”

Gray especially enjoys working on community projects that support young people and education. In March, she helped coordinate the Miami County Youth Summit, a leadership workshop for teenagers held at IU Kokomo.

Gray said earning her degree in social and behavioral science at IU Kokomo taught her about responsibility and social interaction. “Sally Black taught all of my communication classes. She expected students to be professional, to put ourselves in a setting where we could problem-solve.”

Being college educated is “crucial” for public office holders, as the scope and complexity of governing expands, Gray said. “Earning a college degree is a plus for this job, and for the voters who elected you,” she said.

Education as a Service Tool

Appointed acting chief of the Kokomo Police Department (KPD) on May 29, 2007, Gary McKay is a former KPD division commander and 22-year veteran of law enforcement. Being a policeman requires “a thick skin” and a deep desire to “do the job,” he said. Police are less than popular with those being investigated for crimes and violations. “But, when they have a problem with someone else, they want you there right now.”

State and federal guidelines mandate much of the training and continuing education police officers complete. McKay is convinced that his criminal justice studies at IU Kokomo have enhanced his job performance. “I accomplish a lot more using the tools that I have learned in classes.” He would like to pursue IU Kokomo’s new Master in Public Management degree (see page 18) to do more in his job and the community.

Early in their marriage, McKay’s wife, Rhonda, finished a degree in nursing. She challenged Gary to return to school. In 2006, with great pride, Gary and Rhonda both walked in IU Kokomo’s Commencement. “I had my associate degree, and she was getting her master’s degree in nursing,” he said. McKay received his B.S. in General Studies in May.
Meeting Expectations

Citizens should expect certain skills and behaviors in the leader they choose, says Bob Hayes, a Kokomo City Councilman since 1998 and Product Line Purchasing Leader for Delphi Global Supply Management. Hayes suggests voters ask, “Can elected officials communicate in a public-friendly way, not talking over, but to the public? Are they accountable for what they say and do? Do their beliefs and philosophy have some kinship with those who elected them?”

IU Kokomo courses in public speaking and business administration helped prepare Hayes for council duties, while professors B.R. Davidson and Herbert Miller inspired his choice to be civically engaged. “My activities in the IU Kokomo Student Senate and Black Student Union were also very helpful,” he said.

Graduate studies and other continuing education in public management “can provide validation and practical applications of good governance, which are vital to being an effective public official,” he added.

Following Your Passion

Tom Sugar has served all of Indiana as Senator Evan Bayh’s chief of staff for the past two decades. While obtaining his political science degree from IU Kokomo, Sugar was thinking of a career in foreign service. But, he found his passion for public service closer to home thanks to Professor of Political Science Allen Maxwell.

Maxwell “inspired students with a sense of obligation to give back to our communities, even if it’s only serving on the local school board or your homeowner’s association,” Sugar said. “Allen encouraged us to read newspapers, watch the news, discuss the issues of the day, and be engaged as citizens and informed voters.”

In 1986, Maxwell suggested that Sugar organize a Howard County campaign for Congressional candidate Jim Jontz. “We won by 1,762 votes,” Sugar recalled with pride. Sugar served as Jontz’s chief of staff for three terms, and later joined Indiana Governor Evan Bayh’s staff as communications director. One of his favorite accomplishments in that position was coordinating Bayh’s overhaul of the state adoption system. “At the level of a governor’s office, you have the power to make things happen that affect people’s lives,” Sugar said.

Effecting change at the federal level is more difficult, but possible, he added. Sugar is proud of Bayh’s legislation that led to the arming of military Humvees to protect the troops they transported. “The troops
are in less danger today because Evan Bayh worked at this, and I helped.”

Governing “can be very complicated these days [with] daunting fiscal challenges and complex policies to understand,” Sugar said. Higher education equips leaders to deal with such challenges, he believes. Similarly, he said, a graduate degree is becoming the standard credential to enter another growing public service field, management of philanthropic foundations and nonprofit and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). “NGOs could potentially have a bigger impact than governments soon,” Sugar said. “Organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are having a significant impact on the health of the planet and its livability. And involvement in them can be very rewarding.”

Sugar hopes that anyone entering public service shares a passion with him: “We want to change the world.”

Congressman Dan Burton, center, poses with participants in his annual Youth Conference, held March 12 at IU Kokomo. State Representative Brian Bosma also addressed the gathering. More than 2,000 secondary students and several hundred volunteers took part in five different youth programs hosted on campus over Spring Break 2007.

Alumna Jackie Gray talks with some of the 140 eighth graders who took part in the 2007 Miami County Youth Leadership Summit, held at IU Kokomo in March. Gray helped coordinate the event.

Tom Sugar
Ron Herrell
Bob Hayes
Gary McKay
Camouflage netting and fatigues were the order of the day when School of Nursing alumni, students, and faculty gathered for the M.A.S.H. BASH Nightingale Dinner on March 22. Speaker Candy Waters, center photo below, reminded attendees to look for tension-relieving humor in the serious work of healing others. Proceeds from the annual event raised funds to update equipment in IU Kokomo’s nursing laboratory. To learn about donating and to view a list of needed items, visit www.iuk.edu/~konurse/News and click on “Nightingale Nursing Equipment Wishlist.”
E lizabeth Tocco Billman enrolled at Indiana University Kokomo in the late 1960s because she wanted to be an educator. “I was married, had two kids, and wanted to further my education and my opportunities,” she says. “The neighborhood kids always congregated at our house, and I thought, ‘Hey, I really like this.’”

She completed a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 1972, graduating with high distinction, and began what has become a distinguished career. She taught fourth graders and then sixth graders at Washington Township Elementary School in Valparaiso and Thompson Elementary School in Walton. During evenings and summers, she earned a master’s degree in elementary education from IUPUI and a principal’s license.

After 22 years of teaching, “I wanted an opportunity to interact with and have a positive impact on even more children than the ones in my classroom,” Billman says. Her search for a principal’s position coincided with an opening at Thompson, a K–6 school with about 500 students. She applied and was hired in 1994, becoming the first female administrator in Cass County’s Southeastern School Corporation.

Under Billman’s guidance, Thompson received a “exemplary” rating from the Indiana Department of Education in 2006 and a Healthy Hoosier School Award—Gold Level in 2005 for creating a healthy environment for students.

“She always puts the children first,” says John Bevan, Ph.D., superintendent of Southeastern School Corporation. Each day, Billman greets her students in the morning and goes to the cafeteria during the first graders’ lunch to become acquainted with her newest full-day students.

She takes great pride in her current and former students, many of whom still live in Cass County. “I say that I’ve been ‘lapped’—I now have children of parents that I had as students,” she says. “It’s really neat because I have long-term relationships with these families, so I’m really able to appreciate them and work with them.”

Billman also works ardently in the community. She is on the board of the Cass County Community Foundation, whose assets grew more than $2.5 million during her recent terms as president and now total more than $10 million. She is a charter member of the IU Kokomo chapter of Pi Lambda Theta, and she has served on the boards and in leadership positions for local organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and the YMCA/YWCA. A former adjunct faculty member in graduate education at IU Kokomo, she is a state-certified mentor for beginning principals.

“Liz is one of the quiet soldiers,” says Deanna Crispen, executive director of the Cass County Community Foundation and president of the IU Kokomo Alumni Association. “She has a tremendous servant’s heart.

We are a better community because of her.”

Billman’s students think a lot of her, too. Maci Maupin, a fifth grader at Thompson, nominated Billman as her “local hero” in a competition this spring. Maci says that Billman teaches students “to be respectful and to be good citizens.”

“I think we all have an obligation to try to make the world a better place,” Billman says. “Just as in the classroom a teacher wants to see every child do his or her best, I encourage anyone I come in contact with to do their best, to try to be their best.”
B.S. IN SECONDARY EDUCATION APPROVED; MASTER’S DEGREE REVAMPED

The Division of Education will begin offering a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education in fall 2007, as well as a revised Master of Science in Education program. Both received state approval in March.

The B.S. in Secondary Education will prepare students to teach at the junior high/middle school and/or high school level (grades 5–12). Graduates will be eligible for a license to teach any two core subject areas—English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, or Social Studies—at the junior high/middle school level (grades 5–9) and/or any one of the core subject areas or Fine Arts/Visual Arts at the secondary level (grades 5–12). A Middle School Generalist option is also available.

Professor Julie Saam, Ph.D., drafted the B.S. proposal and will coordinate the secondary education program. She sees the degree as “a win-win” for IU Kokomo and the area school districts. “The B.S. in Secondary Education program will provide more qualified teachers for the region in grades 5–12 and will reduce the need for teachers to teach out of their expertise area on emergency licenses,” Saam said.

The revised M.S. in Education program merges IU Kokomo’s previous M.S. in Elementary Education and M.S. in Secondary Education degree programs.

“The program incorporates a common core of studies relevant for classroom teachers at the preschool through high school level,” said Education Dean D. Antonio Cantu, Ph.D. “Yet, the curriculum also allows for individual course selection tailored to the needs and interests of teachers in early childhood, elementary, or secondary education.”

For more information on the B.S. in Secondary Education contact secondary education advisor Ed Stipp, estipp@iuk.edu, (765) 455-9260; Julie Saam, jsaam@iuk.edu, (765) 455-9302; or D. Antonio Cantu at dcantu@iuk.edu, (765) 455-9441.

For more information on the M.S. in Education, contact Michael Tulley, tulley@iuk.edu, (765) 455-9347, or Dean Cantu at dcantu@iuk.edu, (765) 455-9441.

Visit the Division of Education Web site at www.iuk.edu/education.

EDUCATION

Over the past three semesters, students in Professor Michael Tulley’s Literacy Methods courses have created 24 book bags and donated them to Kokomo High School’s Teen Parent Program. Based on themes, such as numbers, letters, or shapes, each bag held books and other teaching materials and activities appropriate for preschool children. KHS students are allowed to “check out” the bags and take them to their homes for use with their children.

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ARTS AND SCIENCES

Associate Professor of Psychology Kathryn Holcomb, Ph.D., Lecturer in English Karla Farmer Stouse, and Associate Professor of English Terri Bourus, Ph.D., were recently appointed to IU’s Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET). A total 17 IU educators received 2007 FACET awards, recognizing their exceptional commitment to teaching and learning.

Professor of Chemistry Songwen Xie, Ph.D., addressed
cultural divisions between U.S. students and foreign-born faculty in the April 17, 2007, Chemical and Engineering News, published by the American Chemical Society. A native of China, Xie suggested that international faculty set detailed course policies, solicit student feedback early in courses, and never assume that U.S. students have the same educational background as students in the professor’s home country.

The School of Arts and Sciences will offer four courses this summer that include travel in Europe. Five cities in Italy will be the setting for a communications course led by Assistant Professor Donna McLean, Ph.D., and an art class taught by Lecturer Minda Douglas. Professor Robert Strikwerda, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor Terri Bourus, Ph.D., will guide students through historic sites in Scotland, tied to courses in philosophy and English literature.

Bourus will participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar, “The Reformation of the Book: 1450–1700” in Belgium and Great Britain. In July, she will be one of only 37 international participants in the Oxford University Round Table on Global Education.

“Allied Health Sciences

At a national educational seminar for students in radiologic technology, IU Kokomo’s Diana Mishler earned the third highest score from among more than 1,200 students participating in a simulated registry review examination. The actual American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT) certifying examination is the gateway to work as a radiographer—a medical imaging technologist who produces medical images through the use of X rays.

“To obtain a license to practice as a radiologic technologist in any state, a student must score at least 75 percent on the ARRT certifying examination,” said John Hughey, M.S.M., R.T., (R.), director of IU Kokomo’s Department of Radiologic Science.

IU Kokomo alumni have a great track record on the certification exam so far. The 22 graduates in the first two A.S. in Radiography classes (2005 and 2006) all passed the exam; 16 scored 90 percent or higher, according to Hughey.

Mishler and 10 classmates received their degrees on May 8 and can now test for professional certification. Mishler will continue her education in the Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Technology program.

Continuing Studies

Online advising is now available for students in the General Studies degree program at Indiana University Kokomo. Using the Degree Progress Report, adult returning students can view and check on their progress toward completing a degree. After students have met one time with an academic advisor to develop their plan of study, they will no longer have to come to campus for routine academic advising, said Fred Hakes, director of the Division of Continuing Studies, home of the General Studies program.

“We recognize that adult, or non-traditional age, college students lead busy complicated lives and cannot always schedule a convenient time to...
(Continuing Studies, continued)

 see their academic advisor that doesn’t disrupt their work or family obligations,” Hakes said. •

BUSINESS

The School of Business earned a sixth consecutive listing in U.S. News & World Report’s annual guidebook America’s Best Graduate Schools. “The IU Kokomo School of Business has the only Master of Business Administration program located in our seven-county primary service area that was noted in the guidebook,” said Dean Niranjan Pati, Ph.D. The publication offers data

on more than 1,200 graduate programs, including the 406 M.B.A. programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

NURSING

Over the past year, senior tenured School of Nursing faculty have engaged in conversation with nursing executives of Howard Regional Health System (HRHS) on how the two institutions can collaborate toward HRHS’s goal of achieving Magnet nursing status. The American Nurses’ Credential Center awards Magnet status to hospitals based on the measurable quality of their nursing and how such nursing improves patient outcomes. Magnet standards include higher education levels for nurses, and increased involvement by nurses in the data collection and decision-making in patient care.

IU Kokomo nursing graduates are already being hired by Indianapolis hospitals with Magnet status, said Dean Penny Cass, Ph.D. “But we want to offer a new perspective. We want to prepare nursing students who will be able to contribute to the creation of Magnet-recognized institutions. We want to give our students a sense that they can stay in north central Indiana and make what they want of themselves right here.”

Part of that effort has been IU Kokomo’s “PODs,” off-campus coursework for R.N.-to-B.S.N. (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) candidates. IU Kokomo faculty have taught PODs at Howard Regional and Noblesville’s Riverview Hospital, so that working registered nurses can increase their professional education.

Last fall, IU Kokomo offered its first POD courses in a non-hospital setting, at Ancilla College, 75 miles north of Kokomo. Nineteen students in the Ancilla
POD will complete requirements for their R.N.-to-B.S.N. this summer, along with 11 from a Howard Regional Health System POD and 23 students who completed the transitional program on campus. An additional 36 graduates earned B.S.N.s in the traditional four-year program on campus.

**PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

School of Public and Environmental Affairs faculty will assist The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona campus in Kingston, Jamaica, in establishing UWI’s Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health program. SPEA Assistant Dean Robert Dibie, Ph.D., helped initiate the partnership, after speaking at a UWI Environmental Policy forum in October 2006. Dibie and other SPEA faculty have tentative plans to teach at UWI and collaborate on tourism and environmental pollution research there. A public university, UWI serves students from sixteen Caribbean nations. Dibie will serve as an external examiner in UWI’s master and doctoral program in environmental policy.

Babcock University (BU) in Nigeria has invited Robert Dibie to conduct an ethics workshop and present a series of lectures in Nigeria in June 2007. While at Babcock University, Dibie will serve as a consultant in helping the institution establish a postgraduate program in public management.

During spring semester, SPEA faculty took workshops stressing leadership qualities to Peru and Logansport. The City of Peru hosted an Ethics in Leadership workshop at the city hall on January 18. Participants included municipal executives, law enforcement officers, and representatives of Howard Regional Health System.

On April 27, SPEA partnered with the Cass County Economic Development Corporation to present a Leadership Persuasion and Influence workshop in Logansport. Opened to senior and middle level managers in both the public and private sectors, the workshop examined questions of how leaders can set directions that transform their organizations and mobilize their employees to implement needed change.
Marie Kunkle, M.A.T.
Senior Lecturer in Mathematics

• Four-time winner of the Amicus Award, given to favorite campus teachers
• Taught junior high math for 10 years before coming to IU Kokomo as a math lab tutor and adjunct.
• In the 1980s and ’90s, taught base 4 math unit to Kokomo Center fifth graders. Has also served area education by her involvement in textbook reviews, plans for an after-school math club, and mentoring of teachers, tutors, and a student academic team.

“I have enjoyed teaching all the classes I have. But the elementary education classes have been special. It has been a challenge, not only to teach those students the math they need to know, but also to develop their appreciation and enjoyment of mathematics. Students have come back and told me they learned how to teach by being in my class.

“I started teaching the Mathematics for Elementary Teachers sequence in the fall of 1978 and taught it almost every semester since then. It was a three-semester sequence when we first started, taught in both day and evening sessions. I was responsible for making the changes necessary when the course went from a three-semester sequence to a two-semester sequence. It was accomplished with no reduction in content.

“Probably the most significant of my other campus activities was serving on the committee to set up the Learning Enhancement Center. The Center has made meaningful contributions to the retention of students.

“I think students will remember that I cared about them and came to class prepared to teach. Students who have failed my class have arranged their schedules to take the same course from me the next semester. They’ve told me they understood me, and, if they had done what I told them to do the first time, they wouldn’t have had to repeat it. I try to be user friendly.

“Many years ago, I used a poem at my aunt’s retirement about how a teacher is a builder of souls. If you treat people with respect, you help them have a healthy self-concept.”

Sue Ridlen, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Folklore and American Studies
Director of student retention program Project Success, 1999–2004

• Took her first folklore class at IU Kokomo under Xenia Cord in 1968. Cord later urged Ridlen to take over teaching the course, beginning Ridlen’s 38-year faculty career
• Plans to organize a Logansport museum of political memorabilia collected by herself and husband, Judge Julian Ridlen.

“Students consider folklore as something that doesn’t affect them. I show them that folklore is family traditions, folk speech indigenous to Indiana. It’s modern legends, folk houses, barns, and gravestones. I try to raise students awareness of what’s around them, the relationships of those things to their history.

“Students say, ‘We don’t have any traditions in our family.’ But, traditions don’t have to be extraordinary things. It can be food, recipes. I encourage them to record their family’s oral history . . . and [through stories] to ‘re-create’ the lives of family members who died before their birth. They learn about their grandparents and great-grandparents’ beliefs and values. They say, ‘Now, I understand why my parents act the way they do.’

“In my ‘Grave Affairs’ class, we visit cemeteries and a monument factory. I tell students, ‘You’ll know you’re onto something when the gravestones start to talk to you.’ The patterns of death dates tell you about illnesses in the community. The size of monuments reflects social stratification. Where people are buried can tell you about relationships, especially of husbands and wives.

“Students in my folklore classes did all the interviews for Coming of Age [a book of oral histories recorded for IU Kokomo’s 50th anniversary and a DVD update for the 60th anniversary.] I’m proud of those products. Transcripts and interview tapes are housed in IU Kokomo’s Library, so those interview subjects will live on.

“In the retention programs—Project Success, Summer Success, Lumina Program—we all did a great deal of mentoring of students who, for
whatever reason, were underprepared for college. I wanted those students to be successful. I didn’t give them the answers but charted the path for them.”

John Rudy, Ph.D.  
Professor of English

- Has taught literature at IU Kokomo since 1971.
- Wrote and successfully defended the proposal for the campus’s Bachelor of Arts in English degree at IU Kokomo.

“I am going to miss the students. They gave me some of my best ideas for articles that I later researched and published. I think I may have two more books in me. In retirement, I want to live life more poetically. It is time to explore different dimensions of a literary lifestyle.”

“I was not a good student in high school. I was always in trouble. I would skip class and go home to read on my own.” When he graduated high school, he “straightened up” and began a collegiate career that spanned three decades. After obtaining his undergraduate degree from State University College New York, New Paltz, Rudy was offered a fellowship to study early English literature at Penn State University. He received his doctorate from Penn State in 1971.

Admirers of John Rudy added these thoughts:

*Joseph Abney, 2006 graduate:* “Dr. Rudy stresses the importance of literary criticism in his classroom, and he nurtures creativity rather than conformity.”

*John Stanifer, IU Kokomo junior:* “I appreciate Dr. Rudy’s eccentricities. As he enters a classroom, he sometimes says, ‘This is a good looking class. I think I’ll hang around a while,’ before he starts into his lecture.”

*Terri Bourus, associate professor of English:* “John is the real deal. His mentoring when I first joined the faculty was very welcome. His three books and many important publications show how intertwined his research and his instruction are.”

Thomas von der Embse, Ph.D.  
Professor of Management  
Chair of the Division of Business and Economics (later School of Business), 1990–2001

- Hired in 1990 with the charge to develop a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program for IU Kokomo. The first M.B.A. degrees were conferred in 1994.
- Led seven-year candidacy process for school to be accredited by the Association for the Advancement of Collegiate Schools of Business.
- Has overseen 80 capstone projects in which student teams analyze local small businesses and make recommendations for the clients’ marketing, financing, and management strategy.

“Getting the M.B.A. program approved was a milestone. We had to develop the curriculum, organize an advisory board. We had members from Delphi, community leaders, and IU Bloomington representatives working with us to design a program oriented toward working professionals.

“We had authorization to hire nine new faculty, more than double the number we had. It’s most satisfying that [those he hired] have all been promoted to professor.

“From the beginning, student teams in my Policy and Strategy courses served as pro bono consultants to local businesses as part of their course requirements. I emphasize, ‘This is the client’s livelihood. Any recommendations you make can have a tremendous impact. Make sure you get it right.’

“The students’ recommendations usually feed into what clients have already been thinking about, but haven’t investigated yet . . . how to market their services or finance growth.” [Teams formally present recommendations to their clients, professor, and classmates, at the end of the semester.] “At the presentation, I’ll ask the client, ‘Are there certain recommendations that you can run with now?’ That usually is the case.

“The bulk of these projects have been for small businesses, where the students can work with a CEO or president. It’s a big advantage for students. We’ve had repeat business with some clients.”
**Class Notes**

Alumni can send their news to Class Notes, in care of alumni@iuk.edu or IU Kokomo Office of Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 9003, Kokomo, IN 46904.

- **Clifford The Big Red Dog** author Norman R. Bridwell, L.H.D. '94 (honorary from IU Kokomo), received the first-ever American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Roger Caras Achievement Award, given to an outstanding individual or organization who has inspired children and made a contribution to the animal community through literature, actions, or other means. The Kokomo native now lives in Edgartown, Mass.

- **Suzanne E. Thomas**, B.S. '78 (education), M.S. '82 (education), was selected as the 2006–07 Educator of the Year in the California League of Middle Schools. "This means I am representing more than 7,000 teachers from Riverside, San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono counties," she wrote. "It was a thrill to have another IU alumna, **Janet Smith**, B.S. '86 (education), M.S. '89 (education), fly to California for the awards dinner." Thomas lives in Palm Desert, Calif. Smith is an elementary school teacher for Maconaqua School Corp., in Bunker Hill, Ind.

- **Mary E. Page**, B.S. '91 (education), M.S. '00 (education), is a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Central Middle School in Kokomo. Selected as a 2006 New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Teachers’ Workshop Travel Award winner, she was one of five Indiana teachers sponsored by the Indiana Council of Economic Education to attend the 2006 workshop in New York City and visit the NYSE trading floor.

- **Stephen Gwin**, B.S. '93 (education), recently helped revise curricula at Fairview Elementary in Logansport, to work with new teaching materials. Gwin has taught at Fairview for 13 years, in grades 1 and 4.

- **Joyce Eikenberry**, B.G.S. '96 (general studies), M.L.S. '03 (library science), and **Cathy Hightower**, B.A. '89 (humanities), M.S. '00 (education), are among the 19 members of the 2007 Leadership Kokomo Class, sponsored by the Kokomo/Howard County Chamber of Commerce. Eikenberry is Head of Children’s Services at the Kokomo–Howard County Public Library. Hightower directs alumni relations and public affairs for IU Kokomo.

- **Deborah Beckman**, B.S. '98 (sociology), M.S. '01 (social work), has been appointed executive director of the Fort Wayne YWCA. She was selected from more than 100 applicants for the directorship, based on her experience as an agency administrator and fundraiser. Previously, Beckman was chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Wapahani Council, Delaware County.

- **Phil Williams**, B.S. '98 (business), controller for the City of Kokomo, has been elected Secretary of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACt) Controllers Affiliate Group. The group provides analysis and insight into laws, regulations, and financial matters affecting municipalities.

- **Andrew R. Brehm**, B.G.S. '03 (general studies), of Kokomo, is a technical sergeant in the U.S. Air Force at Grissom Air Reserve Base. He has been accepted for graduate studies at Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., where he’ll pursue a master’s degree in military studies.

- **Claire Newbury**, B.S.N. '04 (nursing), is a registered nurse in the intensive-care unit at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital. In September, she married Thomas R. Clouse, B.S. '96, M.D. '04, who is finishing his internal medicine residency at the same hospital. They live in Indianapolis.

- **Chelsea Conrad**, B.A. '06 (communication arts), of Kokomo has worked as a news reporter and announcer at WWKI Radio in Kokomo since 2003. Conrad got her start in radio working as a weekend DJ at Shine 99 in Frankfort. She served an internship in Thailand, working for the Christian Broadcasting Network. Conrad was the second IU Kokomo student to graduate with a minor in International Studies.

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An IU Kokomo nursing student talks about career opportunities at Tipton Memorial Hospital with med-surg team leader Leona Stout, A.S.N. '80 (nursing), (black jacket), at a March job fair on campus. Other nursing alumni representing their institutions at the event included Janet Schimmel, A.S.N. '94, director of nursing at Wesley Manor, Frankfort; Brenda Carey, B.S.N. '97, M.S.N. '06, director of education for St. Vincent Mercy Hospital, Elwood; and Anita Lingenfelter, B.S.N. '05, employment manager for nurse recruitment, Riverview Hospital, Noblesville.
In its second annual Angel Walk/Take Back the Night rally on April 24, the IU Kokomo community raised $5,563 to benefit the domestic violence shelter operated by Family Service Association of Howard County, Inc. Classes also contributed in-kind donations of children’s equipment and household supplies valued at $1,000.

Some 370 students, faculty, staff, and community members marched along Washington Street in the one-mile Angel Walk. Sixteen classes incorporated the topic of domestic violence into their spring curricula, and displayed student research posters at the rally.

“Our campus has truly embraced the cause of ending domestic and interpersonal violence,” Director of Student Development Sarah Sarber said. Sarber thanked Coordinator of Programming and Applied Learning Kathryn Widman, B.A. ’05, “for her hard work and success in putting together this memorable event.”

Rally attendees signed a quilt, showing support for those affected by the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech University. Norma L. Vieke of Sharpsville and her son, John Vieke, B.S. ’07, made the quilt.
A professor once told me that determining what you want to do with your life is as easy as deciding what industry you would work in for free for the rest of your life. As a student intern for the Kokomo Downtown Association, I have found my true calling. Public relations and communications is definitely something I can do for the entirety of my life.

The Kokomo Downtown Association (KDA) promotes the civic and commercial revitalization of downtown Kokomo through activities such as the Farmer’s Market, Strawberry Festival, and Oktoberfest. I have attended several major board meetings for KDA, written press releases and news stories that have been published, and have enhanced my interviewing and networking skills.

A senior, I am also an intern with Leadership Kokomo (LK), a Kokomo/Howard County Chamber of Commerce program that trains the future leaders of our community. I have worked on developing the LK Alumni Association through contacting individuals and writing surveys. I am revising the LK brochure, writing articles to publicize the organization, and organizing an LK alumni and community event.

In my junior year, I interned with Opportunities for Positive Growth’s, which assists mentally handicapped individuals with daily living through a goal-oriented approach. My life was personally enhanced working with such determined individuals. This internship also helped me determine that social work was not the best career choice for me.

Without the ongoing encouragement of the Indiana University Kokomo faculty and advisors, I would never have considered an internship, let alone achieved so much while participating in them. Internships are the best method for undergraduates to gain real-world experience. As a full-time student, it is rare to find time to relax; however, the benefits I’ve received from internships have been so innumerable that I insist on scheduling time for them. They have offered me experiences and knowledge that I could not have gained from classrooms or textbooks alone.

Internships allow recent graduates a fierce edge over competition. Many graduates are invited to a full-time position with the organization for which they had previously interned.

Likewise, internships greatly benefit the organizations that offer them. For example, through my work with the KDA, a new business recently became a KDA member. Organizations are normally so preoccupied with their primary goals that they often leave many creative projects untouched. Enter interns, who are available to assist an organization with such projects and offer new eyes for different points of view and exciting ideas.

Melissa Dodd began interning in January 2007 with the Kokomo Downtown Association, a certified national and state Main Street program. KDA Executive Director John Wiles said Dodd was thoroughly prepared for her internship through skills obtained as a student at IU Kokomo. “Melissa brought exceptional interviewing and writing skills and an eye for photography.” Dodd contributed eight hours per week to internship responsibilities—time that was extremely beneficial to the association, Wiles said. “Without Melissa’s help, the news stories would not have been released to media in a timely manner, and our list of completed Web site stories would be very short.”

Could an IU Kokomo student intern assist your business or organization? Contact Candy Norman at caanorma@iuk.edu or (765) 455-9406 to find out.
Before earning his Bachelor of Arts in Humanities at IU Kokomo in 1995, Jim Yeakel attended Elmhurst College in Illinois. Playing for Elmhurst’s basketball team, he got to work in a summer camp with Chicago Bulls great Michael Jordan. Once, he even beat Jordan at one-on-one hoops.

Jordan demonstrated a “relentless pursuit of perfection” in any competitive situation. Yeakel admired Jordan and has tried to emulate him. He seems to be succeeding.

Named president and CEO of Kokomo Heritage Federal Credit Union in March 2006, Jim Yeakel initiated the business’ first home equity program, added two more income streams, and generated several months of profits.

Under Yeakel, the credit union is “doing things we’ve never done before, and blossoming,” said Jim Ferrell, president of the Kokomo Heritage board of directors. When Yeakel was hired, “he didn’t have any credit union background, but he had a great education and a lot of banking experience,” Ferrell said. “In two weeks, he had a business plan, new directions, and sold it to the board. He’s always willing to learn more, attend seminars, ask questions of others”.

Ferrell said Yeakel remodeled the credit union’s long-standing staff into a winning team, and has been well received in the larger credit union industry.

Yeakel said he gets “great advice” from the experienced credit union executives he serves with on the board of the Indiana Credit Union League’s North Central chapter. “And, I have a supportive board [at Kokomo Heritage]. That helps a lot.”

While he enjoys “being the decision maker” who can carry out new plans, Yeakel knows his top responsibility is keeping trust with the credit union’s members—mostly, employees of small-to-medium sized, locally owned businesses. “They’re putting their financial lives in your hands. They expect their deposits to pay off.”

His success relies a great deal on the discipline he developed in IU Kokomo’s honors program. A sports-focused, average student at Elmhurst, Yeakel woke up to the reality that, if he wanted a professional career, he needed a degree. Enrolled at Kokomo in 1993, he took classes for two-and-a-half years without a break. “I was already focused on getting good grades, but the honors program made me shoot for a higher goal than just graduating. It improved my work ethic.

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“This has parlayed into my professional career. I wasn’t satisfied with being at one level. I wanted to go to the next level, and I still do.” His Humanities major gave him “a well-rounded education” with communication and people skills that have moved his career forward.

After graduation, Yeakel coached briefly at Kokomo High School. He spent a decade with American General Finance, first as an office manager, and then a regional manager, overseeing some $92 million in corporate accounts. He also directed the mortgage department of a Lafayette bank.

Yeakel hopes to share what he’s learned in business with today’s IU Kokomo students. “At some point, you need to give back, especially when you have something to offer. I am proud of being an alumnus of IU Kokomo, and would like to see it become even more of a focus of community life.”

Yeakel met his wife, Bridgette Renfrow of Swayzee, at IU Kokomo. They are parents of five sons: Cody, Jim Jr., Dylan, Connor, and Quentin.

“Knowledge that Works!”

Read more about Jim Yeakel at www.iuk.edu/alumni.
Close to 200 participants braved rain and cold for IUKAA’s Old Ben 5K Run/Walk on April 14.