Ways Your Membership Makes IU Stronger

Creates a global alumni network
More than 100 alumni chapters worldwide offer alumni opportunities to socialize and network with fellow alumni. Chapters serve IU through student recruitment, scholarship fundraising, and community service.

Keeps alumni informed about IU
Membership supports the IU Alumni Association’s *Indiana Alumni Magazine*; the IUAA e-newsletter and Web site; and school, campus, and chapter communications.

Provides scholarships for students
The IU Alumni Association has awarded more than $3 million in scholarships to students on all IU campuses.

Connects alumni through programs and services
IUAA’s continuing education and travel programs, online alumni directory, career services, and Homecoming, reunions, and other events all provide opportunities for alumni and friends to connect to IU and each other.

Supports international outreach
The IUAA assists the university in furthering the international scope of IU and works with IU to assist students with opportunities to travel and study abroad.

Membership Matters.
Join or renew today!

Indiana University Alumni Association
Virgil T. DeVault Alumni Center
1000 East 17th Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47408-1521
(800) 824-3044

Join online: [www.alumni.indiana.edu](http://www.alumni.indiana.edu)
[FEATURED]

Why diversity matters to our school, page 9

[FEATURED]

Job market update

How are IU Informatics graduates faring in today's tough market? And how can alumni access networking resources? The Informatics Career Services Office answers. page 15

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Diversity matters

Close your eyes and imagine a computing and information specialist. What do you envision? Is it a white male? Kind of nerdy to boot?

Now imagine a room full of IU School of Informatics students. Do you picture a room full of white males? I hope not.

Why do we care? Why does the diversity of the computing and information technology student body and workforce matter?

As the dean of a school that has made diversity a leading strategic priority as well as a co-founder of the National Center for Women & Information Technology and an active participant in National Science Foundation Broadening Participation in Computing Projects that include both historically black universities and Hispanic-serving universities, I end up addressing these questions a lot.

Diversity matters for three reasons. First, it enhances innovation. To design technology for a diverse world, it is crucial to have a workforce that understands that world. (The history of technology is rife with examples of systems designed by men that didn’t work for women, whether airbags that deployed incorrectly for the average woman’s size or voice recognition systems that only succeeded with lower pitched voices.) Secondly, the current U.S. student body in computing and information technology is overwhelmingly (75 to 90 percent) male, and overwhelmingly Caucasian and Asian, and it doesn’t come close to filling the projected workforce needs of the nation. If we don’t include more women and underrepresented minorities, we will not fill our nation’s needs.

Third, computing and information technology careers are highly rewarding — both intellectually and financially — something everyone should benefit from.

What does this have to do with the School of Informatics? Our school is leading the nation in defining a new, broad view of computing and information technology, one that encompasses basic science, a wide range of applications, human factors, and societal implications.

This expansive view of our field is at the foundation of involving a diverse set of participants — the broad range of perspectives relates to a broad range of people.

An important aspect of diversity is creating an environment that encourages and supports a diverse set of participants. One of the biggest lessons of successful programs is that steps that are helpful for underrepresented groups generally are helpful for all students. Examples of useful components include increased use of group work and the use of a wide range of examples in classes and assignments. And often, the most helpful professors are simply those who encourage all students and are open to the differences in the background of each student.

Finally, diversity is much more than issues measured by the census — nationality, race, or gender. The most important diversity may be thought processes — to oversimplify, being left-brained or right-brained. In my experience, the best advisory boards mix a wide range of professions: scientists, engineers, lawyers, artists, sales and marketing professionals, etc. Like all types of diversity, the varied ways people tend to come at issues can be challenging, but ultimately the differences are enriching.

Success in diversity, like so many things, takes substance and commitment. The substance includes approaches and programs that work for a wide range of people. The commitment is to creating and sustaining a culture that welcomes broad participation. The Indiana University School of Informatics intends to be a national exemplar in this regard. We welcome your suggestions and your support.

"OUR SCHOOL IS LEADING THE NATION IN DEFINING A NEW, BROAD VIEW OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY."
Launching careers
30 employers, strong résumés make spring career fair a success

The third annual School of Informatics spring career fair was held Feb. 17 at the Indiana Memorial Union in Bloomington. Proving that technology firms are still hiring despite the economy, 30 employers were on hand to meet with and interview students.

The larger career fair is in the fall, but the spring event continues to draw top regional and national companies that are looking to fill a wide variety of positions. This year, almost 400 students visited the fair, with a record 185 coming through the doors in the first hour! Of the 61 recruiters that were present, 25 of them were IU alumni, a testament to the impeccable reputation of IU, and the growing sense of community being built in the School of Informatics.

Students talk with recruiters at the spring career fair. Find more about the state of informatics jobs on page 15 and about alumni career events on page 16.

Computer science undergraduate among CRA Outstanding Female undergrads

Informatics student Sarah Loos was named as a finalist for the Computing Research Association’s (CRA) 2009 Outstanding Female Undergraduate Award. Loos was one of 22 women cited, and being named a finalist makes her one of the top seven females in this highly competitive selection process.

Loos is a senior with a dual major in computer science and mathematics. She received third place in the student research competition at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in October 2008. In addition to this honor, she was nominated by IU to apply for a Churchill Scholarship, given to only 13 American students pursuing graduate study at Cambridge University.

“Sarah is an exceptional student, and a fine representative for the School of Informatics,” said Andy Hanson, computer science chair. “To be named a finalist for this CRA award is quite an honor, she’s in company with other students who are the “best of the best.”

The Computing Research Association each year honors undergraduates who have excelled in their field. The 2009 competition was sponsored by Microsoft Research.
How did in end up doing what you’re doing, living in Indiana?

I am from Indiana and lived in Bloomington until I was five, before moving to New Castle (by the way, did you know that four of five IU men’s basketball NCAA national championship teams had a New Castle player?).

I graduated from IU with a degree in psychology, received my PhD in clinical psychology from Miami of Ohio, and became a faculty member at the IU School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry in 1990. I left there in 1996 and started a consulting firm called Praxis, which I later sold, and then founded Performance Assessment Network (Pan), one of the first software as a service companies in the human resources arena. Pan was acquired by TALX in 2006 and is now part of Equifax.

I’m involved with the School of Informatics DAC as well as the chair’s advisory committee for the IU Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, and I serve on the board of directors of a number of Internet companies, including BubbleUp Ltd. (Houston), Vinculum Inc. (San Diego), and Achievant Inc. (Carmel, Ind.). My wife and I live with our two teenagers in Carmel, Ind.

What are Informatics’ challenges and strengths going forward?

The School of Informatics is well-prepared to meet the challenges of the uncertain economic and technology situation we will experience over the coming months.
A $15 million, five-year grant from the Lilly Endowment will establish the Pervasive Technology Institute, to be housed at a state-of-the-art incubator that is currently being built on the Bloomington campus. The School of Informatics will play an instrumental role in the new institute, with Informatics faculty members heading up two of the three research centers that will comprise the PTI.

The Digital Science Center, which will be headed by Professor Geoffrey Fox, will focus on creating an intuitively usable cyberinfrastructure with tremendous capabilities for supporting collaboration and computation. For example, it will develop techniques to extend the benefits of supercomputers by creating new, simpler ways for scientists to harness their power.

"Science is being revolutionized by the increasing power of computers, networks, instruments, and data repositories," said professor Fox. "Their ability to link people together and to extract knowledge from observations is extraordinary. The Digital Science Center will be a world leader in advances in this approach to science."

Associate Professor Beth Plale will direct the Data to Insight Center, which will focus on creating new tools to understand and gain insight from the vast quantities of data now produced in digital form. For example, the center will create tools to capture the provenance of digital scientific data. The capture is critical to science reproducibility, and data re-use, archival, and preservation.

"The amount of large-volume data continues to grow beyond our ability to store it all," Plale said. "The Internet is a source of volumes of new data about human interaction, and the underlying backbone networks carry a large portion of the world’s daily conversation. Company emails, memos, and reports are reaching into petabytes in size. These data hold the key to new discoveries and understanding, hence the Data to Insight Center."

"The School of Informatics is excited and proud to be a part of the Pervasive Technology Institute," said School of Informatics Dean Bobby Schnabel. "There is strong synergy between the goals of the Centers and the research carried out at the School of Informatics; Professors Fox and Plale, with their passion for their work, are excellent choices for their leadership."

Construction began on IU’s Bloomington incubator in November 2008. The 40,000-square foot facility, located at the intersection of 10th Street and the State Road 45/46 Bypass, will house life science and information technology start-ups. The Pervasive Technology Institute will be one of the building’s first occupants upon its expected July 2009 completion.

The Pervasive Technology Institute will draw on the success of the IU Pervasive Technology Labs, the School of Informatics, and experts in other areas. It will expand the value of information technology in transforming scientific progress; investigate new ways to analyze and understand massive amounts of digital data; and perform policy and computer science research that may ensure that computer systems and networks can be used with appropriate privacy while protecting national security interests.
**[OUTREACH]**

**Informatics Technology Week at Bloomington Boys and Girls Club**

In late February, faculty and staff volunteers from the School were on hand at the Boys and Girls Club in Bloomington for the inaugural Informatics Technology Week. The four-day after school event featured hands-on presentations by informatics and computer science faculty, staff, and students. Ranging in age from 6 to 12, club members participated in toy robot games, a “how-to” on building computers, and a session on musical technology.

“This type of program is exactly what we’re looking to build upon here,” said Boys and Girls Club executive director Jeff Baldwin. “We are grateful to the school for bringing Technology Week to the club. We have a lot of kids who are interested, but unfortunately don’t have access to these types of programs.”

“Bringing our expertise to the club is a great way for us to connect with the Bloomington community,” Jeremy Podany, director of career services at the school’s Bloomington campus said. “Plus, we get a group of kids who otherwise might never have the chance to understand all that informatics is, involved in and excited about opportunities in technology!”

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**Gibbs honored with IU Foundation Keystone Award**

Gibbs

The Indiana University Foundation has presented Dean’s Advisory Council member John R. Gibbs, BS’72, with its Keystone Award. The award recognizes his outstanding leadership through multiple IU fundraising campaigns and initiatives, especially in support of the School of Informatics. The award recognizes the vital contribution of volunteers to the success of philanthropic initiatives for IU, especially at the highest levels of service.

Gibbs received his undergraduate degree from the Kelley School of Business in 1972. In 1994, he co-founded Interactive Intelligence Inc., later retiring after 10 years of service. The company’s IPO was one of the most successful in Indiana. He has also served as chairman and CEO of Qtrac Software.

Gibbs has been instrumental in the development and support of the School of Informatics. He established an endowment on behalf of the DAC and then went on to endow the John R. Gibbs Scholarship for Innovation in the School of Informatics on the Bloomington and IUPUI campuses.

**Informatics’ Forgey earns IUPUI Spirit of Philanthropy Award**

Forgey

On April 22, Informatics’ Danita Forgey, BS’81, MIS’01, was honored with the Spirit of Philanthropy Award during a luncheon and awards ceremony at the IUPUI Campus Center. The IUPUI Spirit of Philanthropy event is an annual celebration of the civic spirit for the dedicated donors and volunteers who helped IUPUI become a great urban campus.

Forgey is a lecturer and former program director of the Informatics Health Information Administration Program at IUPUI. In addition to classroom instruction of HIA students, she currently oversees curriculum development and program evaluation.

**IUPUI students join student editorial board of premier journal**

Two students from the School of Informatics at IUPUI have been selected to serve on the Student Editorial Board (SEB) of the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, the premier journal for medical, clinical, and health informatics. Brian Dixon and Jeff Klann, both second-year PhD students focusing on health informatics, were elected to the SEB last year and will serve terms through 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Dixon holds a BA in computer science from DePauw University and earned his MPA from IU. He has completed most of his doctoral coursework and is now focusing on his research, which will center on health-information exchange. Klann holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and will be focusing his research on automating the building of clinical rules and quality metrics through data mining.

The American Medical Informatics Association’s bi-monthly journal presents peer-reviewed articles that assist physicians, informaticians, scientists, nurses, and other health care professionals to develop and apply medical informatics to patient care, teaching, research, and health care administration. Each issue contains state-of-the-art reviews, discussion forums, and invited editorials presented as brief reviews or full-length papers.
Diversity MATTERS

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength” – *Maya Angelou*

Over the past ten years, diversity issues and programs have been at the forefront of our daily life. A Google search for “diversity” reveals sites related to diversity in executive jobs, not-for-profits, and higher education, to name just a few. Just about every industry, company, or field has formulated a plan to address the issue of diversity in the workplace or classroom.

Young people are learning earlier that, as Maya Angelou says, there is a beauty and strength in diversity. A workplace or classroom filled with varied cultures and viewpoints renders richer ideas and innovative solutions. However, diversity still presents major challenges for many organizations; it’s an ever-evolving and fluctuating issue that requires almost constant attention.

Diversity in the IT field is certainly no exception.

As enrollment in computing-related majors in programs across the country declines, and the number of women and underrepresented minorities remains critically low, diversity in IT continues to be a national challenge.

According to the strategic plan developed by the School’s faculty and leadership team, diversity is now fundamental to our mission. This commitment is driving initiatives within our learning community, both in and out of the classroom.

A detailed and multi-tiered strategic map has been developed to guide the IU School of Informatics through an evolving culture change. This plan articulates comprehensive strategic directions that are research-based and address challenges in the following areas: image; recruiting; promoting student success and inclusive environments both in and out of the classroom; outreach; climate; developing industry, professional and alumni partners; and assessment and dissemination. We are in the process of implementing this comprehensive plan that will enable us to move forward.

One of the first challenges we face deals with our image. Research shows that women and minorities are attracted to majors and fields where they see a clear link to being creative and to making a difference with people. The image initially associated with Informatics doesn’t illicit this connection, yet it exists beyond a doubt.

(continued from page 10)
A marketing strategy to address this disconnect is in development, and a number of women and minority students are involved in putting Informatics "on the radar" for target groups in the IU student body. Recruiting initiatives are being implemented to draw additional students into entry-level Informatics and computer science classes.

A logical next priority is to promote and improve student success and satisfaction in these classes, which will ultimately lead to increased student retention. On the academic side, everyone in the division of undergraduate education is participating in a weekly seminar series that focuses on creating inclusive teaching environments, with active and collaborative learning strategies as the focus. Additionally, we have begun to institute other "best practices" in the classroom, such as introducing peer-led team learning in our introductory programming class. These programs will be assessed in terms of their impact on enrollments.

Outside the classroom, several new initiatives are poised to boost the sense of community within the school. The inaugural kick-off for the new Informatics Research Scholars Program was held this January. Each research team is comprised of two underrepresented undergraduate students and a PhD mentor. For one semester they work on a topic of their interest, culminating with a poster session to highlight their projects.

The focus of Research Scholars is to provide a positive experience for the students, introduce them to the life of a researcher, learn about the graduate school path, spend up to five hours per week working on a group research project, and further develop their communication and teamwork skills.

Student-led Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are forming within our target groups. The Undergraduate Advisory Board for Women in Informatics and Computing was established this spring, and the members are focusing on ways to create a sense of community among undergraduate women, while helping to increase enrollment.

In February, our first community dinner for Black Informatics students resulted in the formation of a SIG that will support their social networking, promote academic success and professional development, and assist with recruiting. In each case, students have the added opportunity to build leadership and team skills, which will be an asset to personal career development.

Our overarching goal is to have an integrated and well-synthesized program and culture that becomes known as the higher education national exemplar model for diversity in IT. We are involving community members at all levels to help enable this vision and recently established a diversity exemplar task force that is comprised of faculty and students. Recently, the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) announced the creation of their Pace Setters Program, intended to develop and celebrate national exemplar corporate and educational organizations for women in IT. It should be no surprise that IU’s School of Informatics has been designated one of the Pace Setters!
Cybersecurity work crosses disciplines

WiFi Malware study published in high-impact journal

Informatics professors Steven Myers and Alex Vespignani’s recent work on WiFi malware spreading has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), one of the world’s most-cited multidisciplinary scientific serials.

The paper, “WiFi Networks and Malware Epidemiology,” is the result of an ongoing research project by the pair and two additional collaborators, Vittoria Colizza and Hao Hu.

The team created a model based on principles of infectious disease to study how malware might spread through a WiFi network, based on current insecure installations.

They accounted for different types of security commonly used in WiFi networks, such as encrypted and password-protected systems, and then divided the routers into three classes: susceptible (routers not infected with malware), infectious (routers transmitting the malware), and recovered (routers immune to the malware). They found that within two weeks, the malware had reached thousands of routers in the model.

Finally they showed that, even in densely populated areas, by bringing encryption rates to a given threshold value, large epidemics can be effectively halted, unlike in wired networks.

“This project is an excellent example of true interdisciplinary collaboration,” said Myers. “The interdisciplinary approach of the School of Informatics makes such projects plausible — researchers from the cybersecurity group working with researchers from the complex systems group on a project that has generated such significant findings.”

Bioinformatics receives $1.7 million in grants

The School of Informatics bioinformatics group received three grants in six months, two from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and one from Eli Lilly and Co., which will enhance the school’s impact on life sciences research.

“We are so pleased that our bioinformatics group has received such prestigious grant funding,” said Bobby Schnabel, dean of the School of Informatics. “These types of grants are important, not just to the school, but to the larger community. The tools that will come out of these research projects will have a lasting impact on the life sciences industry, and will likely help many people over time,” he added.

The largest grant comes from the NIH and is a three-year, $810,000 grant to develop methods to identify and quantify proteins from mass spectrometry experiments. By doing this, the researchers will be able to analyze patients’ protein levels, thereby helping to identify the signatures of diseases. Such analyses are relevant for early diagnostics and treatment. Informatics professors Predrag Radivojac (principal investigator) and Haixu Tang will work on the project, along with Randy Arnold, David Clemmer, James Reilly, and Richard DiMarchi, all from IU’s Chemistry Department.

The second NIH grant, worth $770,000 over three years, was awarded to Professor Yuzhen Ye, with Professor Tang as co-principal investigator, to conduct research as part of the Human Microbiome Project (HMP). The HMP’s mission is to generate resources for comprehensive characterization of the human microbiota (the microbes living within human beings). Developing computational tools that can interpret the large volume of complex data is an extremely important part of the project, and Ye’s team will be working on that part of the project with this grant. For more information on the Human Microbiome Project, visit http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/hmp.

The third, and final, grant was awarded by Eli Lilly and Co. in the amount of $140,000. Principal investigators Haixu Tang and Yehia Mechref will develop software tools for lipidomics analysis. Tang’s team will partner with the chemical discovery group at Eli Lilly to develop software that automatically monitors the dynamic changes of lipid classes inside cells after drug treatment.
**Computer Science prof named ACM Distinguished Scientist**

Professor Paul Purdom, of computer science, has been named among 27 professionals as an Association for Computing Machinery Distinguished Scientist for his contributions to significant advances in computing technology that have dramatically influenced progress in science, engineering, business, and many other areas.

Purdom has been on the faculty at IU since 1971. He received BS, MS, and PhD degrees in physics from the California Institute of Technology. His main research area is the analysis of algorithms. He has conducted numerous grant-funded projects on this topic, and authored papers on the subject. He is co-author of the book The Analysis of Algorithms. Purdom’s teaching accomplishments have been honored with the the Purdom Fellowship for graduate study, funded by Chin-Cheng Wu, MS’77, co-founder and chairman of Azuki Systems, and a former student of Professor Purdom.

**Haixu Tang wins campus award**

Professor Haixu Tang was one of only five IUB faculty members to be awarded the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award for 2009. The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and the Office of the Provost for Research present the annual award. It enables faculty members to enhance their research and recognizes junior faculty members who have excelled at IU’s teaching, research and service missions.

Tang came to the School of Informatics in 2004 as an assistant professor. Previously, he held positions at the University of California, San Diego, and the University of Southern California. His current work focuses on computational problems arising in molecular biology, in particular mass spectrometry.

**$450K NSF grant funds music informatics research**

Music informatics professor Chris Raphael received a three-year, $450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for his proposal entitled, “Real-Time Planning of a Conductable Orchestra.” The project involves creation of a computer program that understands the gestural language of musical conducting through video. The culmination of this project will be a computer system that has the ability to run on generic computer hardware, and can be made readily available.

**Vespignani honored by IU, American Physical Society**

Informatics professor Alex Vespignani has had a rewarding winter, receiving accolades from both Indiana University and the American Physical Society. In December, the IU Trustees named Vespignani a Rudy Professor, a distinguished professorship named after James H. Rudy, a 1932 graduate of Indiana University who donated the bulk of his estate to the university. Alex joins a select group of outstanding faculty with this appointment.

In addition, Vespignani was elected to fellowship in the American Physical Society, the preeminent organization of physicists in the United States. He was honored for his contribution to the statistical physics of complex systems, particularly his work on the spreading of viruses in real networks.

Professor Vespignani holds a PhD in physics from the University of Rome La Sapienza. Prior to joining IU in 2004, he held research positions at Yale University and Leiden University and the International Center for Theoretical Physics. His recent research focuses on the study of epidemics, and includes a $1.2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop EpiC, a computational infrastructure supporting the study of biological and social contagion.

Vespignani also was part of How Kevin Bacon Cured Cancer, a documentary that recently aired on the Science channel and was shown in Australia and the United Kingdom.

**NSF awards $500K grant to foster social web research**

Professor Fil Menczer recently received a $500,000 grant from the NSF for his proposal, “Social Integration of Semantic Annotation Networks for Web Applications.” The project brings together complex networks and Web mining techniques to develop a new generation of search engines and collaborative applications. The researchers will leverage existing annotations from users (such as the bookmarks they maintain on their browsers) and elicit new ones through useful tools and games. “These networks will improve social web applications such as search, recommendation, spam detection, and exploratory navigation interfaces,” Menczer said.
Informatics recognizes outstanding alumni, friends

The IU School of Informatics, the Dean’s Advisory Council, and the IU Informatics Alumni Association hosted an Awards Dinner, held April 2 at the Woodstock Country Club in Indianapolis. The inaugural banquet, which preceded the 2009 spring meeting of the DAC, honored distinguished alumni and friends for their achievements and contributions.

2009 Career Achievement Awards

Anand Deshpande, MS’86, PhD’89, is founder and chief executive officer of Persistent Systems. Established in 1990, Persistent Systems is a leader in outsourced software product development, and currently employs more than 4,000 people. Deshpande is responsible for overall leadership and management of the company, and most specifically, for sales and technology tracking for the company.

The alumnus began his career with a stint at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories as a member of the technical staff in Palo Alto, Calif. He returned to India in 1990 to establish Persistent Systems Ltd.

Deshpande is a member of the ACM India Council, IEEE, and Computer Society of India, and a fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Science and Young Presidents’ Organization.

He currently serves on the executive committee of the National Association of Software and Services Companies and Mahrratta Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture. He was elected as vice chairman for Confederation of Indian Industry’s Pune Zonal Council.

Deshpande has received numerous awards and accolades for his outstanding contributions to science and technology. The Department of Engineering and Information Technology of the Government of India recognized him for his presentation of “Emerging Trends in Database Technology.” He was awarded the Computer Society of India Fellowship Award in 2007 for outstanding achievement in the field of information technology.

Cheng Wu, MS’77, is co-founder and chairman at Azuki Systems, responsible for the company’s vision and corporate strategy. He is a successful serial entrepreneur, having founded and led numerous businesses spanning a range of different industries.

Most recently, Wu served as chairman of Acopia Networks, a leader in high-performance, intelligent file virtualization solutions. He founded and became chairman of Acopia Networks in 2001, after leaving Cisco Systems. He joined Cisco Systems in June 2000, when Cisco acquired ArrowPoint Communications, a company Wu founded. At Cisco, he held various executive positions, including group vice president and general manager of the Content and Multiservice Edge Group (CMG).

Preceding Wu’s time with ArrowPoint, he founded Arris Networks, a Massachusetts-based startup that developed high-density Internet access products. After Arris was acquired by Cascade Communications for $217 million in May 1996, Wu served as Cascade Communications’ (now Lucent Technologies) vice president for remote access engineering.

To recognize his more than 20 years in the networking and communications industry, Cheng was named to InteractiveWeek magazine’s “Top 25 Unsung Heroes of the Internet” list in 2000 and named the Key Industry Player by Massachusetts Telecom Council in 2002. In addition to functioning as chairman of Azuki Systems, Cheng also serves on the board of eQNetworks.

Cheng has a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from ChiaoTung University, Taiwan and a master’s degree in computer science from IU.

2009 Young Alumni Award

Jennette Fulda, BS'03, weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces at birth, but eventually tipped the scales at 372 pounds before losing almost 200 pounds through diet and exercise. After she lost half her weight, she ran a half-marathon and wrote a book called Half-Assed: A Weight-Loss Memoir. She chronicles her life after the “after” photo in the popular blog, pastaqueen.com. The book and blog have been featured by NBC’s Today Show, CBS’s The Early Show, the Associated Press, and in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Women’s Health, and Glamour, as well as in other media outlets.

Fulda holds a certificate in Allied Computer Science and a bachelor’s degree in Media Arts & Science, both from IUPUI.

2009 Distinguished Service Awards

Mark E. Hill, MBA ‘82, has enjoyed a nearly 30-year career in the finance and technology industries that started at IBM. His understanding of financial services and the effect technology has on the industry have made him a well-respected expert.

Along with his wife Karen Baker Hill, MBA ’82, Mark founded Baker Hill® in 1983. Focused on the banking industry, the company serves as a trusted advisor to its clients and delivers solutions that address business process needs. In 2005, the company was acquired by Experian®, a global information solutions company. Hill oversaw the transition through 2006 and currently is managing partner of Collina Ventures, a private investment company serving technology companies in central Indiana.

(continued on page 14)
Scholarship Spotlight: Valkyrie Savage

A seasoned student's quest for knowledge

Valkyrie Savage is on a constant quest for knowledge. Inspired by her father -- who taught her how to make dodecahedrons out of PVC pipes as a young child -- Savage has taken a creative approach to her academic career.

A senior from Columbus, Ind., Savage is the recipient of the IU School of Informatics’ Telamon scholarship. Though she is only in her early 20s, Savage has lived, traveled, and studied throughout the United States and all over the world. Her varied interests are reflected by what she’s studying at IU: a double major in computer science and math, and a double minor in Spanish and psychology.

“My computer science program helps fulfill my continued desire for learning and experiencing all that life has to offer,” she said. “The faculty not only knows me by name, but they are easygoing and allow me opportunities for growth, experimentation, and leadership.”

For example, as an undergraduate instructor, Savage has opportunities to teach the “next generation” of computer science students, help to design labs, and offer input to professors in the development of courses and curricula. Early on as a student in the School of Informatics, she landed an internship studying digital archives. Since then, she has completed a summer internship at Google, plans to do an internship in natural language processing in Germany, and is considering the opportunity to study in Korea.

The Telamon scholarship has allowed Savage to continue learning. Coming from a family of academics, she has always seen and believed in the importance of knowledge and experience, both in and out of the classroom. Savage’s scholarship continues to open doors for her as she pursues her ambitions to attend graduate school.

The Telamon Scholarship was established in 2003, by Telamon president and CEO Albert Chen (Dean’s Advisory Council member 2001–present). It is awarded to Bloomington undergraduate students enrolled at the School of Informatics who have a record of academic excellence.

InformatiCS Chip scholarship recipients announced

The first recipients of the InformatiCS Chip scholarship were announced in February. Travis Brown and Craig Shue, both doctoral students, are the first to be awarded the scholarship, which is funded by the sale of tiles in the InformatiCS Chip on the IUB campus.

Brown is studying human-computer interaction and complex systems. He will complete his degree in the summer of 2010.

Shue is studying computer science, in particular computer networking and Web security. He will complete his degree this May.

See page 19 of this newsletter for a list of scholarship supporters.

Alumni awards

(continued from page 13)

Hill serves on the board of directors of numerous companies, including Interactive Intelligence, Vector Technologies, and Angel Learning. He also served as the 2002 inaugural chair of the TechPoint Foundation, bridging the “digital divide” by providing technology for at-risk youth. He is an adjunct professor at the School of Informatics and former chair of its Dean’s Advisory Council. At the request of the last three governors he has served the state of Indiana in various capacities. In addition to his Kelley School of Business MBA, he holds a BBA from the University of Notre Dame.

Professor Ed Robertson, of computer science and informatics, joined the IU Computer Science Department in 1978 and served as department chair from 1982 to 1988. He served as associate dean of informatics from the inception of the School of Informatics in 2001 until 2008. Previously, he held academic appointments at the University of Ghana, the University of Waterloo, and Pennsylvania State University. He received a BS in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology (1966) and an MS and PhD in computer science from the University of Wisconsin (1968, 1970). During 1987–88 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Nairobi. He served as co-executive director of the Indiana Center for Database Systems from 1990 to 1992.

Robertson’s awards include IU’s Teaching Excellence Award in 1999, 2000, and 2007, and the IU Trustee Teaching Award for Faculty in 2004. He maintains an extensive list of publications, grant awards, and professional activities within the world of informatics.

As a Robertson, he is part of the Scottish Donnachaidh Clan. He and his wife Claire, a professor of women’s studies and history at Ohio State University, have two sons, Andrew and Iain.
What are we seeing?
There are some minor bumps. We have seen a slight decline in recruiter travel budgets — limiting recruiters’ ability to come to campus. We have seen a handful of companies with hiring freezes, but most are just hiring fewer students. And, fewer than five students have had job offers deferred or rescinded.

But the good news is far greater! We continue to see companies post jobs and internships daily on our online job site, Informatics Career Link. We were only slightly below average on the number of companies that attended our spring IT Career Fair in February. Most importantly, our students continue to get job offers. It is tighter than the last two years, but it’s not bad.

Why is it ‘not bad’?
Two words: Diversity and Demand.
Diversity – Unlike, for example, the automotive, steel, or financial industries, technology jobs are found almost everywhere. Fortunately, we have formed relationships with companies from a diverse array of industries, which has helped us to weather the storm. Healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, education, animation, and others are all hiring our students at similar numbers as in the past. We might also discern from this steadiness another important piece of good news: technology jobs tend to be a more crucial part of companies than they have been in the past.

Demand – Frankly, the demand for new technology jobs has far outweighed the available talent in the U.S. workforce in the last two years — it has been a “fat” season of job searching for our students, sometimes yielding more than three jobs available for every one student. This current slowdown notwithstanding, Bureau of Labor data is showing that this trend will continue for another decade. This indicates that it is a great time for young talent to enroll in informatics or computer science programs.

What is our advice to job seekers?
It is important to know that every job seeker has a unique situation, but here are five practical principles that may help all job seekers in a down economy. Because competition is tighter, job seekers should:

• tell everyone that you are job searching; use your network; try social networking sites such as LinkedIn;
• make sure your resume is very polished;
• realize that job searching takes time, patience, and mental energy; sometimes it’s nearly like a full-time job just to find a job;
• and look everywhere and apply widely; try: www.iuinformaticscareers.com and www.indeed.com; and get advice from a professional career advisor. Our staff is happy to help, contact us at 812-856-6016.

Can alumni get help?
Informatics Career Services will serve all IU computer science and informatics alumni with job search or job transition needs at no cost. All of the school’s online, career fair, and career advising resources are available for School of Informatics alumni.

Also, leverage the power of your IU network. The IUAA redesigned its career services program to cover all aspects of a job search or career transition.

All alumni can access the IUAA job board and Career Advice Network. Members of the IUAA also have access to: a resume and cover letter builder; career assessments to help with career choice; industry research databases, networking information for 40 U.S. cities and 27 countries, and mock interview software that utilizes your Web cam to record practice interviews. Plus, IUAA’s alumni directory and local chapter events provide valuable person-to-person connections.

Go to www.iualumnicareers.com to learn more.
Link up.

Now, maybe more than ever, person-to-person connections are vital. Network with fellow IU alumni at your local events or join the IU Informatics Alumni Association.

The IU School of Informatics Alumni Association is an active community. We build bridges of connectivity by sharing resources, expertise, mentoring and fellowship. In so doing, we support the school’s mission to develop skilled technologists.

This year offered more opportunities than ever for alumni to connect. In December, alumni attended Holiday Night at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum and during the IUAA Winter College in Florida, Adjunct professor Laurie Burns McRobbie presented “Inventing the Internet: A Short History of the Future of Global Connectivity.”

We’re counting on alumni, too, to get involved with students. Alumnus John Blue, BS’85, MS’92, spoke to CS211 students this spring, participated on a career panel, and keeps an active blog online where he’s been chronicling the school’s efforts on the career front.

“I had a chance to chat with several alumni during the 2009 Spring Informatics Career Fair,” he wrote recently. “The mood was upbeat and there is interest in technology hiring. Also overheard was, ‘if you have five to seven years of experience in IT, there are more job openings than people.’”

View a video of Blue’s presentation, download IUAA podcasts, update contact information, eee event scrapbooks, or get information about the next alumni event at www.informatics.iu.edu/alumni.

To get involved in blogging, to present to a class or panel, or for more information about IUAA membership, contact Danny Kibble at djkibble@iupui.edu or Rachael Jones Crouch at rlcrouch@indiana.edu.

Above: Evan M. Harris, BS’08, presents at the IUPUI Capstone Event. Below: Laurie Burns McRobbie presented “Inventing the Internet: A Short History of the Future of Global Connectivity” at the 2009 Winter College in Florida. On opposite page, a crowd of students signs in at Informatics’ spring career fair.
Update your contact information or submit a class note online! Visit alumni.indiana.edu.

At left: John Blue, BS’85, MS’92, with students from CS211, a class he visited this spring.

Below: More than 650 attended the 2008 IUPUI Alumni Holiday Night at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum. The event, which featured a toy drive, was hosted by the IUAA, the IUAA’s Central Indiana Chapter, the Purdue Alumni Association, and the IUPUI alumni council.

(Courtesy John Blue)
1980s

Steven G. Williams, BA’80, MS’85, is a senior software engineer with FileOne Inc. in Cary, N.C. He writes, “I still enjoy the creativity and endless learning opportunities that programming allows me. My son, Jonathan, who is 18, is preparing to go to college in the fall (unfortunately not IU!). My daughter, Lauren, who is 15, is a sophomore in high school. They both show dogs in their spare time. In Junior Handling last year they ranked 8th and 23rd in the nation, respectively. I do miss all my friends at IU. Please keep in touch!” Williams lives in Cary and can be reached at stevewilliams17@hotmail.com.

Gregory L. Bock, BA’83, is director of information technology at the National Jewish Health Center in Denver. He lives in Englewood, Colo.

John L. Blue, BS’85, MS’92, is chief of community creation for Truffle Media Networks, a podcast production and distribution company in Indianapolis. He also serves as a member of the IUPUI computer and information-technology advisory board and the IU School of Informatics Alumni Board. Blue lives in Indianapolis.

Frederic Chiu, BS/BA’85, is a pianist and teacher who conducts workshops and master classes through his innovative workshop program, Deeper Piano Studies. He writes that, “recent concerts have taken me to South America with Joshua Bell, multi-recital tours of the United States with Allied Concerts, and festivals in France.” In the 2008-09 academic year, Chiu is a special visiting artist in the IU Jacobs School of Music, where he will be holding special classes and workshops. Further information on his work and teaching is available at www.fredericchiu.com. Chiu lives in Westport, Conn.

Natalie Hetrick Griggs, BS’88, works for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield as a manager of clinical quality for Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri. She married Dwight Griggs in December 2007. The couple lives in Brownsburg, Ind.

Cynthia M. Cox, BS’89, is a senior lead engineer for Electronic Arts Inc., in Redwood City, Calif. She writes, “Anybody from Buck’s C201 class in 1985-86 out there? We might have known each other and spent many nights in the old computer lab. Did you use Bob’s ‘chat’ program? Me too. Get in touch.” Cox can be reached at ccox@cs.indiana.edu.

1990s

Kristian Wood Desch, BS’92, is a senior director of application integration at TransUnion, a global leader in credit and information management. He and his wife have three daughters and live near Wrigley Field in Chicago. A former I-man in track during his time at IU, Desch writes that he is interested in leveraging the IU Informatics network to place interns and long-term employees at TransUnion.

Michael R. Rosen, BS’92, is head of customer delivery services for Murex North America, a financial-services software firm in New York City, where he lives.

William V. West, BA’96, is president of Option Six Inc., an online training company that he founded with his wife, Christine (Page), BS’02. In May the company received five awards from the Horizon Interactive Awards competition, honoring the company’s excellence in interactive media production. In August, Inc.com ranked Option Six among the 5,000 fastest-growing private businesses in the U.S. for the second consecutive year. The company ranked 33rd among all education service companies and third among those that produce custom training. The 5000 companies that made up Inc.’s list reported aggregate revenues of $185 billion and a median three-year growth of 147 percent. West and his wife live and work in Bloomington, Ind.

2000s

Neil K. Bahri, BS’03, is a business analyst consultant for Fusion Alliance where he is currently working on a project for Liberty Mutual Insurance. He plans to enroll in an MBA program in 2009. In July 2006, Bahri married Sonal C. Thakrar, BS’04, and the couple lives in Fishers, Ind.


Aaron J. Eisberg, BS’05, writes that he is pursuing an MBA degree from Taylor University in Fort Wayne, Ind., to complement the informatics degree that he earned from IU. He lives in New Haven, Ind.

Rebecca Z. Mauser, MS’08, is a program director for the state of Indiana. Her work involves illustrating cellular-level processes for life-science applications in 3-D animated movies for the Web and presentations. Mauser writes, “The goal of my productions is to enhance the learning experience of the viewer so that complicated scientific information can be understood in less time and more thoroughly than traditional methods of learning.” She lives and works in Indianapolis.

Recent & Upcoming Alumni Events

April 8 • Pre-show reception, Terry Goss event, IUB Auditorium
April 20 • Annual Indiana Health Information Management Association reception
April 30 • San Francisco Bay Area networking event and career panel
June 5–7 • IU International Alumni Conference & Reunion, Seoul, Korea
June 11 • Indianapolis alumni networking social and career panel

For details or reservations, contact Danny Kibble at (317) 274-2289 or Rachael Jones Crouch at (812) 855-3575.
Don and Lucy Aquilano
John Blue
Phillip Bradford
Richelle and Travis Brown
Jim and Becky Buher
Thomas Butler
Eugene Byon
James Campbell
Troy and Leslie Campbell
Chih-Yi Chen
Albert and Margaret Chen
Jonathan and Nancy Cluts
Avi Comay
James “Mike” Conley and Janis Brown
Barb Daum
Timothy and Dana Mackey Davis
Kristian Desch
Durgesh Dewoolkar
Brian Thomas Donnelly and Benita Brown
Scott and Erin Dorsey
J. Michael and Sally Dunn
Mike and Shawna Eikenberry
Samuel Elizalde
Sean Ellis
Geoffrey Fox
Ralf Frieser
Josh Froelich
Harshawardhan and Prajakta Gadgil
Dennis Gannon
John Gibbs
Bill Gottlieb
James Grahn
Bryan and Kim Gray
Robert Green
Mitch Greenfield
Thomas Gregory
Dennis and Melanie Groth
Daniel Guo and Kelly Liu
David Harrison
Mike and Melissa Heim
David Heisler
Slamet Hendry
Mark and Karen Hill
Samuel Horrell
Ann Hu
Kyle Jennings
Yuh-Mei Jong
Adam and Katie Justice
Phillip Kara
Sun Kim
Kevin King
Stephen Kinzler
Tei Laine
Bil Lewis
John Lowrance
Jane and Patrick Martin
Jesse and Tonya Martin
Matthew Martindale
Jennifer Maze
Devin McAuley
Julie and Ted Meek
Suzanne Menzel and Kent Orr
Craig Mick
Matthew Molter
David and Jill Morganwalp
Iman Morisset
Tarah Nethery
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Bobby Schnabel and Edie Stevenson
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Winston Shieh
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Marty Siegel
Jeremy and Katie Siek
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WHEREVER YOU LIVE, IU IS CLOSE TO HOME!

No matter who you are or where you live, the IUAA’s network of more than 150 alumni organizations helps IU graduates stay connected to Indiana University and the more than 516,000 IU graduates worldwide. To find out more about the IUAA family and how you can get involved, visit alumni.indiana.edu/groups. Be sure to sign up for a membership in the Alumni Association so you can receive invitations, news, and information from your special IU alumni groups. You will be supporting the university at the same time. Contact us at (800) 824-3044 or iualumni@indiana.edu.