

Senior Sentinel February 2009

Newsletter of the IUPUI Senior Academy



Academy Loses Jim East

Described variously as intense and hard working, and creative. the 1907-08 president of the Senior Academy, died the evening of Sept. 10.

Hardly anyone in the Academy Board knew of his severe health problems during the last half of his tenure. He drove on, led with vigor, and did not skip a beat. The academy Board learned of his death while in its montly September meeting and discussed ways to honor him, including making a contribution to the Academy scholarship fund in his name.

Scholarship Program Needs \$1 Million from You

Please consider donating \$1,000,000 to support the Senior Academy's Scholarship Program. If, because of the recent crisis in the financial sector of the U.S. economy, you are unable to come up with such funds at this time, then please consider donating a somewhat lesser amount, perhaps a more manageable several thousand dollars or even \$500

In August, a donor made a contribution of \$50,000, split three ways with the intent to raise the endowment for each of the three Senior Academy Scholarships to a \$40,000 minimum each (as suggested by Jim East last year. That is the amount needed to support an award of \$2,000 for each scholarship. The next goal is to add \$20,000 to each Scholarship so that the awards can be raised to \$3,000 each.

The donor commented that he was feeling alone and he expressed hope that others would accompany him by making a donation.. The amount was not as important, he said, as the action of actually supporting education, the number one priority in societal affairs after obtaining food and water. To assist you in directing your donation, the three acholarships and their account numbers are below. The IU Foundation is agent for the funds:

Senior Academy Freshman (IPS) Scholarship
(037P000088)

Senior Academy Returning Student Scholarship
(037P000070)

Senior Academy Academic (Senior) Scholarship
(037P000096)

—Art Mirsky
Chair, Senior Academy Scholarship Awards Committee

Membership, Contributions Up

As of November, the Senior Academy had 279 members, according to Harriet Wilkins, membership chair, These include 134 lifetime members.

The Senior Academy has 49 members who gave \$23,783 to the United Way campaign on campus, far exceeding the goal of \$15,000. Several members have given as much as \$1,500. The amount given continues the record of being among the largest donors per capita of any campus unit.

First Issue of Sentinel

This is the first issue of the Senior Sentinel for this year, you did not disappear from the mailing list. The delay is due to personal and technical problems that persisted.

If you did not miss an issue, you found that the Academy sailed on without a hitch.

Our Next Thrilling Program

Understanding Aging and Memory Loss

“Do you worry when you can’t remember where you put your car keys? Or when you’ve walked to another room and can’t remember what you came to look for?”

Come to the Senior Academy presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Glendale Library auditorium to hear **Dr. Mary Austrom, PhD**, talk about “Understanding Aging and Memory Loss.”

Dr. Austrom, an expert in aging, is the Wesley Martin Professor of Alzheimer Disease Education in the School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry. She has published widely and currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the National Alzheimer’s Association and has held similar positions in the Central Indiana Alzheimer’s Association.

Board members 2007-2008

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Committees and Chairs.

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REQUEST FOR NOMINEES

Each year, members of the Senior Academy elect seven or eight people to serve two-year terms on the Senior Academy Board. Nominees are selected by the Nominating Committee from names submitted by the membership.

It’s time for us to begin this process once again, and we need your help. Would you please send to the Senior Academy office and the Nominating Committee the names of former colleagues that you think would be good members of the Board?

We need your suggestions by **February 15** so that the slate can be prepared and ballots sent to the membership a month later. When you send in your suggestions, please include contact information for the suggested nominees and a few sentences about the reasons you think they would make good members of the Board.

Please send your suggestions to Senior Academy, AO 139, 355 N. Lansing St., Indianapolis, IN 46202 or to the Senior Academy secretary, **Dottie Swinney**, dswinney@iupui.edu, or directly to a Nominating Committee member, **Harriet Wilkins**, hwilkins@iupui.edu.

If you have questions about the Board and its work, contact **Harriet Wilkins** by email or phone, 298-9315.

Moving or change of membership information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Additional Information: _____

Send to the Academy office at left

Our Scholarship Winners

The Sentinel will publish accounts of the winners of our three scholarships. This issue has room for two: Shay Mays and Mei-Mei Teng. The account of Amber Spradley, the IPS Freshman Scholarship winner, will be in the next issue.

Shay Mays

Returning Student Scholarship Winner

Shay is a single mother of two children, ages 5 and 8, and at age 32 returned to school after 10 years. She is in the School of Social Work with a 3.38 GPA. She previously attended Indiana State U.

Her career and academic goals are in community development. She has started a non-profit organization to revitalize her eastside neighborhood.

For five years, she worked with the Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership and has experienced the woes of neighborhoods in decline and how they can be changed. One of the major steps to change is education of the people in them. "I have seen first hand the barriers that exist for the uneducated, never advancing beyond entry-level positions, low income, limited choices and opportunities." She said she comes from at least two generations who have lived from paycheck to paycheck and now wants to break that cycle.

In addition to her work and schooling, she has been a volunteer at her church, the Compassion Temple Church of God in Christ. She served in several areas, finance, music, and youth.

Mei-Mei Teng

Winner of the Senior Student Scholarship

She came to the U.S. in 1998 to pursue a second baccalaureate degree this time in computer information technology. She has had to balance parenting with full-time schooling and work. Mei-Mei has worked part-time with a computer software company in Carmel.

Now a senior, she has been on the dean's list for academic achievement in 2006 and 2007 and has a 4.0 GPA. Besides working, she has volunteered at the Tzu-Chi Taiwanese Charity Foundation, teaching basic computer skills to members.

One of her personal achievements at IUPUI has been to learn better time management skills. She uses a Microsoft program to reord all events, such as school, business, child care with a coloring scheme to prioritize each category. She intends to work toward a master's degree.

Childers is Now a President

Victor Childers, former treasurer of the Academy, has been elected president of the Indiana Council on World Affairs. The ICWA is aimed at educating participants in worldwide issues and their significance to the global community.

A Distinguished Speakers Series has monthly dinner meetings at the Marten House, addressed by individuals with a specific issue, regional, or country expertise. In October, Michael Kraig, Director of Policy Analysis at the Stanley Foundation, will speak on U.S. security and the emerging powers.

A Great Decisions series of eight lecture/discussion forums based upon topics recommended by the Foreign Policy Association, is held during February and March. For more information, the Council's website is www.indianaworld.org. For membership, the membership co-chair is Cynny Robinson, at 873-3661.

On Jim East

Each of us has strong memories that are called into focus with the passing of Jim East, immediate past president of the Academy. I want to add my insight in a tribute to our friend and colleague.

Jim first invited me in the 1970s to help him in promoting his then unique effort to extend education through the Weekend College and Learn and Shop, pioneering enterprises that were copied by many schools. I admired his boundless energy, his creativity and ideas that flowed endlessly. He and I clashed on occasion, but his tenacity prevailed. and he accepted me when I was right. Jim always was a "get 'er done" powerhouse, and as president of the Academy, he accomplished about as much as anyone could.

One cannot intertwine with another without beginning to love and respect him or her. That's the advantage of our associations at work, at play, and especially through the Academy. His passing almost on 9-11, was about as emotion-wrenching as that event.

Farewell Jim. We'll try to emulate your model in many ways. —Noel Duerden

Surprising Use of Time

One of the things that seems to surprise people who are not yet retired is the answer frequently given by those of us who are, when we are asked how we manage to occupy our time without full time jobs. Many are taken aback when we say that one of our biggest problems in retirement is that we can't find enough time to do all the things we want to do and that we are busier now than we have ever been. For many, this is true, especially when we are engaged in the activities of the IUPUI Senior Academy.

So far, during the current 2008-09 year, the Senior Academy has sponsored presentations on long-term care options, genetic engineering and the current economic situation. We have also taken trips to the T. C. Steele "House of the Singing Wind" in the Nashville hill country, the "Court Art of China-Ming Dynasty" exhibition at the IMA and the "To Live Forever" Egyptian art show also at the IMA. The annual Holiday Dinner at Hollyhock House was one of the highlights of the year so far. We will attend the Jaguar basketball game on Feb. 21.

The Economy: Problems, but We're Going to Succeed

"The economy is fundamentally sound. You heard that before, and it was repeated by Morton Marcus, former head of the research unit of the Kelly School of Business who spoke to more than 50 Academy members eager to know more about the most pressing topic of our age.

In spite of the worries about the sinking economy, Marcus was up-beat. "We have 135 million people at work, and only two million people out of work," he said. "But we have significant problems."

He said one reason we don't have a clear way out of the dilemma, is because this is something new. Other downturns had different causes and those solutions may not work today, he said.

The important thing his audience wanted to know, is when we will get out of the problems.

"We probably will go downward into the second quarter of 2009, then begin to recover" he believes, It is necessary to restore the flow of money, and that is happening. He discounted focusing on the auto industry because that will take two or three years to right the ship. We have to improve what we have, not develop new ones, he said. "We have to save the nation, not the auto industry."

Turning to Indiana, Marcus feels that Indiana has too resident Hoosiers.. "We do not have enough diversity and need to attract people from other places."

As part of our service function, member contributions to the United Way again exceeded our goal and we will present Arthur Mirsky Scholarships to three students again this year.

In the spring, we'll have the first annual Last Lecture, to be presented in conjunction with the Chancellor's Honors Convocation on April 17.

These activities, and other committee work, require time and effort on the part of many of our members, but provide satisfaction, as well. Won't you volunteer to serve on a Senior Academy Committee or project by contacting the Senior Academy office at dswinney@iupui.edu ? You may find that, despite your busy retirement schedule, contributing to the success of your Senior Academy is a job you will enjoy.

You will soon be receiving a survey form that will give you a chance to let the Senior Academy Board know how we can better serve your needs through this organization. I hope you will take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to us. Thanks for your help.

-- Bill Voos, *President*

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