

# Bepko Medal, Academy Successes to be Noted at June Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Academy will be Thursday, June 5 at the new Campus Center. Invitations have been mailed and it is expected that attendance will surpass last year.

One highlight of the event will be awarding of the third Bepko Medallion, this year to Dean **William Plater**, formerly executive vice chancellor, now with the Urban Center. Plater was a champion of the Academy and of IUPUI and is recognized for many other accomplishments for the campus and com-

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## SENIOR SENTINEL

Newsletter of the  
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### Now It's the Art Mirsky Scholarships

The Academy's scholarship program has been named in honor of **Art Mirsky**, one of the original members of the committee that created the program in 2001. He has been a vigorous and passionate advocate of scholarships since that time and has headed the committee.

The Arthur Mirsky Scholarship Program now funds three scholarships at a level of \$2,000 each per year.

Mirsky was the first chair of the IUPUI Geology Department when it was formed in 1967 until he approached

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**For History:** All former presidents of the Senior Academy were rounded up for a group photo and an historic event. Proving that age doesn't mean much are: front from left, *Carlyn Johnson (Public & Environmental Affairs-2002-2003)*, *Jean Gnat (Libraries-2001-*

*2002)*, *Mary Jane Koch (Gerontology-1998-2000)*, *Ursula Roberts (University College-2004-2005)*, *James East (Liberal Arts-2007-2008)* - (standing from left) *Marvin Ebbert (Education-2003-2004)*, *Marshall Yovits (Science-1995-1998)*, *Don Schultheis (Liberal Arts-2005-2006)*, *Ed Robbins (Education-2000-2001)*.

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*An ancient recipe book (written in Latin) attracted much attention for a group of Academy members at the inspection of Indy's new Central Library*

## New Central Library A City Jewel

Most Academy members and guests who had a guided tour of the New Central Library would have pronounced it "awesome", if they would have used today's vernacular. The tour was organized by **Dolores Hoyt** and is one of the kinds of special activities the academy plans and hosts each year.

While over-budget and delayed opening due to construction errors, the library hopes to recover most of the cost over-runs after settling legal challenges with contractors, builders and others.

After lunch with German food at the Athenaeum and learning a little about the IUPUI section of the old German center from **Giles Hoyt**, the troop of 45 motored to the library with a first eye-opening gathering in the mostly glass Atrium. It connects the old Cret Building and the new six-story tower.

We learned some amazing properties of the Atrium whose glass east and west sides are able to withstand sustained 135-mile-per-hour winds. This is due to a cabling system that allows the window-walls to bow in and return to their original state.

Among areas unique to the new library is the sixth floor Special Collections room which has a page from the Gutenberg Bible, cookbooks dating back to the 15th century, and works of Indiana authors.

The library has a computer training lab with free classes on Internet, and various Microsoft software programs; a language lab where patrons can learn six different languages—German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, and ESL. We were told that the three most requested language materials are English, Chinese and Russian.

The library has patent information back to 1790 and is an official patent depository with all new patents and associated materials.

Another special feature is the Assistive Technology Room with special machines for a variety of disabled patrons in using computers. The library seeks to better serve the 157,000 known residents of the county who have disabilities.

If you want to find a foundation that supports special causes, a foundation research room is dedicated to helping find appropriate sources. And a monthly class is offered in grant seeking.

The entire fourth floor is dedicated to youth in the Learning Curve. High on interactive technologies, there are 60 checkout laptops and think tanks for project planning for teens.

One Academy member said that the library would be a good reason to live downtown.

## Are You Listening?

### *Probably Not as Well as You Think*

Of the four basic communication skills, listening occupies 45% of our waking days. Speaking is 30%, reading 16% and writing 9%. **Jim East** taught a group of 14 Academy members in February that there is an art to listening and with practice, we can improve mere hearing to real listening.

East has taught listening as a credit course for more than 20 years. He asked those attending why they came and one volunteered that his wife told him to.

"Paying attention and focusing makes good listening," he said, because we listen through screens of resistance. Among them, fears, worry, and pre-occupations. We also tune out those we don't want to listen to.

East said there are five types of listening: Discriminative which is information exchange; Evaluative which is persuasive listening; Appreciative, something we enjoy such as music; Emphatic such as in counseling; and Self-Listening, our thought processes. In all cases, one must internalize, "what can I do with what I'm hearing?"

He suggested that we need to visualize basic ideas, using key words that help us remember because memory is a part of listening and understanding. These are things he does to continue to improve his own listening abilities—answering one questioner who asked whether we suffer diminished listening abilities when we get older.

Other guides to improved listening he listed:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1—Find an area of interest; | 2—Judge content, not delivery; | 3—Withhold evaluation;         |
| 4—Listen for ideas;         | 5—Resist distractions; and     | 6—Capitalize on thought speed. |

This is demonstrated by the various speeds of speaking and thinking. We think at 400 words per minute; speak at 125 wpm, giving a margin of 275 words per minute to process, analyze and anticipate.

Is there a difference between how men and women listen. East says yes. Females have a more developed cortex and language comes easier, they remember relationships, feelings and contexts. Men are more adept at

## **Program Honors Mirsky**

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retirement in 1993. He observed then that able students often could not attend IUPUI because of finances. He is especially interested in students who had to drop out for various reasons and want to come back as the most needy.

In 2001 an anonymous donor gave \$25,000 to begin the Academy scholarship program, intending to finance a graduate of an IPS high school to attend IUPUI.

Mirsky suggested that returning students also are needy and a second fund was begun. Originally, funds came from general Academy operations but as a third scholarship was added in 2006, they are now targeted to be endowed, assuring a perpetual funding source.

Mirsky, who volunteers to teach one course a semester in the department, thinks the scholarship program is the most important of Academy endeavors. He hopes the fund program can be expanded to include graduate students.

## **Annual Meeting Awaited**

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munity. The Bepko Medallion is presented at least every three years.

Each committee chair will report on their activities. Among the successes to be reviewed include the opening of the Senior Academy-sponsored meeting room in the Campus Center, the plans for endowing of the three scholarships, the very successful programs and socials for the year, launching of the Shared Information Program, and the plans for the Senior Academy's Last Lecture series which will be inaugurated in April 2009.

Four openings on the Board will be filled and the new board will elect the four officers for the next year.

## Mysteries of Mormonism, from Cult to Culture

Like early Christianity which began as a small cult separated from Judaism and became a culture, Mormonism is about the same. It is rising from what is regarded as a cult to become a culture, **Jan Shipp**s told a large, curious Senior Academy audience in March.

Jan taught history and religion at IUPUI, is an Academy member, lives in Bloomington, and has become the pre-eminent interpreter of Mormonism for the media. She receives calls for interviews frequently—even multiple times daily when Mormonism is in the news.

She explained some of the more misunderstood facets of the religion, officially The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Though often criticized and ridiculed, she said “if you know the story, it’s not so crazy.” She touched on temples, which she said Mormons claim to be modern extensions of the Temple of Solomon. She touched on how Mormonism encompasses Jewish and New Testament Christianity and presents itself as a “restoration” of Christ’s original church.

## The Academy Board

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Central to Mormonism’s appeal and strengths, she said, is the emphasis on families. She explained that Mormons believe they can continue in heaven, with parents sealed to each other and children to parents. She explained the Book of Mormon, which she said said was not authored by Joseph Smith but was a translation from ancient metal plates depicting a thousand year civilization in the Americas by Hebrew expatriats. It culminates in the appearance of Jesus Christ to these peoples.

Other concepts explained were the Mormon prophet, and belief in modern revelation or communication from God, and terminology of stakes as in stakes of a tent, the tent of Zion..

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