



IUPUC

Division of Liberal Arts

Dear friend,

A college education in the liberal arts is fundamental. Liberal arts students learn universally valuable skills including the ability to communicate with dexterity and to solve problems with informed judgment. Lifelong values instilled by the liberal arts include an appreciation for diversity, an appetite for intellectual pursuits, and a commitment to community involvement.

Students at Indiana University–Purdue University Columbus receive a Big Ten education on a personal scale. In our small classes, students are treated as individuals. Our staff members provide students with expert guidance and caring support. Our highly qualified faculty are leaders on campus and in their fields. All of us are deeply invested in our students' success.

Liberal arts students complete Indiana University bachelor degrees in Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, English, General Studies, and Sociology at IUPUC. Communication studies offers minors in corporate and organizational communication and health communication; our English degree includes concentrations in creative writing and literature; and sociology majors may complete concentrations in medical sociology and criminology. We also offer a thriving minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

As Head of the Division of Liberal Arts, it is my honor to share with you the wonderful work of our outstanding students, faculty, and staff.



George Towers

Head, Division of Liberal Arts

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News from the Division of Liberal Arts

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Student News



Our award-winning student literary magazine, *Talking Leaves*, puts student creativity in print. Faculty sponsor **Lisa Siefker Bailey** and student editor **Lyndsey Wolfe** helped authors and artists hone their craft then celebrated their work at the annual Talking Leaves launch party.

[Read full story](#) >



Christian Litsey, who has taken the reins from Lyndsey as editor of *Talking Leaves* for the next edition, is a prize-winning researcher. His presentation, “Mechanisms of Control: Literary Findings on the Ways Patriarchy Maintains Intellectual Power,” won Second Prize for the Best Undergraduate Research Project at the IU Undergraduate Research Conference. **Julie**

Goodspeed-Chadwick, Director of IUPUC's Office of Student Research, mentored Christian as his faculty sponsor.

[Learn more about Christian's research](#) >

Student recognition

Every year our faculty and staff select those students whose accomplishments and contributions are emblematic of the talent and dedication that characterize IUPUC students. We are grateful to our community partners including **Landmark Columbus**, **Taylor Brothers Construction**, the **Traylor family**, and **Viewpoint Books**, who have given to support these awards. The 2021 award winners are:

- IUPUC Outstanding Student in Liberal Arts Award sponsored by Viewpoint Books and Landmark Columbus – **Christian Litsey** and **Lyndsey Wolfe**
- IUPUC Bachelor of General Studies Degree Outstanding Graduate Award – **Laura Moses-Wadsworth**
- IUPUC Outstanding Student in Communication Studies – **Ashley Sargent**
- IUPUC Outstanding Student in Criminal Justice – **John “J.D.” Hale**
- IUPUC Outstanding Student in English – **Raegan Smith**
- IUPUC Best English Essay – **Kaitlyn Conrad**
- IUPUC Outstanding Student in Sociology – **Aeron Moore**

Alumni spotlights

Courtney Watkins graduated in 2018 with a major in Sociology and minors in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Literature.

Originally from nearby Scipio, Courtney works in Columbus as the Mill Race Center's Aging Well Coordinator. (The Mill Race Center is nationally recognized for its dynamic, comprehensive, collaborative programming for those over age 50.) Courtney enriched her IUPUC career and our campus culture through co-curricular engagement. For example, she served as President of the Feminism Club, Vice-President of Spectrum, and traveled to a literature conference in Ireland to make a research presentation. Her excellence was recognized with the Outstanding Student in Sociology Award.



› [Courtney Watkins Video](#)



James O'Mara, a 2016 graduate, double-majored in Communication Studies and Sociology and received the Taylor Brothers Outstanding Student in Liberal Arts Award that year. As a student, James worked part-time as a research assistant and a teaching assistant for his professors. Through his work-study experiences, his research presentations at conferences, and his friendships with faculty, students, and staff,

James, like so many of his fellow IUPUC graduates, developed an abiding passion for learning. Accordingly, he is pursuing an academic career as a graduate student in Rhetoric at Colorado State University.

[James O'Mara Video](#) >

Faculty features



Sociology professor **Nathan Rousseau** received an \$11,038 grant from the IU Racial Justice Research Fund to support his research project, "Race relations in an emerging 'Old South' city." Dr. Rousseau, who came to IUPUC from Jacksonville University, is drawing upon the deep relationships he forged with Jacksonville's civil rights leaders in his exploration of the civil rights movement in his former city. An expert in social theory, Nathan is blending discourses on colonization and double-consciousness to inform his work and, in turn, to reflect upon these larger themes. To share his findings, Nathan is writing a book titled "Race Against the Past: The State of Race Relations in an Emerging "Old South" City."

[Read full story](#) >



Professor Kate Wills, English program director, is an accomplished poet who enjoyed recognition and success in 2020-21. Two of her poems, "Blessing of the Bikes: Bean Blossom Boogie" and "Quarry Scuba: Indiana Dive Partners," were selected for inclusion in the Indiana state poetry archive, INverse,

and the former is featured as the collection's top poem for spring. INverse is curated by Indiana Humanities and the Indiana Arts Commission. Kate dedicated her fall, 2020 sabbatical to drafting a chapbook of new free verse poetry titled *Complicit in Green*. The chapbook explores Kate's lifelong love with eco-poetry and nature. Kate's first chapbook, *Our Slow Migration North*, draws upon her family's experience as Greek immigrants during the height of the Cold War and Greek Civil War. In honor of her heritage, Kate publishes under her former name, Katerina Tsiopos.

[Read full story](#) >

Faculty recognition

English professor **Lisa Siefker Bailey** became the first IUPUC faculty member to be promoted to the rank of Teaching Professor.

Communication Studies professor and program director, **Anna Carmon**, was named Coach of the Year for the Hoosier Heartland District of the National Speech and Debate Association for her success as coach of the Columbus East H.S. speech team.

[Read more about Anna's community service](#) >

Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick, professor of English and Director of IUPUC's Office of Student Research, received the title of IUPUI Chancellor's Professor and an IU Bicentennial Medal. Julie is IUPUC's first and only Chancellor's Professor.

[Read more about Julie's honors](#) >

Margaret "Peggy" Williams, who teaches American Sign Language, won IUPUC's Jacqueline D. Franz Outstanding Part-time Faculty Teaching Award. Peggy embodies

the award's spirit of "excellence in teaching by adjunct faculty members who inspire and assist students to reach their best academic potential."

Aimee Zoeller, Sociology program director and coordinator of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, was given the Outstanding Woman Leader Award by the IUPUI Office for Women and Division of Student Affairs.

[Learn more about Aimee's leadership](#) >

Aimee Zoeller and **Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick** each won their third IU Trustees Teaching Award in 2021. The award recognizes full-time faculty such as Julie and Aimee who have demonstrated a sustained level of teaching excellence.

New faculty

Juliet Gilchrist joins us as a part-time instructor of music. Juliet earned her Doctor of Music in Voice degree from IU's Jacobs School of Music. She brings teaching experience at Vincennes University and Illinois' Lincoln Trail College. As we welcome Juliet, we thank our departing colleague **David Lamb**. In his Introduction to Music Fundamentals class, David helped generations of elementary school teachers learn how to teach children about music.

English alumna **Brittany Talissa King** is returning to IUPUC to teach ENG-W 131 Reading, Writing, and Inquiry I this fall. Brittany won our Outstanding Student in English Award in 2014. She went on to launch the Black Lives Matter chapter of Columbus and earn her Master's in Journalism at New York University. A freelance writer, Brittany is passionate about exploring American racial issues through essays and her podcast #AmericanShade

Collaborate & contribute

Opportunities to collaborate:

We highly value the internship and service learning opportunities our community partners have created for IUPUC students. Our students gain experience that helps them launch their professional careers. In turn, our partner organizations and firms benefit greatly from their interns' contributions. For example, **Courtney Watkins'** internship with the Mill Race Center led to a permanent leadership position. Please reach out to us to explore how we can build such mutually rewarding internships and service learning experiences with you.

We also create experiential learning opportunities on campus. For example, **Vickie Welsh-Huston**, Honors Program Director, works tirelessly to help Honors Program students and faculty collaborate on enriching research and community service projects. Our faculty and staff also promote co-curricular learning by sponsoring the following student clubs: Alpha Lambda Delta first-year honor society (**Vickie Welsh-Huston**, sponsor), the American Sign Language Club (**Peggy Williams**), the Feminism Club (**Julie Goodspeed-Chadwick**), and Spectrum (**Aimee Zoeller**). These contributions complement those described in the Student News section, student research and Talking Leaves.

[Explore our student organizations](#) >

Upcoming events:

Throughout the year, our clubs and programs host celebrations, forums, and film screenings that are open to the public. We are grateful to **Vicki Kruse**, Senior Administrative Assistant, whose excellent behind-the-scenes work makes every event a special one.

- **“Grimm and Gulley: Song and Story,” November 6, 6:30 PM, Columbus Learning Center Lecture Hall.** The IUPUC Sociology Program is thrilled to partner with The Granny Connection of Columbus to host the award-winning music of Tim and Jan Grimm and stories from author Phillip Gulley. Please contact **Aimee Zoeller** (anzoelle@iupuc.edu) for more information.

[Visit our events calendar](#)

Opportunities to contribute:

- **IUPUC Outstanding Student in Liberal Arts Award.** Gifts will be used to continue to provide prizes for the division-wide Outstanding Student Award and our other student awards.
- **Charles Bantz Scholarship in Communication Studies.** Funds support juniors and seniors majoring in Communication Studies who have demonstrated involvement in the IUPUC community. Dr. Bantz, a prominent scholar in communication studies, was IUPUI's Chancellor from 2003 to 2015.
- **Dr. Jay Howard Scholarship.** This fund supports students studying sociology. An IUPUC sociology professor for two decades, Dr. Howard served as IUPUC's Vice Chancellor and Dean from 2007 to 2009. He is now the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Butler University.
- **IUPUC Criminal Justice Scholarship.** Criminal justice majors who have achieved an A or B average are eligible to receive scholarships from this fund.
- **IUPUC Division of Liberal Arts.** This fund is used primarily to support co-curricular and community programming sponsored by the Division of Liberal Arts. The fund may also be used to augment promotional efforts and other activities as needed.

[Contribute to the funds listed above](#)

- **Honors Program Fund.** Gifts help the Honors Program provide programming and recognition for participants.

[Contribute to the Honors Program Fund](#)

- **Research.** Gifts support student and faculty research through the Office of Student Research.

[Contribute to the Student Research Fund](#)

Thank you for your support. Please let us know how we can work together and help each other. We would love to hear from you.



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