

## **Senior Academy Annual Meeting** **Wednesday, June 24, 2009**

### **Board members present**

Ted Cutshall, Noel Duerden, Mark Grove, Mary Grove, Giles Hoyt, Carlyn Johnson, Golam Mannan, Shirley Newhouse, Richard Patterson, Leon Rand, Sheldon Siegel, William Voos, Harriet Wilkins

### **Members absent**

Marge Applegate, Joe Hingtgen

### **Call to order**

President Bill Voos called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

### **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved.

### **President's Welcome**

President Bill Voos welcomed the approximately 50 Senior Academy (SA) members to the annual meeting and gave special recognition to Chancellor Charles Bantz and Dean of the Faculties Uday Sukhatme for their generous and enthusiastic support. Bill told the group that Chancellor Bantz would speak later in the program. He introduced Dean Sukhatme.

### **Dean Sukhatme's Remarks**

This has been a highly productive year. The [Signature Centers](#) initiative, which got a large investment to support research projects, resulted in a high rate of success. Year 2 of the focus on undergraduate achievement concerned the problem of retention of students beyond the freshman year. The problem was addressed by initiating a summer remedial course, required of probationary-admits. Students who did not take the course were not admitted to IUPUI, but students who took the summer course had a much greater rate of retention.

Another goal, attracting high-end students, is being addressed through a new Honors College, and the hiring of a Dean, [Dr. Jane Luzar](#) from the University of Florida.

The [RISE program](#) has a goal that every graduate will have an experience in one or more of the following fields: Research, International, Service, Experiential Learning. These will appear on the student's transcript.

### **President's Remarks**

Bill Voos gave a review of the year. The Senior Academy had a bad start, because of the untimely death in September [of Dr. James \(Jim\) East](#), the past president who has a visionary leader and an inspiration to the membership. In spite of this great loss, the SA year was very productive. More people attended programs and social events and gave generous support to the United Way campaign, the IU Foundation and the SA Scholarship fund. SA sponsored the inaugural Last Lecture, a membership survey, and implemented improved communication through the SA website and the [Sentinel](#).

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Shirley Newhouse reported totals in Senior Academy accounts as of April 30, 2009. The balances are: \$34,002 (Returning Students Scholarships fund), \$30,188 (IPS Students Scholarships fund), and \$34,007 (Academic Scholarships fund). She announced that SA had awarded \$6,000 in scholarships this year and that the scholarships funds were greatly increased by a generous \$50,000 contribution from Art and Pat Mirsky. The SA scholarship goal is to

have \$40,000 in each scholarship fund, which—with a 5% yearly interest—would guarantee endowed funding

### **Committee Reports**

Communications: Chair Walt Linne commended Noel Duerden for producing the *Senior Sentinel*, Judy Silence for administration of the SA [website](#), and Mike Maxwell for administration of the listserv. All of these efforts improved SA's communications with its members.

Membership Committee: Chair Harriet Wilkins reported on the current membership. Total membership is 385, which includes 134 lifetime memberships, 143 annual memberships, and 108 new retirees who receive a first-year free membership.

Nominating Committee: Chair Harriet Wilkins announced that all eligible board members had agreed to serve a second term. Ballots had been sent out to the membership with board nominations, and the slated candidates were elected.

Last Lecture Committee: Chair Golam Mannan explained that Last Lecture had been Jim East's idea, and, despite Jim's death, the SA committee (Golam Mannan, Mark Grove, Harriet Wilkins, and Joe Hingtgen) successfully managed the nomination and selection process. They put out a call, received twenty nominations, and narrowed the field to five finalists. A second committee selected [Dr. Bob Einterz](#), the co-founder of the AMPATH project between IU Medical School and Moi University. More than 300 people attended the lecture. The IUPUI Foundation awarded Dr. Einterz a stipend of \$2,000, which he donated to Moi University. Suzanne Vick of External Affairs and Bill Heller of the IU Foundation were thanked for their generous support of the Last Lecture and reception. The video and text of the Last Lecture are available from the School of Medicine's IU-Kenya Partnership [website](#).

Program Committee: Chair Carlyn Johnson, who replaced Jim East as committee chair, reported on a year of interesting topics and good crowds, often of 50 or more. Presentations included talks on finding long-term care, dealing with an economy in recession, and aging and memory loss. Next year's programs include a bus tour of the IUPUI campus and presentation on IUPUI's long-range plan (co-sponsored by Program and Social Committees), a presentation on TIAA-CREF, a talk on health care reform, and a discussion of the characteristics of the newest college students, the "Millennials."

Social Committee: Chair Jean Gnat reported that the committee had sponsored six events in 2008-2009: a trip to the T.C. Steele historic home and studio, a tour of the Ming Dynasty exhibit at the IMA, a holiday dinner, attending an IUPUI basketball game, a wildflower video and guided walk in Holliday Park, and a tour of the Kokomo Opalescent Glass Factory. The majority of events had very high attendance. Next year's events include the bus tour and presentation (scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup>), the traditional holiday dinner, and a tour of the exhibit [Sacred Spain: Art and Belief in the Spanish World](#) at the IMA, and several other social events.

Survey Committee: Chair Dick Patterson commended Mark Grove for his work on the survey. He reported that the opinions of members were very helpful in planning future activities, updating email addresses, and obtaining names of people interested in serving on committees. A summary of the survey results was distributed at the meeting and is attached below.

Scholarship Committee: Chair Art Mirsky thanked the Scholarship Committee (Sheldon Siegel, Molly Hicks, Beverly Ross, and Marge Applegate) for their time, interest, and excellent service on the committee. He introduced the winners: The IPS Scholarship went to Lesvia Santos, a graduate of Northwest High School, who will study computer engineering. The Returning Student scholarship went to Daniel Thacker, who will major in Spanish and minor in Medical Humanities. The Academic Scholarship went to David Lane, a graduating senior with three majors: accounting, finance, and international business. Ms. Santos and Mr. Thacker attended the meeting and were introduced. Dr. Mirsky announced that “it wouldn’t be sinful” for members to make a contribution to the scholarship fund. The goal is to \$40,000 in each fund.

### **Introduction of Nominees for SA Offices**

President Bill Voos announced that the following individuals had accepted nomination for offices: President: Harriet Wilkins, Vice President: Giles Hoyt, Secretary: Mary Grove, and Treasurer: Shirley Newhouse. Board members were introduced.

### **Special Recognition**

Bill Voos praised Dottie Swinney, who has been serving “temporarily” (for 9 years) as the capable secretary for Senior Academy. Despite health problems, a serious accident, and damage to her home, Dottie has continued to serve with indomitable spirit. Bill presented flowers to Dottie.

Harriet Wilkins, on behalf of the board, presented Bill Voos with a clock, engraved with a commendation for his service as 2008-2009 President of Senior Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Grove, Secretary

The board met briefly after the annual meeting and elected Senior Academy officers for 2009-10.

At a reception following the annual meeting, Chancellor Charles Bantz addressed the Senior Academy members. Dr. Bantz welcomed attendees back to campus and noted that much of IUPUI’s enrollment and physical growth came from their earlier efforts and dreams. He referred especially to the Campus Center, which has become a lively and attractive focal point for the IUPUI community, where students gather to study, socialize, and engage in volunteer and cultural activities. The Chancellor thanked members for their continued support.

Note: First board meeting of academic year 2009-2010: Thursday, August 13, 2009, 10:00 A.M., Glendale Library meeting room. All members are invited.

## Senior Academy Survey

The Senior Academy conducted a survey of its membership in April 2009. The survey was designed to assess members' satisfaction with current programming and services as well as to solicit ideas for future activities. Just over 100 of the members responded, 31% of the total membership.

Members were most interested in planned group outings such as trips to museums and in presentations on financial-related topics. They also expressed significant interest in programs that draw on the expertise, avocations, and hobbies of fellow members and in presentations on health-related topics. The complete rankings and points awarded appear below and a [list of the programs and presentations](#) may be found on the Academy's [Website](#).

### Total Points

129	Planned Group Outings
125	Financial-related presentations
110	Presentations on expertise, avocations, hobbies
105	Health related
91	Meals at restaurants
88	Outdoor/Sports activities
60.5	Picnic (pitch-in)
55.5	Picnic (catered)
49	Visiting housebound members
44.5	Meals at homes (pitch-ins)

Members provided a number of excellent suggestions for future activities and fifteen respondents offered to make presentations. The lists of suggestions and presenters were provided to the chairs of the Social and Program committees.

Presentations are held on Tuesday mornings in the Glendale Public library. This facility is easy to find and provides plenty of free parking. Just over 80% of respondents noted their satisfaction with the current location and time for presentations.

Twenty-five of those responding expressed interest in serving on Senior Academy committees and six noted their willingness to mentor IUPUI students. These names and their contact information have been forwarded to the appropriate individuals.

A review of our records shows that we have e-mail addresses for 78% of the membership. A number of these addresses were added or updated through the survey. The survey also found that 78% of the respondents were willing to receive the academy's newsletter, the *Senior Sentinel*, through e-mail. Interestingly, nearly half of those who preferred to continue to receive a hardcopy version have e-mail addresses. The next edition of the *Senior Sentinel* will describe delivery options (hard copy, email or download from the SA Website) to ensure that every member receives a copy of the newsletter in the form they desire.

In addition to being able to provide more color and additional content in electronic versions of the newsletter, moving more members away from printed versions will help reduce printing and mailing costs.

We are very pleased with the response to the survey and will use the information provided in our future efforts. We appreciate the support of the Office of Academic Affairs in making it possible.

*May 15 2009*