

THiNK

MAGAZINE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS | *Fall 2008*







Hundreds gathered to watch Chelsea Clinton speak during a public question-and-answer session sponsored by Purdue Students for Hillary last April. See page 10 for more on voters and politics.

Photo by David Lukomski (BA 2008, Spanish), reprinted with permission from the April 8, 2008, edition of The Purdue Exponent



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THiNK

MAGAZINE

Volume 1(2): 2008

Published semiannually by the College of Liberal Arts for alumni and friends

Produced by Purdue Marketing Communications

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ON THE COVER. High turnout rates among demographic groups such as younger voters could sway this year's election. "Year of the Voter" on page 10 explores the renewed energy in politics and how the population of voting-age citizens has changed.

| C O N S I D E R T H I S |



Considering all the differences between this year's presidential candidates, at first glance it is difficult to find common ground that Senator John McCain and Senator Barack Obama occupy, except for their seats on the floor of the U.S. Senate (and birthdays in August). Yet, despite their divergent views and visions for the country, they do share significant life-defining experiences, no matter which one wins the White House.

International experiences have deeply marked both men.

Born into a naval family in the Panama Canal Zone when the canal was under U.S. control and later as a student at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Senator McCain from an early age learned to view the country from outside its borders. As a naval aviator during the Vietnam War, the senator was captured and spent six years in a prisoner-of-war camp in North Vietnam.

Senator Obama was born in Hawaii, less than two years after statehood, on the farthest western fringe of the country. His family was international, with a father who was a citizen of Kenya and a mother who was a U.S. citizen. When he was 6 years old, the future senator moved with his mother and stepfather to Indonesia where he attended grade school for four years before returning to Hawaii to finish primary and secondary school.

These experiences no doubt helped shape both candidates' visions of the world and of the place of the United States in the world. If personal wisdom comes in part from learning how to see ourselves as others see us, perhaps national wisdom will come from a new president who has experience seeing the country as others perceive it.

SPECIAL NOTE:
Our newly redesigned *THiNK Magazine* received an Excellence Award in the University and College Designers Association's 38th Annual Design Competition. The judges evaluated nearly 1,600 print entries and presented 193 awards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Contreni". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

JOHN J. CONTRENI

Justin S. Morrill Dean

contreni@purdue.edu



Just wanted to congratulate you on the redesign of your liberal arts magazine. I just received a copy, and it's beautiful both to look at and listen to. A big tip of the hat to the editors, designers, writers, and everyone else who had a hand in it. Really one of the nicest makeovers I've ever seen.

DAVID RANEY
 Director of Publications
 Emory College
 Atlanta, Georgia

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the first issue of *THiNK*. In the past I've only glanced through the pages of the CLA magazine, reading a few paragraphs that were about someone I knew. Not this time. From the non-glare paper to the great photography, to the very interesting articles (the pieces on Anatolia and the story about Dr. Raskin's work in humor come easily to mind), this issue captured my attention. I'm already looking forward to learning more about my colleagues' work in the upcoming editions.

DAVE ERTNER
 Associate Professor
 Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
 Purdue University

“Once in a blue moon” a publication arrives in our mailbox that is so attractive, its photography so enticing, and its articles so interesting and varied that I stand in the middle of the front hall and slowly turn every page. I was attracted as if by a magnet to *THiNK Magazine*. Even its paper feels different from other publications. Thanks to you and your staff for a beautiful reminder of the excitement and the creativity of the liberal arts — and of our College of Liberal Arts.

BETTY M. NELSON
 Dean of Students Emerita
 Purdue University

I am very impressed with volume one of *THiNK Magazine* from Purdue! I read the majority of articles in this publication, which I have not done after receiving previous mailings from the College of Liberal Arts. Thank you for publishing a very informative and interesting magazine with an informative and pleasing format. I'm extremely impressed.

LOUISE (LUCY) DEAN SOMES
 BA 1973, English
 Indianapolis, Indiana

Just wanted to send an enthusiastic virtual pat on the back for the new Liberal Arts magazine *THiNK!* My wife and I both hold degrees from CLA, and we were very, very impressed by the design and content of the magazine. Even the selection of paper was commendable! If this magazine is an indicator of things to come, the future of Liberal Arts at Purdue looks very bright.

TOM WALSH
 BA 1997, Fine Arts/Psychology
 Web Systems Director
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 West Lafayette, Indiana

Every time I read my alumni publications and see Dean Contreni's accomplishments and promotions, I am proud that he taught me (I had his History 103 course back in 1980). I have been teaching for about 20 years now and love both history and the teaching profession. Throughout my career, things he taught me echo in my ears as I teach. I do remember the passion with which he taught! As a teacher, he touched the lives of his students. If this C student from way back was inspired, just think about all the influence he's had through the years!

FRANCIS D'ARIENZO
 BA 1981, History
 Global Studies Teacher
 Conway High School
 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Editor's note: The career and scholarship of Dean Contreni were celebrated earlier this year at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University with a publication and three conference sessions devoted to his lifetime contributions in the field of medieval studies. Nineteen medievalists from around the globe are writing articles in honor of his scholarship that will be published in a Festschrift, a German term for a commemorative volume of essays compiled in honor of a major scholar. Two of Dean Contreni's former students are editing the publication: Cullen Chandler (PhD 2003, History) and Steven Stofferahn (MA 1997, PhD 2003, History).



I enjoyed the articles in the first issue of *THiNK* but was very disappointed that I could find no photo credits, and they are an essential part of each story. If they are all from the students and staff they should be properly acknowledged. I am confident that your staff understands the need for proper crediting.

JOHN DEAN

MS 1960, Science/Biology; PhD 1962, Science Distinguished Professor Emeritus University of South Carolina

Editor's note: In the past, our staff photographers, who are credited on page 2, have handled virtually all of the photography in the magazine. With the redesign, however, we used (and will be using) more photos from faculty, staff, and students, and we plan to give credit where appropriate.

The photo for "Protesting the Powerful" (page 8) was taken by sociology graduate student Beth Williford. The photos for "Anatolia's Riches" (cover, inside cover, pages 10–15) were provided by classics senior Matt Kramer and Professor Nicholas Rauh.

I was dismayed to see an image on page 14 of the spring 2008 edition of *THiNK* that appears to show a student looting a tomb in Turkey. I say this because, although the person is clearly lifting something out of the feature, there is no indication that it is being done using appropriate archaeological data recording methods. Purdue and the College of Liberal Arts must be very careful to show that archaeological investigation done by our students and faculty complies fully with the discipline's stated scientific goals and methods.

RICHARD E. BLANTON

Professor of Anthropology Purdue University

Editor's note: Thank you for your letter. It highlights the importance of putting each of our photos into context, and particularly the necessity for us to be explicit in our captions about important research procedures.

As a Greek–American immigrant, a Purdue alumnus, and an academic, I was very disappointed and offended by "Anatolia's Riches." Its conscious or unconscious goal seems to be to establish the term *Ancient Turkey*. However, there is no such thing as *Ancient Turkey*, just as there is no such thing as *Ancient USA*! The correct terms are *Ancient Ionia* and *Ancient Anatolia*, *Ancient Media*, *Ancient Cilicia*, *Ancient Kurdistan* (God forbid!), etc., because that way they tie the recently arrived Turks to those ancient lands, which is a historical lie.

I have read that everybody who is allowed to do archaeology in Ionia and Anatolia is constrained by the Turks not to mention the term *Greek* in their reports and publications. Instead, they can use the term *Roman* and, when that is totally excluded historically, *Hellenistic*, which, to most Americans (who, to put it politely, are not in good terms with history and geography), does not associate with *Greek*!

Is this scholarship produced by a prestigious American university, or is it vulgar and offensive propaganda supported and promoted by the Turkish government?

JOHN G. PAPASTAVRIDIS

MS 1972, Engineering; PhD 1976, Philosophy Professor of Mechanics Georgia Institute of Technology

*Editor's note: We are very sorry that you found the article "Anatolia's Riches" offensive, and we certainly appreciate the sensitivity of all the issues you raise. What some people might interpret as matters of mere nomenclature actually carry very broad and significant cultural and political implications. We can assure you, however, that there was absolutely no conscious or unconscious goal to establish the term *Ancient Turkey*, and there was absolutely no involvement of the government of modern Turkey, implicitly or explicitly, in the redaction of the article. But thank you for bringing these important issues to our attention.*



*Did an article in this issue move you, make you think, raise a question? We're interested in your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. E-mail us at thinkcla@purdue.edu or write to *THiNK* Magazine, College of Liberal Arts, 100 N. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098. Letters may be edited for length or clarity, and we regret that we may not be able to print all letters.*

Religion and Chinese Society

For almost 60 years China has adopted a secular national philosophy, with religious activity actively discouraged by the government in the 1960s and 1970s. This represents a dramatic shift from China's past, as from the beginnings of its recorded history in 15th century BC, China has had strong underpinnings in many religions including Taoism, Buddhism, and Chinese folk religion.

A 2006 survey by the Pew Global Attitudes Project from six major cities in China points to an increased interest in religion, with 31 percent of the 2,180 respondents indicating that religion was either "very important" (12 percent) or "somewhat important" (19 percent) in their lives. Surprisingly, the Chinese government does not seem to mind this trend and, in fact, may be tacitly encouraging it. One example of the change in attitude is the current production of *Shaolin in the Wind*, a martial-arts dance drama that

has been lauded by members of the Communist Party and by the Chinese government. The Shaolin Temple, where the story takes place, was closed by the government in 1966 but reopened in 1999. The production, which will be exported to the United States for 800 performances, includes a large statue of Buddha on the stage, perhaps signifying a new place for religion in contemporary China.

Sociology professor Fenggang Yang, the director of Purdue's new Center on Religion and Chinese Society, tracks changes such as these and sees religion playing an increasingly important role in China. "People have a spiritual need that government cannot fulfill," Yang says. "Changes in economics and politics also motivate people to seek answers from religion."

By Barbara Dixon





Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum?

Our fascination with pirates seems as endless as it is inaccurate, with much of our information derived from fictional accounts. From the *Pirates of Penzance* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*, pirates have been romanticized, idealized, and emulated. And yet piracy — which continues today on the high seas with dozens of armed attacks on tankers, fishing boats, and yachts every year — was not as jolly as the term *Jolly Roger* suggests. Many sailors in the 18th century had not even signed on for the job. Because of the great need for crews, men were shanghaied — so called because of the propensity to kidnap men to serve on ships headed to China — creating a fertile ground for mutiny, with piracy being a logical subsequent career choice.

Manushag “Nush” Powell, assistant professor of English, is currently teaching a course where graduate students will track pirates through histories, novels, tales, poems, and on the stage. And Purdue history professor Frank Lambert writes about piracy in his book *The Barbary Wars: American Independence in the Atlantic World* (Hill and Wang, 2005). Until the United States won its independence, ships from the American colonies had sailed the coast of northern Africa under British protection. As a new country, the United States was an economic competitor with Britain, so Britain began to encourage pirates (more accurately, privateers) to attack U.S. ships to disrupt trade.

Lambert suggests that we find pirates appealing because they have a modern-day equivalent — terrorists. “Once again we currently have people not connected to a state who are creating havoc just like pirates did in the 18th and 19th centuries,” he explains. Pirates captured on the big screen, such as Johnny Depp’s endearing Captain Jack Sparrow, offer one way to deal with the fear of people operating outside normal social structures.

By Barbara Dixon, illustration from Howard Pyle’s Book of Pirates (1903)



A Piece of History



Nasca Lines in the Peruvian Desert

Peru's Nasca culture is best associated with the famous desert drawings known as the Nasca Lines. These geoglyphs, symbols made thousands of years ago by removing dark-colored rock, can best be seen from the air. Nasca, also known for its elaborate textile and ceramic art, has been a research focal point for Purdue anthropologist Kevin Vaughn, who recently completed an excavation project funded by the National Science Foundation in which he sought to understand the complexities of Early Nasca ceramic production, distribution, and consumption.

In his excavation of Mina Primavera, located in the Ingenio Valley of the Andes Mountains in southern Peru, Vaughn and his team discovered a piece of Nasca's legacy

in an ancient intact iron ore mine, the only hematite mine recorded in South America prior to the Spanish conquest. "This discovery shows that iron ores were important to ancient Andean civilizations and that civilizations before the Inca Empire were mining this valuable ore," Vaughn explains.

The researchers determined that the mine is a human-made cave first created around 2,000 years ago. An estimated 3,710 metric tons of iron ore were extracted from the mine, which is in the side of a cliff, during more than 1,400 years of use. Vaughn hypothesizes that the Nasca people used the red-pigmented mineral primarily for ceramic paints, but other possibilities include body paint or for painting textiles and adobe walls.

By Amy Patterson Neubert

All in the Same Boat

When Meghan McDonough was a graduate student training for sprint-kayak races, she often noticed a team of breast cancer survivors practicing dragon boat racing at the same Vancouver canoe club.

“They were a very visible and amazing group of women,” McDonough remembers. “I knew how hard it was to be out on the water paddling those boats. And knowing what they were overcoming, I was inspired.”

McDonough now is an assistant professor of sport and exercise psychology in the Department of Health and Kinesiology who is following about 50 breast cancer survivors on Indianapolis’s newly formed dragon boat racing team,

Indy SurviveOars. McDonough wants to better understand how such camaraderie affects the lives of these women. “These breast cancer survivors are literally all in the same boat,” she says.

Dragon boat racing began more than 2,000 years ago in China. The boat, which has the head of a dragon, is 43 feet long and is propelled by 20 paddlers. In 1996, a sports medicine physician at the University of British Columbia encouraged a team of breast cancer survivors to begin competing. Since then, hundreds of breast cancer survivors have formed dragon boat racing teams.

By Amy Patterson Neubert, photo provided by Meghan McDonough





This campaign year has been rich with identity politics, according to James McCann, a political science professor at Purdue.

Photos by Charlie Nye (left) and Sam Riche (right), The Indianapolis Star

Year of the Voter

A R E N E W E D E N E R G Y I N P O L I T I C S

It's late afternoon on a breezy April day, and a line of people inches its way along the Governor Leslie Memorial Bridge spanning the Wabash River between the twin cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette. Snaking around to the north on Main Street, east of the waterway, the crowd finally spills out onto the lawn of Riehle Plaza, where Secret Service agents are planted among the daffodils and newly budding trees.

As the strains of John Mellencamp and Bruce Springsteen boom from speakers, the spectators chatter — college students shouldering backpacks, grandmothers in flag sweaters, and kids clutching handmade “Go Green” posters. Suddenly their voices are replaced by applause, as a beaming senator in a rosy-pink blazer marches toward the stage. Hundreds of cameras and cell phones click in rapid succession, capturing an unprecedented event in Tippecanoe County history.

The primary season, in fact, was an extraordinary moment for all Hoosiers, who for the first time since 1968 could do more than rubber-stamp the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee. But shift the lens into a wide-angle view, and it's been a pivotal year for all Americans, a time when the forces of social identity, shared meaning, fear, and hope have converged, cultivating a larger, more involved electorate than we've seen in recent history.

In 2006, 48 percent of voting-age citizens actually went to the polls, the highest voter turnout in a congressional election year since 1994, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In the 2008 primary season, voter rates surged. On January 8 in New Hampshire, for instance, 52.5 percent of the voting-eligible population cast ballots, compared to 29.9 percent in 2004 and 44.4 percent in 2000.



Year of the Voter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

If tradition is any indication (congressional elections typically draw fewer voters than presidential ones, and primaries generally draw fewer voters than general elections), voting rates should swell even more in November. High turnout rates among demographic groups such as younger voters likely could sway the election one way or another.

“There’s a renewed energy in politics in general; many individuals have been inspired to come out and participate in the process,” says Stacey Connaughton, assistant professor of communication. “In these primaries, potential voters across the country actively came out to candidate events and town hall meetings, and they went to the polls in unprecedented numbers. Voters have always been key actors in the political process, but in this campaign we have really seen their presence and their interest in politics.”

Historic choices

Flip through the pages of presidential history, and you may feel a nostalgic familiarity with the portraits of the 43 men who’ve led this nation through war, peace, scarcity, and prosperity. But compare their faces to a cross-section of the American population today, and you’ll likely experience some cognitive dissonance. In a country where half the population is female, 12.3 percent are African American, and 12.5 percent are Hispanic, where is the diversity in the Oval Office, or even the Cabinet or Congress?

Valentine Moghadam, director of Purdue’s Women’s Studies program and a professor of sociology and women’s studies, offers an explanation. “The American political system is already so institutionalized, it’s very difficult for outsiders to make it within the political process in the United States, whether these candidates are women or African Americans,” she says. In contrast to some European countries that set gender quotas in parliaments or cabinets, the United States has not engineered a pipeline for feeding women and minorities into the top levels of government.

What does that mean for the voter? For those of us who are women, black, Asian, or Latino, we have to look beyond the surface to find commonalities with our presidential

candidates. But this year has been different. The presence of Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Barack Obama, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, and even New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (whose mother is Hispanic) on the national scene has created a groundswell of enthusiasm, likely driving fringe and new voters to the polls. “There’s a long line of research that suggests that social identities influence people’s preferences and potentially their voting behaviors,” Connaughton explains.

James McCann, professor of political science, echoes these thoughts. “This year obviously is rich with identity politics,” he says. “The campaign enterprise is challenging Americans in new ways, and we’ve come a long way since the ’60s protest movements in how we talk about gender, race, and age. The reality, though, is that these discussions are no longer hypothetical; people are talking about group politics and ethnic politics in a much more tangible way. Whether someone is black or white might take on greater salience this year because of the choices before us.”

Campaign managers, of course, are capitalizing on this renewed sense of identity, both by referring to these historic firsts in message points and also by segmenting voters based on a variety of demographics — racial, gender, and otherwise.

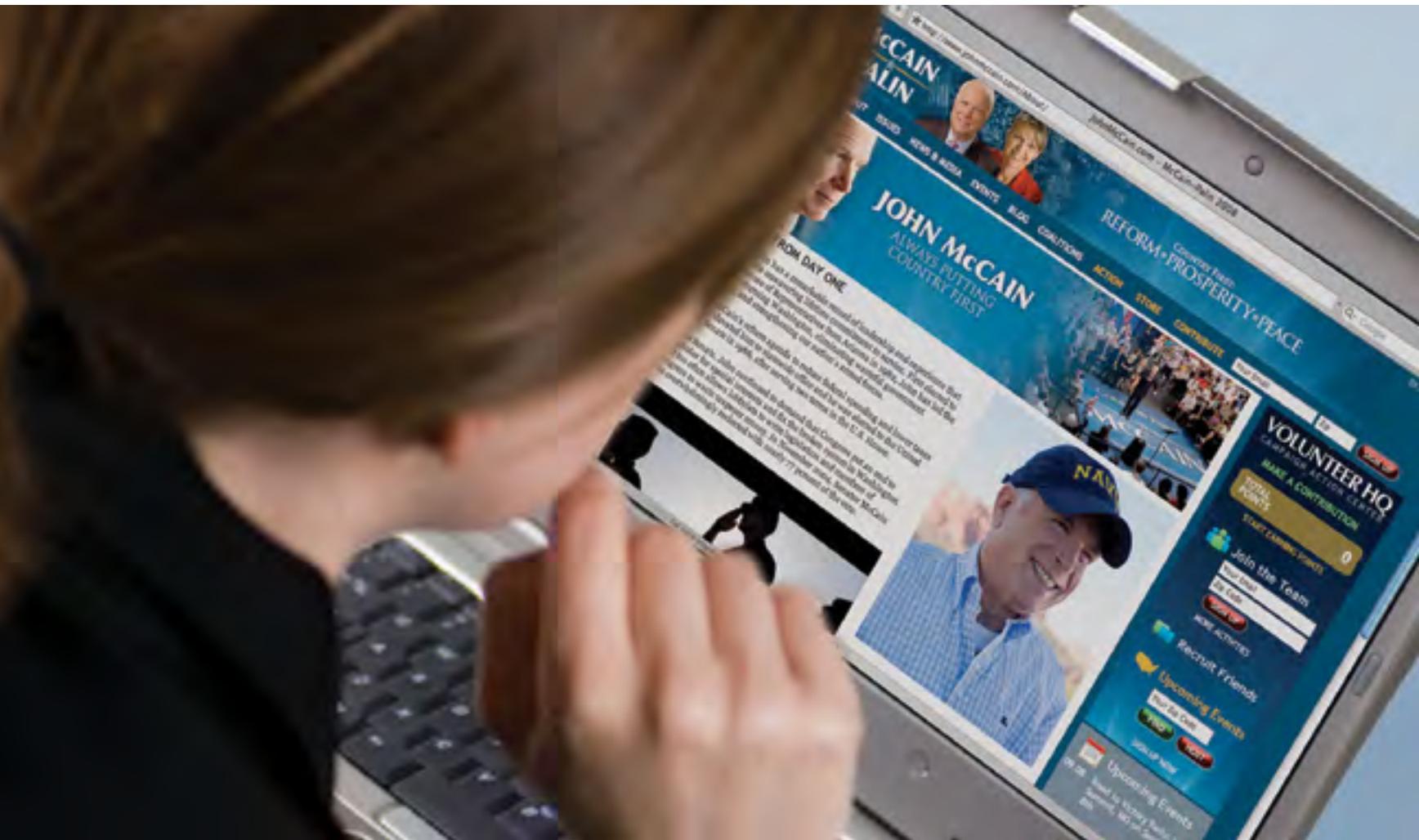
“The parties have gotten extremely sophisticated in direct marketing and micro-targeting. If you subscribe to, say, *Trains Magazine*, or give \$20 to help support a local sheet music lending library, these decisions all get recorded and analyzed,” McCann says. Because latent correlations exist between such behaviors and political preferences, campaigns can target messages and even events through such tactics as voter-registration drives at rock concerts.

“One of the most important social trends this year has to do with the efforts on the part of candidates and the parties to mobilize women and minorities and the young,” says Philo Wasburn, professor of sociology. “I think their efforts will pay off with more women voting, more minorities voting, and more youth voting in the general election.”



Year of the Voter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



From Facebook to Foxnews.com, the Internet has changed the way politics works in this country.

Virtual meaning

Obama's presence on Facebook may be drawing in the text-messaging generation. (Senator John McCain is also there, but he reports significantly fewer supporters.) Still, Internet use actually has surged among all ages. "In 1996, only 4 percent of the general public went online to get news about the election," Wasburn explains. "In 2004, that had increased to 29 percent, and today it's about a third."

That trend is doing more than driving voters to the polls. "Probably one of the main changes is that traditional means of communication were one-way between the producer of the message and the receiver, but the Internet allows for public comment on political affairs; it allows

for greater civic engagement," he says. "People have the potential to find greater numbers of alternative sources — listservs, e-mails, town halls. There's the potential for interaction with other citizens, as well as with public officials."

An exponentially increasing number of citizen blogs cover everything from the microscopic — what does the Gotham font of Obama's "Change We Can Believe In" signs say about his personality? — to the monumental — what does a Hundred Year War in Iraq really mean? Readers can write back, creating discourse among voters and opinion leaders.

Campaign Web sites also invite participation, both face-to-face and online. Clicking on interactive maps, people can find nearby voter registration drives or sign up for door-to-door canvassing. During virtual town hall meetings, they can e-mail questions to candidates.

Ultimately, the shared meaning that occurs results in not only more informed voters but also more informed candidates. And the more candidates speak to issues we care about, the more we care about voting for them.

Fear and hope

Even for Americans not confronting unemployment these days, there's plenty of cause for concern in 2008. Rising gas prices, skyrocketing healthcare costs, and surging grocery bills are driving up the cost of living at a faster pace than salaries. Those worries — and this year's compelling candidates with hope-filled promises — also may be driving more voters to the polls.

Historically, the United States is a country where less than half the population votes. In contrast, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, and Sweden have voting rates in the 80s; the United Kingdom and Germany boast rates in the 70s; and France and Canada in the 60s.

Wasburn sees three reasons behind the U.S. statistic. "Many Americans believe that political affairs have no bearing on their everyday lives. Secondly, many believe that elections don't offer citizens a choice between significantly different alternatives," he says. "And third, many believe that the vote of the individual simply doesn't matter."

But those beliefs may not be as widely shared today as they were in the past. "First, it's hard to see political affairs as having no bearing on everyday life when we are facing

issues like healthcare, taxes, the state of the economy, energy, the war in Iraq, and immigration," he says. "In terms of belief politics, I am sure there are some people who still think we do not have real alternatives, but that case would be really hard to make in this election; the candidates have widely disparate views. And in terms of the individual not mattering, given the close outcome of the last two presidential elections, I think more people will see that the vote of the individual does matter."

Connaughton sees another phenomenon at work as well. "If voters feel inspired to go the polls, they will go," she says. "In this election, we have two great Americans running, one with a tremendous record of service to the country, John McCain, and the other who has a record of service and who also is a very gifted orator, Barack Obama."

In a democracy, dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs leads people to seek out change. But fear can trap them in indecision, desperately wanting to get unstuck but not knowing how to do it. Ultimately, it's hope that leads the way — to meetings, to rallies, and to the ballot box.

"Obama's message is one of fundamental change in the way politics is done. He is speaking directly to voters, trying to understand what their needs and concerns are," Connaughton says.

"Senator McCain is speaking to change as well, maybe not in the same way that Obama is, but certainly wanting to set a new course for America. Their messages make this campaign very interesting and I think a very important moment in United States political history."

By Angie Roberts, freelance writer for Purdue Marketing Communications



Dan Rather and Kinnari Sejal

POLITICS, UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Late this summer, while most of us watched from our living rooms as delegates cheered and waved red-white-and-blue banners, Kinnari Sejal and Nandita Shetty were on the convention floors in Denver and Minneapolis-St. Paul, helping to make that TV coverage possible. The two communication graduate students were among 35 students who participated in the Leadership in Communication Program through the Washington Center.

For the first time in more than 50 years, the Democratic and Republican national conventions were held back to back. The conventions also were firsts for Sejal and Shetty, who are from Mumbai.

"I have worked as a media relations executive in India, but it's a totally different story," says Sejal, who was employed by a theater production company before coming to the United States. "This country has its own way of doing things — how media reporting is done, how you go about getting the right information to audiences. We had covered these ideas in textbooks, but this experience was very hands-on."

More than a week before the Democratic convention began on August 25, Sejal and Shetty arrived in Colorado for orientation and training. As soon as the Denver festivities wrapped up, they headed to Minnesota for the Republican convention, which ran September 1–4. This fall, they're sharing the lessons they learned with classmates and faculty.

The students' participation in the program was funded by the Washington Center, which provided two \$5,500 scholarships in honor of communication alumnus and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb.

A Strong Foundation

How's this for an inspiring daily to-do list: elevate the rights and needs of adolescent girls as a global priority; combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; make clean energy technologies accessible to developing countries; connect people, ideas, and resources in order to foster global peace, justice, prosperity, and progress; attend Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday celebration.

Farfetched? Not really. Just another day at the office for Purdue alumna Kathy Bushkin Calvin (BS 1971, CLA Distinguished Alumna 2002).

From that office on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC, Calvin is surrounded by history. Her eyes, however, remain fixed on the future.

As the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the United Nations Foundation, Calvin oversees building and nurturing public-private partnerships to tackle major world problems. The public charity was created in 1998, bankrolled by CNN founder Ted Turner's \$1 billion gift to support UN causes and activities.

"My avocation is my vocation," she says as she prepares for an upcoming flight to South Africa to celebrate the aforementioned Mandela's 90th birthday.

Calvin earned her place on the world stage by exercising the power of philanthropy locally, nationally, and globally. This spirit is the common thread that weaves through the circuitous path of her many successes.

She credits her inspiration for community involvement and volunteerism to the Midwestern values imbued by her upbringing, along with the social, cultural, and political idealism that permeated college campuses in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"I always wanted to make a difference," she recalls. "My mother was a volunteer and inculcated those values of sharing that resonated with my own nature."

Her father inspired her to attend Purdue. "He had wanted to go there but ended up in the Navy," Calvin says. "He also shaped my world by always believing I could do anything I set my mind to."

Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and raised in Dayton, Ohio, the former Kathryn Fitchey entered Purdue intent on earning a degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences in the School of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education. By her junior year, however, the voice of intuition rang out loud and clear.

"I loved the field, but I learned along the way that there were other areas I wanted to pursue," she says. "Luckily, my counselors and professors supported my choices."

Ultimately, she left Purdue a semester early with a specialty she never used but with an orientation she never stops applying — a strong liberal arts foundation that has served her well in serving others well.

"I give Purdue credit for providing me with a broad education," she says. "What I learned — both in and outside the classroom — prepared me for whatever came along."

And what came along was extraordinary: a long, varied career on the cutting edges of politics, journalism, global public relations, and emerging media. Along the way, she pioneered corporate responsibility initiatives. Joining America Online in 1997, Calvin served as president of the AOL Time Warner Foundation prior to joining the UN Foundation in 2003.

From 1976 through 1984, she also served as Senator Gary Hart’s press secretary, up to and including his 1984 presidential campaign. (She had moved on before his ill-fated 1987 bid.)

“I’m of a generation that saw limitless possibilities,” she says. It’s an active optimism she sees in many of today’s students, an optimism she clearly still shares.

Calvin also likes what she sees taking shape at her alma mater. “I am proud to have come from Purdue and equally excited about Purdue spreading its wings on the global stage,” she says.

A dedicated mentor to young women and an advocate for women’s issues worldwide, she hopes to return to campus to participate in the Old Masters Program and promote 21st-century leadership skills.

Calvin’s window on the world may look out on the nation’s capital — the seat of power, money, and influence necessary to make a difference — but her vision remains focused on that broader, distant horizon: “Promoting a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world.”

It’s all in a day’s work for Kathy Bushkin Calvin.

By Grant A. Flora, communications coordinator for Purdue Marketing Communications



Have You Heard *about Cochlear Implants?*

Eight years ago, young mother Tammy Jones couldn't understand why her infant daughter seemed to be in her own world and was not responding to her daily chorus of "I love you."

It would be months before she got her answer: Emily was deaf.

Another mother, Lorraine Kisselburgh, who has been profoundly hearing impaired since childhood, had utilized various forms of technology for years — e-mail, instant messaging, and telephone relay services — to communicate with her sons when they moved away from home. But she still felt something was missing because she could not hear their voices unless they were close.

"E-mail is not the same as the human voice," Kisselburgh says. "Emotion is conveyed through voice and is often taken for granted, but this emotion — joy, sadness, and love — was something I couldn't hear. It's these small things that add richness and make life enjoyable."

January marks the second year that Kisselburgh was "turned on" with a cochlear implant, a device that helps people gain a sense of sound. Before then, Kisselburgh, an assistant professor of communication, relied on hearing aids and lip-reading to "hear."

Now, she can hear the grocery store cashier tell her good-bye. She can hear neighbors greet her from their front porches when she goes for walks. Finally, she can speak with her family on the telephone.

How they work

The cochlear implant uses electrical signals that bypass the inner ear's damaged auditory receptor cells, also known as hair cells and cilia, to stimulate the auditory nerve. When these cells are damaged, natural electrical impulses cannot reach the auditory nerve so the brain can interpret them.



Cochlear implants are small electronic devices that can provide a sense of sound to a person who is deaf or profoundly hearing impaired. One of the external components of this discrete device is a speech processor (shown over the mother's ear above).

Photo provided by MED-EL Corporation

The external component of a cochlear implant has a microphone to collect sound just like the outer ear, a speech processor to convert the sound into an electric signal, and an FM transmitter to convey the coded signal across the skin to an internal receiver. The internal receiver changes the FM signal into an electrical signal that activates some of the 15 to 24 electrodes that have been surgically placed in the cochlea. Activating the electrodes stimulates the auditory nerve so the brain can “hear.”

This “bionic woman,” as Kisselburgh calls herself, is one of more than 110,000 people in the world with implants. Cochlear implants are for those with severe hearing loss, and they are significantly different from most hearing aids, which merely amplify sound.

Making sound waves

In the 1980s, hearing scientist Karen Iler Kirk, Purdue professor of speech, language, and hearing sciences, served on the first pediatric cochlear implant team in the

country. Based at the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, Kirk worked with cochlear implant pioneers. As part of the House team, Kirk created a testing protocol to evaluate the speech and language development in children before they received a cochlear implant. She also worked with pediatric patients after the surgery to monitor their progress.

“It was thrilling to see the children return when they could hear,” Kirk remembers. “It was also a bit daunting, because a number of people in the scientific community thought children should not receive cochlear implants, especially the single-channel cochlear implants that were less technologically advanced at the time.”

The multi-channel implants had not yet been approved for use in children. And waiting for approval or for the child to be old enough to receive the multi-channel could be problematic by delaying the auditory input, says Kirk, who now conducts speech perception research funded by the National Institutes of Health to help improve the patient evaluation for cochlear implant candidates.



ENGINEERING THE NEXT STEP

Purdue's Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences is home to two engineers whose work relates to cochlear implants.

"The focus of our work is trying to understand the neural coding of sound in the normal hearing system and the impaired system, which will help us understand how we can improve hearing amplification devices, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants," explains Michael Heinz, a professor of speech, language, and hearing sciences and biomedical engineering who joined the department in 2005.

Xin Luo, formerly an engineer with the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, started working at Purdue this fall. Cochlear implants are used worldwide, and Luo is studying how cochlear implants work for people who speak tonal languages, which are the most common languages in the world. They use inflection of pitch on syllables to indicate a difference between words in languages such as Chinese.

"In addition, many speech, language, and hearing science faculty collaborate with researchers outside of the department," says Robert E. Novak, professor and head of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. "In addition to professors Heinz and Luo, other faculty members collaborating with engineering are studying vocal hydration and airflow issues and new technologies to improve Parkinson's patients' speech and the effect of auditory devices."

Have You Heard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

"If you waited too long, they were not able to take advantage of it," Kirk laments. "It was controversial at that time." Today, although many insurance companies cover the surgery and related therapy, the procedure is still controversial.

Not the right fit for everyone

Thirteen months after Emily was born, it was determined she had a profound hearing loss. Cochlear implants were suggested, and her parents knew immediately this is what they wanted.

Tammy was surprised when she received a call out of the blue from someone trying to talk her out of it. The caller represented a deaf group and told her that choosing a cochlear implant would harm her child.

Opinions and support for cochlear implants vary among people who are deaf.

Jill Lestina, an American Sign Language continuing lecturer at Purdue, was born deaf and gradually lost what little hearing she was born with. She began using sign language when she attended the Ohio School for the Deaf and now teaches the language to a variety of Purdue students.

"I am not against or for cochlear implants," Lestina writes. "I see cochlear implants as an advanced technology in assistive listening or hearing. My main concern is the early language acquisition for deaf babies. I have seen more and more deaf babies and young deaf children being implanted and receiving intensive training where no sign language or visual cues are allowed. Even parents are encouraged not to communicate using signs with their deaf babies and young children."

Lestina cites research that shows value in parents teaching sign language to hearing babies.

"The babies' English development is greatly accelerated and babies experience less frustration. If ASL benefits hearing babies, then it

should also benefit greatly for deaf babies and young deaf children."

Typically, a deaf parent of a child with deafness will not seek out a cochlear implant. However, more than 90 percent of deaf infants are born to hearing parents, and many of them want the opportunity for their child to hear.

"The decision to have elective surgery on a baby is huge," cautions Dave Ertmer, a professor of speech, language, and hearing sciences. "It means sleepless nights for parents. Parents should also know that it is an imperfect technology. Success doesn't automatically follow implantation. Children must work hard to learn how to interpret the electronic signal."

Emily had surgery to receive a cochlear implant in December 2000. On January 25, 2001, her implant was activated.

Growing up with a cochlear implant

Emily celebrated her ninth birthday by splashing at a water park in northern Indiana. Because the external component of her implant couldn't get wet, Emily removed it. Before she and her pals dove in, Tammy Jones cautioned her daughter's playmates that Emily would not be able to hear them because of her deafness.

"She is?" replied the other children, many of whom had known Emily since she was 4.

Her friends did not know because the device is almost invisible: the internal part was implanted in her ear and the external part was easily hidden by her brown hair. Because the implant works so well for Emily, and because she invested in years of therapy to learn how to interpret the unnatural sounds and perfect her speech, most people do not realize Emily is technically deaf.

About a dozen patients like Emily and Lorraine visit Purdue's speech and hearing clinics every year, says Jeanette Leonard, a clinical professor who provides communication therapy services at the clinic.

Leonard, and others from the Purdue clinic, worked with Emily to help her understand and utilize the sounds her implant sends her brain, as well as perfect her speech. When Emily hears a vacuum cleaner, running water, or someone singing *Happy Birthday*, she doesn't hear the exact sound. Rather, a sense of sound is routed from the implant to the auditory nerve so the brain can translate. The sound, as described by adults with cochlear implants who once had normal hearing, is described as mechanical. But, with time, the brain learns to interpret these sounds, and for some even music becomes melodic and evocative.

There are thousands of other success stories of children like Emily living with cochlear implants. Hearing problems in children are being diagnosed when they are just days old thanks to universal newborn hearing screening laws, and, as a result, many are receiving implants as early as their first birthday.

"You can't ask toddlers how they're doing with the implant, so we have to look for ways to measure their benefits through their behavior," Ertmer explains.

Ertmer studies the sounds children make as a method to assess how well they're hearing. If they are hearing well, then they will be more able talkers. Currently, Ertmer is in the middle of a National Institutes of Health study to determine how children who receive implants before their third birthday are progressing compared to children with normal hearing.

Now Emily is above the average reading level for her age. She's in the top five of her second-grade class. She takes dance classes, plays softball, and is outgoing.

"One thing people need to realize if they are interested is that the surgery is the easy part," Tammy says. "You must be committed to therapy. But if you make the commitment, it more than pays off."

By Amy Patterson Neubert, communications and marketing specialist for University News Service

Nine-year-old Emily Jones has worked with clinical professor Jeanette Leonard, and other clinicians at Purdue's speech and hearing clinic, since she received a cochlear implant in 2000.



The Bitter Truth

You're watching your weight. You open the fridge for a drink. Do you reach for (a) diet soda, (b) artificially sweetened fruit water, or (c) a can of regular soda? Tread carefully ... the answer is not as simple as it may seem.

Zero-calorie sweeteners have grown intensely popular since saccharin was first produced in 1879 — first as cheaper alternatives to sugar during World War II, then as dietary staples for individuals trying to maintain or lose weight. An emerging body of evidence suggests, however, that these substances may actually make it harder for people to control their caloric intake and body weight.

As part of two federally funded projects directed by Susan Swithers, associate professor of psychological sciences, researchers in Purdue's Ingestive Behavior Research Center (IBRC) conducted tests using two different yogurts: one sweetened with glucose, a simple sugar with the same number of calories as table sugar, and the other sweetened with zero-calorie saccharin. After feeding yogurt to two groups of rats, the researchers found that those rats given artificially sweetened yogurt later consumed more calories, gained more weight, and put on more body fat than those rats fed yogurt sweetened with glucose, suggesting that consuming artificial sweeteners alters the body's ability to regulate its own food intake.

How is this possible? It could be as simple as ringing a bell.

The phenomenon, explained

The underlying mechanism may be Pavlovian conditioning, suggests Terry Davidson, professor of psychological sciences, director of the IBRC, and Swithers's collaborator. Ivan Pavlov, a pioneering 20th-century researcher, established that animals learn to use cues from their environment (e.g., the ringing of a bell) to predict the occurrence of biologically important events (e.g., the availability of food). "Pavlovian conditioning also occurs in humans, beginning

very early in life without any conscious awareness," says Swithers. "Animals may use food's orosensory cues, such as sweetness or texture, to anticipate the number of calories present in any given substance, and the body responds with changes that help animals regulate food intake or energy expenditure."

These fundamental cause-effect relationships can be disrupted by the introduction of artificial sweeteners, however. Animals, including people, have lots of experience with foods that taste sweet and deliver calories, Swithers explains. But just as sugar binds to taste receptors in the mouth, artificial sweeteners' chemical compounds also bind to these receptors, creating the same "sweet sensation" as sugar but without the calories. This kind of experience may interfere with the body's learned responses. "We have found that we can disrupt the rats' ability to regulate food intake if we give them sweet-tasting foods that don't have calories," says Swithers.

So what are the effects of disrupting such fundamental processes? Ultimately, artificial-sweetener consumption results in a "blunted response" to sweet foods. A subject learns, unconsciously, that such orosensory cues as "sweetness" no longer necessarily predict that a substance is high in calories. As a result, even when consuming a sweet food that does have calories, subjects do not expend the same amount of energy, nor are they as able to judge when they have consumed enough calories for one meal. Not only does this lead to overeating, but it may also make it more difficult for the subject to burn off sweet-tasting calories. Thus, rather than preventing obesity, the use of artificial sweeteners might produce problems with self-regulation that actually promote excessive caloric intake and weight gain.

This analysis is consistent with emerging evidence that normal-weight people who consume more diet drinks are at higher risk later in life for obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes. In fact, the current obesity

trend correlates with the widespread introduction of artificial sweeteners into the diets of not only Americans, but of people around the world.

Swithers and Davidson acknowledge that this will be unwelcome news to many, considering the recent rise in artificial-sweetener consumption.

The human link

Both researchers maintain that though their data come from rats, in principle, the same type of Pavlovian conditioning process may also apply to humans. However, both researchers acknowledge that the human environment, including the food environment, is much more variable and complex, compared to the highly controlled environment of rats in a laboratory. For now, additional studies are needed to determine the generality of the effects obtained with rats to the human population.

Though much research is focused on obesity, the IBRC also investigates other health issues that are related to what and how much people eat and drink. For example, diet, caloric intake, and body-weight gain during the middle years may determine one's susceptibility to cognitive dementias and physical disorders during old age.

"I get satisfaction from knowing that our center is studying a variety of important problems and that our work may help to provide solutions," says Davidson.

By Julie Jansen, freelance writer for Purdue Marketing Communications, illustration provided by the Journal of the American Medical Association 2008, 299(18):2137-38



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The Incident

This excerpt is from Mehdi Okasi's award-winning short story, The Incident, which won best of contest, outstanding graduate entry, and best short story by an undergraduate or graduate student in the 2008 Literary Awards, sponsored by the Department of English, the College of Liberal Arts, and Purdue University Libraries. Okasi is a graduate student in the Department of English's master of fine arts program.

The Mother

Then there was a sound in my head loud like the bombs that fall in Tehran, vah mahn me-donestam, and I just knew that all the doors in Iran had been closed to me. It was like Allah spoke inside my head. He told me to go. You have a son, He said. For him you must live. Because this was the time when the war was loudest. When all you could hear were the cries of mothers for their sons, wives for their husbands, and old men crying which, Omid-jahn, is the saddest sound in this world because to hear it means that everything is lost. But I had you, and that was all I needed to get the courage to leave that country where everything was breaking. My family begged me not to go, but I didn't listen. Only one road I saw for me, the road to EhmRicA. And under this road, Omid, the only sun was your shining face. With fifty dollars, that is all we had when we came here. But Ghodah held us in His hands like a mother cat, her baby in her jaws, held us just that carefully. Do you remember, Omid, do you remember how hard we prayed those first years in this country?

Yes, mah-mhan, I remember. I was eight years old then, when we first came here. And every time I think about those years I remember the house by the Mystic River that leaned over too far to the right. And that door in the kitchen that opened onto the backyard.

I remember that too. The door that wasn't a door. Only in EhmRicA do you find doors that are half made of glass.

Remember, mah-mahn, how the panes would creak at night in the wind?

And I was thinking that someone was trying to break in. But you said that the door was trying to speak. It was only later that we found the mice that were scratching, getting in from beneath.

That's why the church gave us Soulmahz, right? To kill all the mice. Sometimes I remember that night she was run

over and that feeling of my stomach mixing in itself comes back, and I get very depressed.

Omid-jahn, I remember too the night she died. Just for one small cat, you cried for three days. Those were hard years. No car, no language, no money. But it is no use for thinking after things that are dead.

And do you remember, mah-mahn, how you said Soulmahz had many lives because she escaped from underneath two different cars before the third one hit her in the head? And then her brain, which I remember was yellow like sickness, coming out of her, and she turned around and squished up her eyes. That was the first time I started thinking about Ghodah because Soulmahz was the very first thing I lost.

No, Omid-jahn, she is not the first thing you lost. Only the first thing you remember losing. I cried too because your tears, Omid-jahn, have always made me cry. I remember how Soulmahz waited so nicely till our food shopping was finished. And when we pushed the carriage full of food across the street, she was always there waiting. That night was different, Omid. And I tell you on the bridge not to put her down when you first pick her up. She jump from your hands into the street, and the car with those two lahtha — those trouble boys — driving too fast hit her, just before we crossed to go home.

But, mah-mahn, I remember you said, "Omid, put her down so we can see how nicely she crosses the street."

Nah! Omid! Why would I say that? Why would I talk like a deevahneh. You should never put words into your mother's mouth.

To read *The Incident* in its entirety, go to www.cla.purdue.edu/think.



Mehdi Okasi was born by the Caspian Sea in the town of Gorgan in northern Iran. He and his family lived for brief periods in Turkey, Yugoslavia, and Austria before settling in Massachusetts when he was 7. He earned his bachelor's degree from Connecticut College in 2003 and worked as an editorial assistant in New York City and taught English in the Massachusetts school system before beginning his MFA in creative writing at Purdue University, where he is currently in his third and final year. He is the editor in chief of *Sycamore Review* (Purdue's national journal of the arts) and is also working on a book. He was recently awarded the Joyce Horton Johnson Fellowship to attend the literary seminars at Key West and his work appeared in the *Best New American Voices 2009* anthology published by Harcourt this fall.



Dear Liberal Arts friends:

The word “synergy” originally was a scientific term, but it has come to mean the special result that occurs when two or more things combine to create something new that is greater than the sum of its parts. New Synergies is the perfect theme for Purdue’s 2008–2014 strategic plan.

Our world faces challenges that will require synergies drawn from many disciplines on a global scale, and I believe Purdue can and should help humankind meet those challenges. During Purdue’s strategic planning process, we recognized and emphasized the need for not only technical solutions, but also the social awareness, cultural competencies, and humanistic sensibilities fostered in the liberal arts.

Now that our students, faculty, and staff have formulated the plan and the Board of Trustees has approved it, we are ready to begin implementing it. I am eager for Purdue to develop synergistic initiatives that “surprise well” and have profound impact on our campuses and beyond.

I invite you to join us on this creative journey. Purdue will need your talents, your ideas, and your commitment as it implements its plans for student success, excellence in research discoveries and productivity, and recognition as a truly global university. I look forward to working with you as we create New Synergies.

Hail Purdue!

France A. Córdova, *President*

Students in the Film/Video Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts helped film Pope Benedict XVI’s papal mass at Yankee Stadium during his New York City visit earlier this year.

The students participated in many aspects of the production, including engineering, building six giant video screens, operating cameras and video graphics computers, and managing. “Such up-close and personal experience with world luminaries gives Purdue’s Film/Video Studies students an edge over other graduates throughout the country,” says Patricia Hart, chair of Film/Video Studies and professor of Spanish.

Photo by Tommy Beardmore, a senior in Film/Video Studies



Students learn more from taking tests

than they do by studying, according to new research from a Purdue cognitive psychologist and memory expert. “That’s contrary to our conventional way of thinking — learning only takes place when studying, additional studying increases learning, and testing just assesses what we know,” says Jeffrey Karpicke, assistant professor of psychological sciences, who co-authored an article about the research that appeared in *Science* magazine. “Now we have some pretty powerful evidence that during a test there are cognitive processes happening that actually promote learning. More research needs to be done, but I am confident these findings have wide application across a variety of educational materials.”

This past summer five interior design students were given the opportunity to work with Didiayer Snyder, a designer from the hit TV show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The students helped Snyder renovate rooms in two Lafayette-area homes. Snyder donated the design work and materials as part of a fund-raiser for Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette and the YWCA of Greater Lafayette. “This opportunity let Purdue’s interior design students give back to the community while employing their skills as designers,” says Rosemary Kilmer, professor and area representative for the Interior Design Program. “This project allowed the students to actually see how design ideas are implemented and completed. Interior design requires energy, technical proficiency, vision, and dedication, all qualities that these future designers possess.”

The Indiana Center for Cultural Exchange, directed by Don Mitchell, professor of philosophy, brought 12 academic, religious, and civil society Muslim leaders from conflict zones in Southeast Asia to Purdue last spring. While at Purdue, the Muslim leaders gave a public forum on Muslim peace-building in Southeast Asia and met with College of Liberal Arts professors and with professors involved in study abroad and international programs throughout the University. The goal of the exchange program, which is called Religion and Community: A Dialogue, is to support moderate Muslim leaders and academic institutions working for peace in Southeast Asian conflict regions where Muslims are a minority.



The College of Liberal Arts’ award-winning National Youth Sports Program, coordinated by the Department of Health and Kinesiology, was renamed this summer thanks to its partnership with The Brees Dream Foundation and the Purdue Employees Federal Credit Union. The camp, which has served more than 1,000 children since 2002, is now known as PALS, Purdue Athletes Life Success Program. More than 300 youth, ages 10–16, participated in this summer’s camp, which emphasizes healthy lifestyles, good sportsmanship, and community involvement.

The College of Liberal Arts has enhanced its curriculum with two new programs: Asian American Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies. Both programs ramped up this fall by offering a minor. In addition to courses, the programs will offer a range of cultural events, study abroad opportunities, and community service and outreach activities. These programs will expose students, faculty, staff, and the community to the rich, complex history of Asian and Latin American immigration, labor, cultural work, and other contributions to the United States and the world.

Global concern about a possible influenza pandemic has federal, state, and local leaders continuing to plan. Panic, staffing issues, and geographic boundaries are some of the challenges that need to be addressed, according to a Purdue report funded by the Indiana State Department of Health. “Most public-health experts who are leading planning efforts for an influenza outbreak are focusing on specific geographic areas, usually counties, as defined by political lines,” says George Avery, assistant professor of health and kinesiology and member of the Purdue Alternative Care Site Planning Team, which assesses pandemic planning efforts. “This is problematic because if there is an outbreak, planners need to take into account the people and healthcare systems that are or are not around them.” The team’s findings are published online in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*.

Reaching New Levels of Excellence

Two Liberal Arts professors joined a select group of educators after receiving the 2008 Murphy Award for outstanding undergraduate teaching. The honor includes a \$10,000 award and induction into Purdue's Teaching Academy.



XIMENA ARRIAGA

Psychological Sciences

"I want to instill an intrinsic appreciation for learning in my students so they reach a new level of thinking to affect them the rest of their lives."

She won't psychoanalyze you in a conversation, but Ximena Arriaga will let you know that her field of study is a practical one. "Psychology is very accessible, and I tailor it so it is relevant to every student," declares Arriaga, associate professor of psychological sciences.

Arriaga finds it rewarding when students indicate that they had expected to learn very little and were surprised by how much they gained from her class. She is particularly satisfied when former students write to her reporting that her class was useful in shaping critical skills that have served them well in their careers.

"To discover they have done wonderful things — things they might not have achieved without their Purdue education — those are the greatest moments for me as a professor at Purdue."



BECKY BROWN

Linguistics/French

"My job is to light the fire within and motivate them to nurture the flame."

Having passed through the classrooms of few inspiring teachers, Becky Brown initially resisted her undergraduate advisor's advice to become a teacher.

"My motivation today stems from this memory," says Brown, associate professor of linguistics and French. "I want so much to inspire my students and to be inspired by them."

Brown strives to create a fertile ground for mutual connection with each new group of students. If a student appears disinterested, she reevaluates her teaching methods. "I firmly contend that real learning — that is, everlasting awareness — can only take place in a supportive environment. The rest is fleeting."



Map of the Internet created by Alex Adai and Peter North at AT&T Labs Research

So You Think You Can Google?

In the age of wikis and countless other Web resources, finding answers to questions such as “When did William Faulkner publish *The Sound and the Fury*?” takes only a few seconds. But how does one research more complex questions such as, “How much money did Senator Barney Frank raise in 2007–08?”

In January, the second Digital Information Literacy Contest at Purdue posed 75 such questions to 120 students, faculty, staff, and community members in four Stanley Coulter computer labs. Armed with a PC and Internet access, each contestant attempted to correctly answer as many questions as they could in 30 minutes.

“This contest tests Internet-enabled intelligence, which may be as relevant today as traditional, non-networked intelligence,” says contest creator and recent philosophy graduate Daniel Poynter. “Leveraging the Internet like a mental prosthetic may help you thrive in accelerating technological and social change.”

Poynter conceived the idea for the contest during his sophomore year. He developed it in 2007, in lieu of a

summer job, with both Purdue and West Lafayette Libraries, and two months later the first contest had 50 contestants.

“One idea behind the contest is to identify top performers, find out what makes them tick, and then spread their insights and techniques to others,” says Poynter. “This way, people can be empowered by the Internet to help maintain our democratic institutions.”

Poynter is working with Purdue professors to publish insights gained from the third Digital Information Literacy Contest, which was held in September. He is also working with fellow Purdue students John Bohlmann and George Tebbetts to create a nonprofit to start contests at other universities. The University of Florida and Indiana University recently signed on and will hold the contest this fall using a turnkey package Poynter’s team created.

Poynter recommends contacting experts at your local library to learn how to best search the Internet. And he reveals that www.opensecrets.org publishes fundraising facts for politicians, including Senator Frank.

By Emily Huntman



1888 英國 鄧祿普
England Dunlop

1867 英國 愛迪遜
England Edison

1839 蘇格蘭
Scotland

Beijing 2008

Beijing 2008

Beijing 2008

Blogging from Beijing

When the 2008 Beijing Olympics began on the warm summer evening of August 8, more than a dozen Purdue students had already been in China hard at work for over a month.

Fourteen Purdue students and recent graduates were given the opportunity of a lifetime this summer — to serve as official media liaisons for the 2008 summer Olympics.

Besides gathering flash quotes from athletes after events and writing recaps, the communication students were also required to keep a blog for their hometown newspapers to understand better how technology can turn an international event, such as the Olympics, into a local news story simply by the media used to communicate it.

Lauren Harrington (left), who graduated in May with degrees in communication, creative writing, and professional writing, and Andrea Thomas, a senior in creative writing, became members of what they affectionately dubbed “the blue army” of Olympic volunteers this past summer.



This summer’s Olympics provided a perfect opportunity to observe how technology continues to change the face of mass communication — pushing boundaries and expanding its role in our daily lives. How the news is gathered and reported is no exception.

“In our field of mass communication, globalization has become key,” explains Jane Natt, assistant professor of communication and program leader for the Beijing trip. “With the advent of the Internet and alternative forms of communication such as blogs and podcasts, local news is no longer just news that happens within a 20-mile radius.”

This experience encapsulates exactly what is so unique about studying abroad — it provides opportunities that a classroom simply cannot. Instead of reading about how blogs give authors and readers a more active role in reporting the news, students were able to maintain a blog and read the feedback and comments from their audience.

“Without study abroad, this lesson would have been taught within four walls in West Lafayette,” Natt says. “Look at the difference with how they learned this lesson from a venue at the Beijing Olympics.”

In addition to the practical skills students garnered — abilities that will propel their careers in the communications field — they also learned about Chinese culture. To prepare, students did a bit of research.

“Before leaving for Beijing, I read avidly about current events in China and also about the country’s history to help me better understand those events,” says Traci Gillig, a senior in the Department of Communication. “China simply fascinates me. It has changed so much in recent years. Immersing myself into the Chinese culture has helped me to learn and grow as a person.”

By Jessica Able, photos provided by Andrea Thomas



People of the Book

Geraldine Brooks
New York: Viking, 2008

Review by Jennifer Marston William
Associate Professor of German
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

A butterfly wing, wine stains, saltwater, and a single white hair: for the rare-book specialist and conservator Dr. Hanna Heath, these seemingly insignificant items in the binding of a Hebrew codex become the most important artifacts of her young career.

Geraldine Brooks's *People of the Book* is based partially on the real Sarajevo Haggadah, a book featuring the Passover story accompanied by unusual painted illuminations, which was rescued by a Muslim librarian during the Bosnian war. Witness to the most perilous times, the codex is one of this novel's leading characters. As the specifics of its history are uncovered, the reader becomes concerned not only about the fates of the diverse "people of the book," but about the book itself. Its history

is as multiethnic as the Balkans, where the Haggadah finds its final (perhaps) destination. Brooks reveals the mystery of the text's origin gradually, and in reverse chronological order: from the war-torn Sarajevo of 1996 and, during World War II, of 1940; to the increasingly anti-Semitic atmosphere of 1894 Vienna; to Inquisition-era Venice in 1609; and finally to late 15th-century Spain of the *Convivencia*, a time and place of relatively peaceful coexistence for Jews, Muslims, and Catholics.

With the scant evidence available to her, Hanna struggles to write a museum catalogue essay about the codex's past. Meanwhile, Brooks's readers enjoy the detailed stories of characters that bring history to life, including Jewish resistance fighter Lola; Stela and Serif Kamal, the Muslims who aid her; Judah Aryeh, the rabbi who helps the alcoholic priest Domenico; and the *converso* Reuben/Renato and the family that disowns him. One wonders if these rich tales represent how Hanna imagines the codex's history, or if Brooks's readers are simply privileged to secrets her protagonist will never know.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Brooks is at her strongest when she narrates in the first-person voice, as she does in two key chapters disclosing the start and end of the codex's journey, and in the seven chapters narrated by the wry-witted Australian, Hanna. Brooks's own voice seems channeled through Hanna at times, such as when the latter explains, "By linking research and imagination, sometimes I can think myself into the heads of the people who made the book" (11). This ability is reflected, for instance, in Brooks's captivating, entirely fictional account inspired by a dark-skinned, saffron-robed woman in one of the Haggadah's pictures.

This book tries to be many things at once, a quality that will please some readers and frustrate others. It is an intricate historical novel with an action-thriller ending; it is also a touching love story, a tale of mother-daughter strife, and a chronicle of self-discovery. A common thread runs through the different storylines, however, as each attests to the profound effects of both conflict and cooperation between cultures.

That Great Feeling of Not Belonging



AMBASSADOR CAROLYN CURIEL

BA 1976, Radio/Television/Film
 Honorary Doctorate 2008
 CLA Distinguished Alumna 2005
 U.S. ambassador to Belize, 1997–2001
 Editorial writer, *The New York Times*
 New York, New York

Everyone should seek out, at least once, the sensation of not belonging, of being away from the familiar and reassuring. All it takes is a willingness to embrace a different culture or environment — and some guts to take that first step away from our comfort zone.

We all know that zone, where we're surrounded by friends or family, people just like ourselves. We love that zone, and why not? This is where we find support and validation. But where's the challenge?

Before I came to Purdue, I was regularly around people outside my circle of comfort, although not by choice. My parents moved our family out of the barrio and into an Anglo neighborhood when I was 6 years old. It was a scary move, but ultimately a smart one. My brothers, sisters, and I were enrolled in better schools and exposed to mainstream culture that has helped us throughout our lives.

When I arrived in West Lafayette in 1973, I was ready to step farther outside my realm. I was anything but athletic, but I was steeped in spectator sports, especially football. I found my way to WBAA radio, where the great Johnny DeCamp taught me how to

conduct sports interviews and play by play for broadcast. I joined the intrepid staff of *The Exponent*, where I eventually ran the sports pages with Linda Robb, who was a real athlete, not just a watcher. I learned from her, too.

I created the most discomfort — for myself and the sports executives at Mackey Arena — when I tried to cover sports like one of the guys. It's no big deal now, but these were pioneering days. A woman in the men's locker room was, in theory, just fine. In reality, it was impossible. The otherwise all-male press corps just strolled into the dressing rooms, where I imagined them beating me to the best stories and profiles. To overcome their gender advantage, I had to get creative. I used the telephone a lot, but I also found allies. Once, after an away game at the University of Southern California, the Purdue coach, Alex Agase, taught the Trojans how to treat a female reporter when he shifted the post-game interview to the laundry room and away from the dressing area. Everyone was happy and everyone got the story. Coach Agase was a man ahead of his time, and I was lucky to find him when I was away from my element.

Finding and conquering those new frontiers gave me the courage I needed in my career, both in the news media and in service to our great nation. I encourage others to stretch in ways they might not have considered before. Life should include those times that make our hearts beat a little faster.



1957

PATRICIA (O'CONNELL) BRESEE (BS, Speech) is on the board of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and is also a consultant to the Judicial Council of California's Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

1960

DUANE LARSON (BS, Psychology) retired as owner of Rosemoor Stamp and Coin Company in Park Forest, Illinois.

R. WAYNE PACE (PhD, Organizational Communication) recently returned from an appointment as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in Organizational Psychology and Human Resource Development at the University of Twente in Enschede, Netherlands.

1966

FRED CURTIS LASH (BA, American History) is a senior advisor for the Department of Defense in Washington, DC.

1967

GLENDA JANE BOLING (BA, Speech) was named the 2007 winner of the Association of Community College Trustees William H. Mearly Award. Boling is a speech professor at Danville Area Community College in Danville, Illinois.

JANE CHANCE (BA, English) was recently appointed as the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor in English by Rice University.

1971

LINDA COATSWORTH (BA, Social Sciences) has been employed in the photographic and graphic arts business for over 33 years and is currently the marketing manager for the premier large-format-graphics production facility, Color Reflections, in Atlanta, Georgia.

BLANTON O. CROFT (PhD, Organizational Communication) is a professor at Hagerstown Community College in Hagerstown, Maryland.

1972

ELIZABETH HAWK BRADBURY (BS, Psychology) was recently appointed to the Missouri State Board of Governors.

1973

JOHN T. COOPMAN (BS, Physical Recreation Education) was named one of eight 2008 District Superintendents of the Year by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents.

CARL E. MOREHOUSE (BA, Political Science) was re-elected to a third, four-year term on the Ventura California City Council.

GARY S. RUBENSTEIN (BA, Political Science) was named Best of the Bar in 2007 by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

1974

EDGAR J. "RIK" LOVELADY (PhD, English) was presented with the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award as professor emeritus of English, Greek, and linguistics at Grace College.

1976

CHRISTINE SOBEK (BA, Psychology) received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education at Michigan State University. Sobek is the president of Waubensee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois.

KATHLEEN J. TURNER (MA, Organizational Communication, PhD 1978, Communication) is the 2007 recipient of the Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education from the National Communication Association. Turner is a professor of communication studies at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina.

1977

TED P. MCDUGAL (BA, Communication) is senior vice president and director of the Ketchum Public Relations Corporate Practice in Chicago, Illinois.

1978

STEPHEN A. CLARY (MA, Humanities and Social Sciences) is a math teacher in the LCSC Alternative School at Logansport High School in Logansport, Indiana.

HARVEY GERRY (BA, Psychology) is the chief of education for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, a system serving the 35,000 children of U.S. service members in Europe.

WILLIAM E. KELLY (BA, Communication) is a senior producer with NET Television in Nebraska. His documentary, *Murder House*, was selected by American Public Television for national and international distribution.

1979

DAVID ALAN CUTHBERTSON (BS, Audiology) completed his Doctor of Audiology at the Arizona School of Health Sciences, graduating with highest distinction. Cuthbertson has a private audiology practice in Maine.

WALTER C. GALLER (BA, Communication) is the vice president of marketing at JPMorgan Chase.

ALLEN R. GROSSMAN (BA, Political Science) is an attorney with Metzger, Grossman, Furlow & Bayo LLC in Tallahassee, Florida.

PATRICE PICARD (BA, Psychology) was appointed executive director of Family Service of Morris County in Morristown, New Jersey.

VICKI J. PLATT (BA, Sociology) received the Employment Specialist Training Certificate from the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community after completing 48 hours of instruction and passing an exit examination in Lafayette, Indiana.

KAREN REUTHER (BA, Industrial Design) is the global creative director at NIKE Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon, and is responsible for color, graphics, and materials.

1980

JUDY M. BALABAN (BA, Communication) is vice president of infrastructure service management and PMO for Realogy Corporation in Parsippany, New Jersey.

DAVID ANDREW LLOYD (BA, Communication) has sold or optioned several screenplays, including a recent deal with Fox/Searchlight. His horror film, *Sewn*, is slated for production, and his short comedy, *Grave-Tech: The Ultimate Opportunity*, played at the DGA in 2006 as part of Visionfest for the Filmmakers Alliance. *Grave-Tech* can be viewed on his Web site at www.weknowfunny.com.

KEN MORRIS (BA, Communication) is the communications and marketing manager for Grgich Hills Estate, a small family-owned winery in Rutherford, California.

BART PETERSON (BA, Political Science) is managing director of the Strategic Partners Urban Fund, formed by Strategic Capital Partners LLC. Peterson is a 2006 CLA Distinguished Alumni.

SCOTT E. ROSS (BA, Communication) was promoted to associate editor of Source Interlink Media's *Corvette Fever* and *Mopar Muscle* magazines where he writes cover stories, feature stories, and other items.

1981

SHARON K. MELLOR (BA, Communication) received a Doctor of Philosophy in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in organizational development from Union Institute & University.

1983

KAREN A. CAMERON (MA, Organizational Communication) retired after a successful 30-year career with General Motors Corporation. Her last position was dean of the Sales, Service, & Marketing College at General Motors University. She is starting a marketing communications business serving small-business owners in the Michigan area.

1984

JEANETTE C. KASSEBAUM (BA, Political Science) received a Gold Lifetime Library Card from the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Foundation at the Skyline Club in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kassebaum has been a private practitioner (attorney) for 17 years in Fishers, Indiana.

MARK A. ROY (BA, Political Science) was admitted to the State Bar of California.

1985

SHAWN SHELDON EWELL (BA, Communication) is co-owner of Zephyr Real Estate in Palm Springs, California.

PATRICIA GEIST MARTIN (PhD, Organizational Communication), graduate advisor for the Communication Studies master's program at San Diego State University, authored three books, 30 book chapters, 20 journal articles, more than 50 convention papers, and a dozen research grants. She was awarded the Monty, the San Diego State University Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions.

KEVIN MICHAEL WALKER (BA, History) is general counsel for the National Drug Intelligence Center.

1986

BRADLEY SCOTT BOLIN (BA, Political Science) is assistant chief clerk at the Illinois House of Representatives.

PETER J. OLESHCHUK (BA, Communication) created an online radio station, PopRadio FM, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

D. PAUL SIEGFRIED JR. (BA, Communication) received the IHSAA Distinguished Media Service Award for District I during his time as sports editor with the *Huntington Herald-Press*.

1987

VALERIE F. ALLEN (BA, Communication) was appointed director of survivor benefits for the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

1988

HENRY J. HENDRIX (BA, Political Science) has been ordered to report to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy as a strategist and assistant for Force Transformation Issues.

PAIGE NOELLE WILLIAMS (BA, Psychology) is an associate professor at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma.

1989

DAVID C. ARNOLD (BA, European History) has been assigned as deputy commander of Thule Air Base in Greenland.



1970

JAMES S. PULA (MA, PhD 1972, History) is editor of the scholarly journal *Polish American Studies*, serves as a member of the series advisory board for the *Polish and Polish-American Studies Series* of Ohio University Press, and was recently named editor in chief of *Polish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia*, to be published by McFarland Publishers.



1974

DEBORAH E. MCDOWELL (MA, PhD 1979, English; HDR 2006), the Alice Griffin Professor of Literary Studies at the University of Virginia, has been named director of the Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Virginia. She had been interim director for the past year.



1981

ANGIE KLINK (BA, Communication) released the second edition of *Purdue Pete Finds His Hammer* with the new addition of the Golden Girl. The Golden Girl was added as an updated feature on the page with the World's Largest Drum. Klink also won an honorable mention in the Human Interest Category for her essay "Kindergarten Karma" in the 11th annual Erma Bombeck Essay Contest.



2004

SARAH BAUER (BA, English) is a full-time musician, speaker, and performer from Carmel, Indiana. She recently released her third album, *Radiance*, a Christian pop rock album. Bauer was featured in the fall 2007 issue of *Grapevine Magazine*. For more on Bauer, visit www.sarahbauer.com.

Fulfilling Dreams



As part of Experience Liberal Arts this fall, the CLA Alumni Board is honoring three alumni under 40 with Emerging Voice Awards. To read more about each recipient's accomplishments or to nominate a CLA alumnus, go to www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards and click on Emerging Voice Awards.

Tanasha Anders

Tanasha Anders (BA 1994, Sociology and English) was like many students; she changed both her major and career path. "Transitioning from Science to CLA opened my eyes and made me more excited about a whole new world and my future in it," she declares. That future came with a strong community and public-service focus for Anders. After receiving her Master of Public Administration from Baruch College/City University of New York in 2001, she became vice president for youth and family programs and later interim president and CEO of the Indiana Black Expo. She has since moved to Dallas, Texas, and is director of special events for Reach Media Inc., home of the number one nationally syndicated urban radio show, the Tom Joyner Morning Show. She points to the Black Cultural Center, her participation in the Jahari Dance Troupe and Haraka writers group, and her English and sociology courses as experiences that led to her success in college and life. "I was surrounded by individuals at Purdue who make you want to do your best," she articulates. "Purdue helped me to continuously strive to better myself and enhance lifelong learning."

Jo Alice Blondin

Growing up as one of the identical "Blondin twins," Jo Alice Blondin (BA 1993, English) found her identity at Purdue. "Not only did the choice of Purdue enhance a personal feeling of uniqueness (my sister attended Indiana University), but it offered me a sense of community and opportunity in the world beyond West Lafayette," she explains. Blondin's commitment to educational leadership began at Purdue, with a high level of involvement in the Purdue Student Government, and continues as chancellor of Arkansas Tech University's Ozark Campus. Blondin says her strong Purdue undergraduate education prepared her to meet the challenges of graduate education (she received her MA and PhD in English in 1998 from Arizona State University). "The critical aspects of writing about literature were so entrenched in my training as an English major that my transition to graduate school was seamless," she remembers. "A liberal arts education teaches the learner to ask the right questions and seek plausible, reasoned answers. Ideally, a liberal arts education provides direction in how to apply learning to a career or calling in life. Purdue did both for me."



Ron Carpinella

The education he received in history at Purdue provided Ron Carpinella (BA 1991, History) a background in the rigor of research methodology that propelled his career in business, finance, and marketing. "Who would have thought that knowing about ancient Greek and Anatolian society would help me connect with my Turkish colleagues at NATO, enabling better relations for all parties, or that reading fiction could enlighten, entertain, and enable creativity in business?" says Carpinella, a former Google sales/branding executive who is now director of sales for Veoh Networks Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. "It's incredible to think of all of the influences I encountered and the profound effect they had on my own personal growth. I can think of a handful of professors that aided me and transformed me, most of them still teaching at Purdue: Randy Roberts, with his perpetual youthful smile and willingness to engage in a conversation; Robert May, whose knowledge base was endless; and Gordon Mork, who challenged me in my scholarship and also in my thirst for knowledge," continues Carpinella, who received an MBA from Duke University in 2005. "My Purdue experience was and still remains the most transformative experience of my life."

JAMES P. ZILIAK (BA, Sociology) was selected by the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics as the recipient of the 2007 Robertson Faculty Research Leadership Award.

1990

JACQUELINE M. BECKER (BA, Political Science) was promoted to senior counsel to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System of Office of Inspector General in Washington, DC. She has also been accepted into the Harvard Business School's High Potential Executive Leadership Program.

1991

THOMAS A. JOHN (BA, Political Science) joined Ice Miller LLP as a new partner in its Public Affairs Group. His duties include state, local, and federal government issues and public affairs.

ERICKA A. MASON (BA, Psychology) is an account specialist for CMW in Indianapolis, Indiana.

DAVID RUSS (BA, Criminal Justice) joined ENTAP Inc., an IT services firm in Indianapolis, Indiana, as director of business development marketing.

1992

SARAH FANZINI (BA, Communication) joined Lakeland HealthCare as a regulator compliance consultant, responsible for joint commission compliance at all Lakeland Facilities in St. Joseph, Michigan.

KEITH HEARIT (PhD, Organizational Communication) was promoted to full professor and named dean of the Lee Honors College and interim vice provost for enrollment management at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

MARIA MENOTTI (BA, Communication and Political Science) is the claims consultant in the law department of CNA Insurance of Chicago, Illinois.

1993

JO ALICE BLONDIN (BA, English) was named to the 2008 *Arkansas Business's* list of 40 Under 40.

TRICIA M. CULLOP (BA, Communication) is the women's basketball coach for the University of Toledo in Ohio.

1994

ANTHONY R. PAESANO (BA, Political Science) was named a "Rising Star" in the 2008 Law & Politics edition of *Michigan Super Lawyers*. Paesano is a partner in the law firm of Beals Hubbard PLC.

SHAWN ALLEN WILSON (BA, Political Science) is an account executive for Lehman Brothers, a global investment bank.

1995

STEPHEN MAYNARD CALIENDO (MA, PhD 1998, Political Science) is an associate professor of political science at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

ELLEN CHANG (BA, Communication) writes about the oil, gas, and energy service sector for magazines such as *Oil and Gas Investor*, covers mergers and acquisitions for MergerMarket, and writes about economic development and companies expanding internationally.

1996

TANYA JORDAN (BA, Communication) is special events manager for Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

1997

BRIDGET WILLIAMS (BA, Telecommunications and Public Relations) is deputy director of national conventions and meetings for the American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

1998

BRIDGET GOLDEN (BA, English) was elected to serve a two-year term as an alumni representative at the 2007 Mortar Board National Conference.

1999

JENNIFER A. BANKS (BA, Communication) is vice president of chamber operations and marketing for the Fishers Chamber of Commerce in Fishers, Indiana.

MINDY L. HOFFMAN (BA, Physical Recreation Education) is assistant athletic trainer for football at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

AMY BETH LEMIRE (BA, MA 2002, Communication) accepted a position with Boeing Company as a learning, training, and development domain integrator supporting the new 787 program.

BARRY L. PADGETT (PhD, Philosophy) won the Academy of Educational Leadership's Creative and Innovative Teaching Award for his MBA business ethics pedagogy.

2000

BRIAN K. GRAY (BA, Fine Arts) joined Miles Design as a designer. Josh Miles, owner of Miles Design, is also a Purdue alumnus (BA 1999, Communication).

SHANNON M. HARDIEK (BA, Communication) graduated from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with an MBA in marketing.

LIANA BETH MORRIS (BA, Psychology) was promoted to branch manager of the White Plains, Maryland, location of Ferguson Enterprises.

VANESSA M. PUCKETT (BA, Communication) is assistant director of special events for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

ABBY C. WRIGHT (BA, English) is Supreme Court Law Clerk to Associate Justice Paul Stevens.

2001

DEANNA L. MARX (BA, Interior Design) is senior project designer for OM Workspace in Irvine, California.

BROOKE WILSON (BA, MA 2003, Communication) is the technical documentation specialist and trainer at the University of Memphis in Tennessee.

2002

RYAN KRING (BA, Communication) is sales and project manager for signage and architectural structures at US Signcrafters in Osceola, Indiana.

PATRICK "SARGE" MURRAY (BA, Communication and History) is an instructor at National College in Louisville, Kentucky, teaching business, geography, history, and English.

JOHN J. WAKEFIELD (BA, History) is assistant district attorney for the Harris County District Attorney's Office in Houston, Texas.

SARA M. WAKEFIELD (BA, English) is an instructional designer for Smith International in Houston, Texas.

2003

LAUREN HALE (BA, Communication) is director of corporate development at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.

DANIELLE M. LAFFEY (BA, English) is marketing director for RICS (Retail Inventory Control System) software company in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CATHERINE RASBERRY (MS, Physical Recreation Education) is a health scientist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

2004

ASHLEY FRONTERHOUSE (BA, Interior Design) joined AXIS Architecture + Interiors as an interior designer.

KRISTEN OLIVER (BA, Communication) has been with the Nashville Symphony in Tennessee since July 2005 and was recently promoted to director of patron services.

JUSTIN SEWARD (MA, Theatre) is an assistant props master for the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston, Massachusetts. Seward recently built props for his first Broadway show, *The 39 Steps*, which opened at the American Airlines Theatre in New York.

THE BIGGER PICTURE: TEACHING TEACHERS



SUSANNA CALKINS has always loved education. Currently, she's teaching teachers.

As a historian, Calkins (MA 1995, PhD 2001, History) says her background has trained her to contextualize a problem, trace its origins, and analyze the impact across multiple contexts. It's this approach that has yielded innovative inquiries into the still-emerging field of faculty development.

For Calkins, teaching isn't about simply presenting information — it's about challenging students to critically examine their beliefs and conceptions, to envision new ways to explore old questions; and ultimately, to construct new knowledge for themselves in a way that is meaningful and personally relevant.

"The guidance and mentoring I received from dedicated Purdue professors has helped shape who I am as an academic. As a result, I am deeply committed to enhancing teaching in higher education, particularly helping faculty — at my own university and elsewhere."

For the past year, Calkins has served as associate director for the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University. The Searle Center, established in 1992, is committed to the advancement of learning in higher education. There, she is helping faculty reflect critically on what they want their students to learn and why.

"We are asking faculty to transform their notion of what it means to be a teacher," she explains. "Rather than being teacher-focused, where the teacher transmits knowledge to students, we ask them to be learner-focused, where the teacher facilitates the students' own construction of knowledge."

Calkins expects to take a larger advisory role in Northwestern's university assessment and accreditation processes over the next few years. Additionally, she hopes to have a greater impact on the higher education community with continued research on the teacher/student dynamic.

By Nick Rambo

SAMANTHA SOK (BA, Communication) is a public relations account executive for Schwartz Communication Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

STEPHANIE J. VANDOR (BA, English) earned a master's degree in communication from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, and is currently teaching seventh-grade language arts in Michigan.

DARA J. WEBSTER (BS, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences) is currently working toward a degree in early childhood education at Purdue North Central in Westville, Indiana.

2005

DANIELLE E. BRZOZOWSKI (BA, English) is director of development for Open Books, a nonprofit literacy bookstore in Chicago, Illinois.

TIFFANY CLARK (BA, Psychology) received her MA in industrial and organizational psychology from Hofstra University. She is a human resource business partner at Lockheed Martin.

SABRINA COOK (BA, Communication) is the public relations manager for Novint Technologies.

DANIELA FREZZA (BA, Communication) is co-owner and founder of LatinMente, a Latino-focused marketing/communication agency in Lafayette, Indiana.

ANDREW P. KING (BA, English) received his Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and began an internship in Urban Ministry at Government Presbyterian Church in Mobile, Alabama.

REBECCA RENEE MILLER (BA, Sociology), along with husband Norman S. Miller (BSME 2003, Mechanical Engineering), works at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

FERMIN RECARTE (MA, Foreign Languages and Literatures) was named director of the Centro Hispano at University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

BENJAMIN TODD (BA, Communication) has produced a feature film titled *Last Chance*, starring Purdue professor Ben Lawton. It premiered at Purdue University. Todd is now living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, filming the prequel to the film.

2006

HEATH ABRAM DAVIS (BA, Political Science) is an education specialist at the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo.

MARISA GIFT (MA, Communication) is an academic advisor in the First Year of Studies program at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

JARROD D. NIX (BA, Psychology) changed careers from a loan officer/financial advisor to a Web developer/programmer.

GWYN ZAWISZA (MA, Communication) is an account coordinator at ExactTarget in Indianapolis, Indiana.

2007

KRISTA MARIE CLARK CLINE (PhD, Sociology) is a post-doctoral scholar at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

RENEE L. COOK (BA, Sociology) completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois.

MATTHEW SCOTT HOUSEMEYER (BA, Communication) joined ESPN as a video editor at its worldwide headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut.

JESSICA S. JOYCE (BA, Psychology) joined Employ Abilities as an employment training specialist in Lafayette, Indiana.

BARBARA H. LEONARD (MA, American Studies and Sociology) is a writer/editor in engineering communications with Purdue University.

A COMMON GROUND



Simply put, he likes to help people — especially students. ISMAEL “IZZY” DE JESUS (BA 2001, Communication) has combined this passion with what he learned at Purdue to give back to the University and his community.

“Purdue and the College of Liberal Arts helped sharpen my communication skills and gave me experiences that have allowed me to

find a common ground with almost anyone,” attests De Jesus, who was recognized this fall with the Purdue Young Alumni Award. The Purdue Alumni Association presents the award each year to two alumni age 32 or younger for outstanding service to the University.

As president of the Purdue Latino Alumni Association, De Jesus coordinates campus events, speaks at on-campus workshops and conferences, and is working on a volunteer advisor program for graduating students, as well as a diversity grant. In his “spare” time, he is secretary of the Purdue Club of Northwest Indiana, serves on various committees and boards, and is the alumni advisor for AIESEC Purdue, an international organization dedicated to increasing cultural understanding.

“I want to give something back to the place that gave me so much,” says De Jesus, who manages to find time for his day job as national director of safety and training for Lifting Gear Hire Corporation. “I’ve experienced things most people can only dream of, both during my time at Purdue and as a graduate.”

Moved? New career? New name? To update your information with the College of Liberal Arts or to submit personal or professional accomplishments for this section of *THiNK Magazine*, go to www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni and click on Alumni Information Update.

Intriguing People

Little did I know that when I entered University Hall on a gray, January day in 1967 that my life was about to change because of two incredible people. After three semesters as a prepharmacy major, I decided, with much reflection and excellent advising, to pursue a major in history. I had only a shallow understanding of the work of historians, but, happily, Professors Bill Collins and Paul Million changed that for me. In fact, they helped to launch me into a 40-year career in education.

With his New England accent, West Point background, kind demeanor, and probing questions, Bill Collins made history come alive. I had never traveled far from my Chicago home, but Bill engendered in me a cosmopolitan worldview that led me after graduation to pursue scholarly studies in Costa Rica, Greece, and the Dominican Republic. He genuinely stressed the sanctity of the classroom and built powerful connections with his students.

Paul Million possessed a brilliant mind, a homespun love of Indiana, a hint of a Hoosier twang, and a passion for teaching. Like Bill, he relished both the analytical process of research and interacting with students. Further, Paul made his students better writers. There were days when I wondered whether he was teaching English or history. Nevertheless, after multiple revisions of a paper on Colonial America, I finally grasped the power and beauty of a clear, well-crafted essay. I still carefully scrutinize the texts I read to make certain that I understand the true intent of its author.

Because of these two inspiring professors, I learned that great teaching is a splendid combination of scholarship and a connectedness with students that often lasts a lifetime.

JACK LEWIS

BA 1969, History
Dean of College Counseling
Lake Forest Academy
Lake Forest, Illinois



The most interesting person I met while attending Purdue was during my internship at WBBM-FM in Chicago. It was a great opportunity to work in radio, to meet some famous people, and to learn very quickly that I wanted nothing to do with it! I decided to come in early one day to chat with some folks from the morning show, but when I walked into the studio, nobody was there. I turned to leave, and ran into (literally) Queen Latifah. She came in to record an interview for the next day. She also realized that nobody was there and decided to sit and wait, so I waited with her. We chatted for quite some time before she had to do the interview. I was amazed by how down-to-earth and fun she was. When it was time to go, she gave me a hug and was on her way.

ISMAEL DE JESUS JR.

BA 2001, Communication
National Director of Safety and Training
Lifting Gear Hire Corporation
Portage, Indiana

As a junior at Purdue in 1964, I got involved as a host in the Old Masters program. My assignment was Philip R. Clarke, a prominent Chicago banker who also served on the board of directors for United States Steel Corporation. He had been involved in the shipping of iron ore in and around the Great Lakes, and I also learned there was a large ore boat named after him. (The Philip R. Clarke still operates today along the Great Lakes.) There was an immediate connection because I was from Pittsburgh and my father worked for USS. Mr. Clarke turned out to be an extremely approachable man who seemed more interested in learning about me than in talking about himself, and we corresponded by letter several times after his visit to campus.

Shortly after he learned that I had taken a summer job at USS, I had a call from the office of the president/CEO of USS to set up an appointment for a short visit. I recall being nervous that day, but my father's words, "Don't worry, he puts his pants on one leg at a time," were calming.

It was my father's opinion that one of the qualities that helps people rise to top levels in business, government, and education is their attention to detail. To that I would add that many, like Mr. Clarke, have an expansive worldview that includes a genuine interest in young people.

CHERYL M. SCOTT

BA 1965, Speech Pathology and Audiology
PhD 1970, Audiology and Speech Science
Professor, Department of Communication
Disorders and Sciences
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois

Photo by Paul Hoffmeyer, Great Lakes Digital Imaging

NEXT ISSUE'S TOPIC: *What was your favorite college class and why? E-mail us your stories (200-word maximum) at thinkcla@purdue.edu or write to THINK Magazine, College of Liberal Arts, 100 N. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098. Comments may be edited for length, style, and clarity.*



Purdue Theatre presented Hair this past spring to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its Broadway debut. Lincoln Slentz (center), a junior chemistry major who is minoring in theatre, played the lead role of Claude Bukowski. "The combined efforts of more than 80 students, faculty, and staff created a community that brought this wildly theatrical event to life on our stage," says Richard Rand, chair of Purdue Theatre.

DISTINGUISH *yourself*

It's what you do with a degree from the College of Liberal Arts. *Distinguish yourself* embodies the college's promise of a liberal and practical education at a world-renowned research university that empowers students and alumni to change their world. *Distinguish yourself* makes a statement and challenges faculty, staff, and students to attain new heights.

CLA alumnus Paul Huston (BA 2007, Philosophy; CLA Alumni Board Outstanding Senior 2007) sits atop Mount Nkoma in Malawi, Africa.

Photo by Ashleigh Burke

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