MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Indiana University School of Education is to improve teaching, learning and human development in a global, diverse, rapidly changing and increasingly technological society.
I am pleased to share the beautiful stories of our students, faculty, staff and alumni with you for this edition of Chalkboard.

We continue to celebrate our bicentennial and the great legacies of our University and the School of Education. As we navigate these uncertain times, the School of Education continues to live its mission: “To improve teaching, learning, and human development in a diverse, rapidly changing, and increasingly technological society.”

The world has changed in many ways since our last edition of Chalkboard. However, we will continue to lean into the challenges as we discover different ways of offering high-quality programs and services to our students and broader constituents. I have been so proud of our School of Education community. Our faculty, staff and students have demonstrated the best in the human spirit to serve, adapt and accommodate while caring for others.

We share the celebrations of our four very distinguished alumni award recipients (page 4) and other notable award winners (page 5). Our outstanding staff and faculty continue to be recognized around the world and right here at home in Bloomington. Our school maintains the stellar reputation of creating and sustaining excellent programs that are identified in the national rankings as well (page 6).

Throughout all of our Spotlight sections, we bring about our students, faculty, alumni and donors to honor the many ways that people are impacting the world. From a student who received an entrepreneurial award for her goal to open a much-needed school (page 8) to a study on subconcussive hits in high school football (page 12), our community is changing the world in meaningful and unexpected ways.

As we close this amazing year with a brand new graduate class, I want to say that I am so proud of each of the graduates and so wish we could have had our traditional celebration together. We remain committed to celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2020; therefore, we gave the students the most intimate virtual experience considering the context of our world as a year-end celebration. You can watch our Convocation video at education.indiana.edu/convocation.

In these unprecedented times, I am grateful for all of your support. I look forward to our next time together. Until then, please stay well and safe.

Lemuel Watson
Dean
Four alumni who made their mark on the education world were honored with the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Education. **David Ambler, Carole Ames, Marilyn Friend** and **Karen Schuster Webb** were selected for the award because of their leadership and contributions in the fields of higher education and special education.

**DAVID A. AMBLER**  
David Ambler served as vice-chancellor of student affairs at the University of Kansas. Additionally, he held the rank of adjunct associate professor at the Indiana University School of Education. Ambler received three degrees from Indiana University: a B.S. in business administration, an M.P.A. in public administration and an Ed.D. in educational administration.

**CAROLE AMES**  
Carole Ames served as dean of the College of Education and professor of educational psychology at Michigan State University for 18 years, retiring in August 2012. Ames earned a B.A. in psychology and an M.S. in education from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in psychological sciences from Purdue University.

**MARILYN FRIEND**  
Marilyn Friend has spent her career as a general education and special education teacher in both Virginia and Indiana, a researcher, professor, administrator, and teacher educator in Oklahoma, Illinois, Indiana, and North Carolina and a staff developer in 48 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and many other countries. She received both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in special education from Indiana University.

**KAREN SCHUSTER WEBB**  
Karen Schuster Webb was selected as the sixth president of the Union Institute & University System in 2018 and initiated The Union Institute for Social Justice. Schuster Webb holds three degrees from Indiana University: a B.A. in Spanish, an M.S. in education and a Ph.D. in English education: second language studies.

“These four alumni have dedicated their careers to improving teaching and learning across their fields. Their contributions to the world of education are inspiring, and we’re honored to give them this award.”

- DEAN LEMUEL WATSON
Global Education Initiatives Receives National Award

Vesna Dimitrieska, coordinator of Global Education Initiatives at the School of Education, received the 2020 Best Practice Award by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). Dimitrieska overseas the work that prepares teacher candidates and in-service teachers throughout the state to engage their learners in meaningful and transformative learning experiences towards becoming globally-minded, engaged citizens. The program’s uniqueness lies in its structure as a joint program between the School of Education and the Hamilton Lugar School (HLS) of Global and International Studies that works collaboratively to create globally competent teachers. Additionally, the program ensures graduates enter the workforce with deep global knowledge and strong fluency in the regional cultures, languages and perspectives shaping our world. By combining the resources that are available from the two schools, the program is providing equitable access to urban, suburban and rural parts of Indiana and initiating, maintaining and expanding partnerships with educators in schools from 18 different counties across the state.

Dean Watson to serve on education task force

Dean Lemuel Watson will serve on a new board that will work to improve civic education opportunities throughout the state.

The Civic Education Task Force, a part of the Indiana Bar Foundation, is made up of leaders and experts in politics and education from around the state. This team will analyze civic education in Indiana, with a goal to produce a report with actionable recommendations by the end of the year.

School of Education represented in awards honoring teaching and service

School of Education faculty and alumni have been honored for their teaching with awards from across IU and beyond.

Christopher Lubienski, Professor of Education Leadership and Policy Studies, was named a top 200 education scholar for shaping educational practice and policy in the Education Week 2020 “Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings.”

Rob Elliott, IST alumni, received the Indiana University President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Curt Bonk, Professor of Instructional Systems Technology, received the Indiana University President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Technology.

Victor Borden, Professor of Education Leadership and Policy Studies, received the Indiana University W. George Pinnell Award for Outstanding Service.
The IU School of Education rose nearly 20 spots in a year to 26th in the latest U.S. News and World Report Best Online Master’s in Education Program rankings.

The IU School of Education’s double-digit rise was augmented by its performance in new specialty rankings, including a No. 1 ranking in Education/Instructional Media Design. It also ranked fifth in Special Education and seventh in Administration.

“As we continue to explore ways to bring access and high-quality programs to various student populations in Indiana and throughout the world, it is very rewarding to see the impact of our faculty commitment be recognized,” said Lemuel W. Watson, Provost Professor and dean of the IU School of Education in Bloomington. “We are very committed to making sure that we remain relevant, innovative and inspiring as the Indiana University School of Education.”

“It is great to see our strong programs and expert faculty recognized,” said Sarah Lubienski, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. “I hope our high rankings will encourage prospective students to look at all that our programs have to offer.”

The rise of the School of Education is particularly notable for the top ranking in Education/Instructional Media Design. The school has a long history of being at the forefront of using technology in education.

“We are quite pleased to see our online program in teacher preparation for special educators recognized for its crucial efforts to improve outcomes for young people with disabilities,” said Jeff Anderson, Curriculum and Instruction department chair.

“I’m excited to see that our Educational Leadership faculty’s hard work has been recognized,” said Dionne Danns, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies department chair. “We value educating future school leaders, and our partnerships with districts has been instrumental in our success.”
Senior Noah Scibbe had an extra responsibility to balance last fall: he was Drum Major for IU’s famed Marching Hundred. Scibbe, a Secondary Social Studies Education major, has been in marching band since high school, where he was also Drum Major for two years.

“Being a Drum Major is a lot of work but always manageable when I have a plan set ahead of time,” he pointed out. “Some of the responsibilities include keeping track of time during rehearsal, blowing whistles, practicing my mace spinning routines for every new halftime show in addition to practicing our pre-game routine and countless other small things that happen behind the scenes.”

Like so many School of Education students, Scibbe was inspired by his own teachers to go into the education field: “As a future educator, I dream of being a positive influence on the lives of countless students so that they can go out into the world in order to progress it and make it a better place for everyone. The teachers I had back home and here at IU have pushed me to be a better student and citizen, and I am very grateful for them.”

Scibbe envisions his future classroom as a place where he inspires his students to make a difference in their communities.

“In my classroom my main goal is to fulfill the purpose of Social Studies education, which is to help my students make informed and reasoned decisions for the good of all citizens in the culturally diverse and democratic society we live in,” he said. “By the time my students leave my class, I do not want them to simply know the facts about the random topics, but I want them to be able to synthesize that information to understand how it affects the world and its many people today.”
Galá recognized for entrepreneurial goals

Natalia Galá, a junior from Anaheim, California, has big plans for her teaching career.

Galá is going into special education through the Teaching All Learners program with a minor in Spanish. Her goal is to open a school in a poor Latin American country and give children in need an access to education. Galá’s example of entrepreneurship is one of the reasons she was named a Shoemaker Scholar, a program that she says isn’t well known amongst fellow education students.

“People think of the School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering and the Kelley School of Business when they think entrepreneur. You can be an education major and still have those goals. We (as future educators) never have this taken into consideration,” she said.

Galá decided to study education because she loves working with kids. She also feels a pull toward teaching in a Latin American country, and is hoping to go to Ecuador as part of Global Gateway for Teachers.

“I want to be where there is a need for teaching, where people don’t have the means, especially in special education,” she said.

Besides her studies, she took on an extra project for the Cesar E. Chavez Undergraduate Research Symposium. While working with Associate Professor Carmen Medina, Galá researched how immigration is portrayed in children’s literature and gave a presentation on her findings.

Someday as a teacher, Galá hopes to make a long-lasting difference to her students.

“I want to be the reason one kid didn’t drop out of school. I want to be the reason kids look forward to going to school every day, especially with minority kids or kids that would be first-generation college students,” she said.
Gross’s research leads to Blalock lecture

Rachel Gross, a Ph.D. candidate in Human Development and Inquiry Methodology, is still working towards her degree, but she’s already proving herself to experts in her field with an invitation to speak at a prestigious consortium over the summer.

Gross’s research centers on studying child development and the research methods in that field. While at Rutgers University getting her Ed.M., she developed an overall fascination with how early childhood experiences relate to later outcomes.

“Research questions started swirling in my mind with the combination of reading research and interacting with and observing children, getting to know their parents, etc. I loved working with children, but those research questions drew me out of the kindergarten classroom and into academia,” Gross said.

Coming to Bloomington to study at the School of Education was a hard one for Gross: it meant uprooting herself from family and friends. But ultimately it was the faculty who helped her know she was making the right decision.

Since then, Gross’s work earned her an invitation to speak at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program at the University of Michigan, where she gave the Blalock Lecture in Advanced Topics in Social Research. The ICPSR Summer Program is a four-week course that is famous for providing excellent methodological training, bringing in participants from around the world. Graduate students typically do not deliver lectures, especially those without a Ph.D.

“It was an honor to get to give a lecture on an advanced topic to so many smart, successful people – an auditorium of graduate students and people with graduate degrees in diverse fields,” Gross said. “I got so much positive feedback afterwards, including from people who thought I was already a professor, simply because I was delivering a Blalock lecture.”

Her lecture, “Why Measurement is Important and Why You Should Care About It,” discussed how the validity of research conclusions hinges on the assumption that researchers are studying what they think they are. Gross made sure the talk would be understandable to anyone who might be in the audience.

“I was careful to prepare a lecture on a topic and at a level that would feel engaging and relevant regardless of background. I chose to focus on measurement issues in the social and political sciences, so it felt really good when a biomedical engineer who attended told me that she felt it was relevant,” she said.

Ultimately, Gross hopes her research will have far-reaching effects and lead to better-informed, research-based decisions regarding parenting and children’s schooling.
Saving lives through better Instructional Design

When she’s not teaching in the Instructional Systems Technology Department, Gamze Özoğul serves as an appointed member of the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council as part of a three-year term. As a member of the Education Sub-Council, she helps identify effective methods for teaching skills and procedures in various Red Cross trainings. The goal of the Sub-Council is to seek the best ways to instill confidence and build desire in people and to step forward and use those competencies to help people in need.

“The work is very impactful,” Özoğul said. “I volunteer because it feels good to know that so many lives are saved as the result of someone attending a training session and choosing to act in an emergency, and that they succeeded as a result of a systematically-designed training, informed by latest research in the field of instructional technology.”

Her first task with this group was to identify why people attend these trainings and how first aid education motivates willingness to help in emergencies. The team’s findings indicated that willingness may increase as a result of education that is practical, repetitive, provides positive feedback and is delivered in chunks. The duration of the course was also found to be relevant, as is the relationship of the helper to the person who is in need. Findings also showed that the greater degree of confidence that results from training sessions may increase willingness. Later the education sub-council conducted a systematic review on lay persons who acted in an emergency situation. Based on the findings they informed types of messaging that should be used in the training sessions to increase the likelihood of a person responding to someone in need. Özoğul will next be conducting a literature review on flipped classroom, a type of instructional strategy, and will report back the analysis of how this model works for student performance and attitudes.
Martinez uses doctoral degree to manage global training

*Seth-Aaron Martinez’s* career demonstrates the range of futures a degree from the School of Education can provide. He graduated in 2015 with a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems Technology and now works for Adobe Inc. as a program manager and coach in global talent development.

“I applied because IST had a strong reputation. My master’s thesis advisor at Brigham Young University was an alum of the IST program, and he pointed toward the program as I neared completion of my master’s degree,” Martinez said.

In his role at Adobe, Martinez manages the training of all engineers globally and assists with the development of managers.

“My degree helps because I am able to make recommendations to our technical leaders, individuals with advanced degrees in computer science and data science, based on my expertise in learning and instructional programs, and they typically respect and heed my recommendations. They respect my advanced degree; they respect the discipline,” Martinez said.

Transition to Teaching provides path to the classroom

It was impatience – and the current news throughout the country – that led *Grace Waltz* to the Secondary Transition to Teaching program at the School of Education. “I listened to stories of our country’s peaking divisiveness and the potential for this polarization to start in our K-12 schools,” Waltz explained. “I thought about my love for kids and grammar, and I just jumped right in.”

Once she made her decision to go into education, Waltz chose the Transition to Teaching program: “What was amazing and unique was that after simply asking about my eligibility for the program, I received support and acceptance from all people in the School of Education. I was motivated to apply and begin the program.”

Waltz is now a ninth- and tenth-grade English Language Arts Teacher at North Central High School in Indianapolis. While she acknowledges the societal discouragement toward becoming a teacher, her passion for social justice for students and love of her current job keeps her going.
From left, School of Public Health graduate students Madeleine Nowak and Megan Huibregtse, School of Public Health faculty members Kei Kawata and Jon Macy, Bloomington North High School football player Noah Ponce and School of Education faculty member Jesse Steinfeldt discuss data collected for the study. (Photo credit: Emma Witzke)

From left, Kei Kawata, Megan Huibregtse, Madeleine Nowak and Jon Macy from the School of Public Health study incoming data. (Photo credit: Emma Witzke)

The Bloomington High School North cross country team runs the track during practice. The team is the control group for this study. (Photo credit: Emma Witzke)
Among the typical bright lights and high-pitched whistles of a local high school football practice, there are a few not-so-typical additions to the field: computerized mouthguards, sensors transmitting data and laptops assessing G-force, with IU professors and Ph.D. students on the sideline. It’s all part of a new study focusing on subconcussive hits in high school football athletes over time, and it comes at a particularly pivotal moment for the sport: participation in high school football has declined dramatically in recent years thanks to concerns over concussions.

Subconcussive hits, according to the Concussion Legacy Foundation, include hits that are considered below the concussion threshold: the brain is shaken, but not so violently that the damage to brain cells is severe enough to cause symptoms as would show up with a concussion. These hits are very common during football, making this study’s outcome even more important. Jesse Steinfeldt is an Associate Professor in Counseling and Educational Psychology and one of the researchers working on the study.

“This is really a truly groundbreaking study in its comprehensiveness,” Steinfeldt said. “There is data on many of the outcomes we are measuring, but no study to date has examined all of these outcomes together, and no studies have examined all of these outcomes over time.”

The team is extensive and reaches across many disciplines: it includes clinical neuroscientists, neuroimaging scientists, sports psychologists, health policy makers, and biostatisticians from around IU, all led by Kei Kawata, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health.

The first MRI for each student was done in July, with follow-up imaging in December.

Every month, the research team goes to Bloomington High School North and collects biomarker, cognitive and ocular movement data from participants. The players will also have their mouthguard data diligently tracked and recorded on a daily basis.

This fall marks the pilot portion of the study, with the team awaiting final word on a $3.3 million NIH grant application to fund a four-year longitudinal study addressing this issue. If successful in procuring that grant money, they will follow a cohort of kids from freshman through senior year at North, Bloomington South, Edgewood and Mooresville High Schools. Ultimately, the study can have a massive impact, with the hope of gathering data that can influence policy.

“There simply is not enough empirical data. Instead we have reactionary public opinion that football is harmful and football players get CTE – neither are empirically supported, but both are floating in the public consciousness,” Steinfeldt said. “So in terms of cumulative hits in football, perhaps our study will identify a number of hits wherein it is necessary for a kid to rest for a day (or some period of time), then he will be fine to continue without risk.”

As a sport psychologist and former college and professional football player himself, Steinfeldt is well aware of the spotlight on the dangers of football.

“I am taking the position that we can help football become safer by providing some data based guidelines for practice and play – parents can continue to feel comfortable allowing their kids to play this great sport, which has opened so many personal and professional doors for me and can do so for millions of others,” Steinfeldt said.
**Donald Lahr**

**Donald Lahr** B.S. ’76 understands the importance of education. His mother passed away when he was four, and while his father struggled to provide for him and his two siblings, he always aspired to send his children to college. While at IU, Lahr decided he wanted to be a teacher to grow and challenge students’ minds and chose to study social studies education at the School of Education.

Several major setbacks, including a cancer diagnosis, motivated Lahr and his wife Cindy to make a commitment to fund scholarships for School of Education students. “We recognized that we could help facilitate making a difference in someone’s life. We’re in a position to make a real difference and leave a legacy that will create opportunity for future students to become teachers to inspire, educate and challenge the next generations. We’re starting with some small annual donations to fund a scholarship but gradually will do more until ultimately, IU will be the final beneficiary to my IRA,” Lahr said. “I think Indiana is a wonderful university, and with this scholarship, we will create opportunity for students to become our future teachers that will be so needed.” *Thank you!*

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**Stanley W. Johnson**, M.S. ’66, was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and moved to Washington, D.C., when he was a young boy. His mother Valaska Graham Johnson took a great interest in her children’s development and the role education plays in one’s success in life. His mother passed when he was in elementary school, and he went to live with his grandmother and then his aunt. During this time, he had a newspaper route from which his aunt insisted he used his earnings to contribute towards his living expenses. A teacher saw his potential and encouraged him to continue to work hard in his studies. However, life’s demands weighed heavily, and Johnson dropped out of junior high school twice and was homeless during a time in high school.

While in high school, a client along his paper route gave him advice that he has held dear to his heart to this day. The client, Mr. Myers, told him that if he applied himself towards his education and professional goals in the same self-disciplined, systematic way he did with his paper route, success was sure to follow. Today, he shares this advice with his current students at Fayetteville State College.

Johnson went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from Fayetteville in 1963, his master’s degree from the IU School of Education in 1966 and his doctorate from the University of North Texas.

Realizing the power of education and the opportunities it provides, Johnson contributed to a scholarship for teacher education to support students from diverse cultural backgrounds to pursue their educational goals and aspirations. *Thank you!*
Longfellow family supports education

Carol and John Longfellow are proud Purdue graduates. But when the time came for their daughter, Amy Stevens, to decide on a college, she chose to attend the IU School of Education, marking the beginning of the family’s journey to becoming Cream and Crimson supporters.

When asked, “Why education?” Stevens said, “I went into education because I wanted to have an influence on the lives of children. I saw a need for quality teachers that can instill a love of learning in others through quality teaching practices while also creating a supportive and loving environment. I believe it is important for students to learn aspects of the curriculum itself, but it’s even more important for them to learn how to learn and develop some of those more intangible qualities like work ethic, passion, teamwork and other social skills that serve well in any path they choose in their future.”

In recognition of Stevens’s excellent undergraduate experience and her student teaching in Costa Rica, the Longfellow family decided to establish the Longfellow Family Scholarship for an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in elementary and special education and the Longfellow-Stevens Global Gateway for Teachers Scholarship. “We want to support the best and brightest students who have unselfishly chosen teaching as their profession,” said Carol.

The School of Education is truly grateful for the family’s support for future teachers. Thank you!
Symposium honors late professor

Alumni, friends, and colleagues gathered at the School of Education in October for the Robert L. Gibson Centennial Symposium. The two-day event celebrated Gibson, who died in 2015. Gibson chaired the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology from 1969-1982. Adjunct Professor Fritz Lieber gave the keynote address, “From Deeper Teaching to Wider Guidance: Robert L. Gibson and the Postwar Expansion of Student Services.” Providing historical context to Gibson’s professional achievements, the address framed his career in counseling and guidance as a coordinated, school-based endeavor to cultivate successful citizens and protect democracy from itself.

New release celebrates how students are heroes

A new anthology written by Rwandan and U.S. students has been released as part of an ongoing partnership to increase literacy. The anthology is an annual part of the Books & Beyond project, a collaborative service-learning project that connects the Kabwende Primary School (KPS) in Kinigi, Rwanda, with IU’s Global Living-Learning Center and The Project School in Bloomington. Beth Samuelson, Interim Director of Books & Beyond and Associate Professor of Literacy, Culture and Language Education, said the project represents a long-term collaboration between communities of learners in Rwanda and the U.S. Established in 2008, Books & Beyond has delivered over 22,000 books to schoolchildren at KPS.
Armstrong teachers share ideas, experience on classroom management

Classroom and behavior management was the theme of the fall semester Armstrong Teacher Educator panel, a chance for School of Education students to hear from experienced teachers about what works in their classrooms – and what doesn’t. Teachers on the panel emphasized the importance of relationship building with their students. The Armstrong Teachers are distinguished K-12 educators from Indiana who have at least five years of teaching experience. In addition to panel discussions, the Armstrong Teachers also conduct professional development workshops, collaborate with IU faculty and invite School of Education students to their classrooms.

Program gives HOPE to juveniles in prison

A new suit can help someone land a job – and give them confidence moving forward in life. For the HOPE program, a new suit is just one of the many benefits participants get. The Helping Offenders Prosper through Employment (HOPE) Mentoring program was developed by Theresa Ochoa, Associate Professor in Special Education. Mentors within the program provide weekly support to incarcerated youth that focuses on developing employment skills. One of the main events of HOPE last semester was Dress Your Best, a workshop where ten juveniles walk the runway in their best professional attire. Before a juvenile leaves the facility, he or she is fitted for a suit which they take with them when released – with some even wearing their suits out of the correctional facility to start their new lives.

Dean Watson signs memorandum with Beijing Normal University

In October Dean Lemuel Watson and Zhu XuDong, Dean of Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University, signed a memorandum of intent for collaboration. The memorandum broadens collaboration pathways for all faculty members from both schools have already begun work on projects involving joint research, joint conferences and teacher development and professionalization programs.
Researchers from the School of Education have been awarded $670,000 to study artificial intelligence as it relates to education. The grant from the National Science Foundation will help the team partner with local elementary teachers in an effort to teach kids about artificial intelligence, life sciences and other computing concepts. Krista Glazewski, Associate Professor and Department Chair of Instructional Systems Technology, said the project aims to teach kids about AI and its possibilities, both good and bad. “It is our goal to show young learners the importance of artificial intelligence and especially how it can impact life around us,” Glazewski said.

**IST doctoral students receive award**

Victoria Abramena-Lachheb and Ahmed Lachheb, both doctoral students in Instructional Systems Technology, were recently awarded the Nova Southeastern University Award for Outstanding Practice by a Graduate Student in Instructional Design by the Design and Development Division of the Association for Educational Communication and Technology (AECT). Victoria and Ahmed won the award for designing three courses: Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Gerontology; Health, Aging and Diverse Populations; and Assessment and Planning in Public Health. Both remarked they were honored, humbled and thankful for the award.
The IU LGBTQ+ Culture Center fittingly occupies a house originally built for the first Dean of the School of Education, Henry Lester Smith, and his wife Johnnie Rutland Smith—two passionate champions of civil rights. This story was written by Doug Bauder, who recently retired as LGBTQ+ Culture Center director, and originally appeared in Volume 2 Issue 2 of the IU Bicentennial Magazine.

As you enter the old brick home in the heart of the campus, you’ll find a sign above the fireplace mantel that reads “Welcome Home.” That sign has been a symbol of welcome for hundreds of students for the past 25 years whose sexual orientation or gender identity has caused them to feel less than welcome in many places in their lives.

Opened in 1994 and renamed in 2016, the LGBTQ+ Culture Center is located in a house originally built for the first Dean of the School of Education, Henry Lester Smith and his wife, Johnnie Rutland Smith.

I have had the privilege of meeting Connie Smith, a granddaughter of Lester and Johnnie. She was curious to see what their home looked like after so many years. As we wandered through the house, Connie told stories about her grandparents, and as the tour ended, she said, “You know, we didn’t talk a lot about gay issues when I was growing up, but my grandparents cared a great deal about civil rights issues, and I think they’d be thrilled at the way their former home is now being used.”

Henry Lester Smith was born in 1876 and died in 1963. He was the son of an abolitionist and wrote about the Underground Railroad. He served as a teacher and principal in small towns in Indiana before returning to IU where he served as the first Dean of the School of Education from 1916-1946. Johnnie Rutland Smith was no less a significant presence on the IU campus. She was born in 1888 and died in 1977. She earned a master’s in education in 1931 and a Ph.D. in psychology in 1934 from IU.
ARThUR W. DECABooTER  M.S. ’69, Ed.D. ’71  
May 12, 1941 – October 9, 2019

Art DeCabooter attended the IU School of Education where he met the two loves of his life, his wife Mary and the field of education. After graduating from IU, DeCabooter served as dean of student services at Black Hawk College East Campus (Illinois), where he later became provost and vice president. In 1977, he was hired as president of Scottsdale (Arizona) Community College where he served for 30 years until his retirement in 2008. Driven with the knowledge that an education can be transformative for not only the student but also the community, he dedicated his life to ensuring that SCC provided an exceptional opportunity for its students to thrive and develop into civic-minded citizens. Art’s dedication to education and the community was reflected in his service as a Trustee of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, a member of the IU School of Education Dean’s Advisory Board and a champion in the creation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve in Scottsdale.

ROBERT HEINICH  Professor Emeritus of Instructional Systems Technology  
May 31, 1923-January 12, 2020

Robert Heinich was a member of the IST faculty from 1969 until his retirement in 1990, serving as department chair from 1979 to 1984. He was a renowned intellectual leader in his field, serving as president of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology in 1971-72 and recognized with “distinguished career” awards from two professional associations and a Distinguished Alumni award by the University of Northern Colorado. He was co-author of the most widely used textbook in his field, Instructional Media and the New Technologies of Instruction.

HARSJA ALEX (H.A.R.) TILAAR  M.S. ’66, Ed.D. ’67  
June 16, 1932 - October 30, 2019

H.A.R. Tilaar was professor emeritus at the State University of Jakarta and began his teaching career in 1952. His career accomplishments include 23 years as an educational specialist and serving as deputy director for education and culture and assistant minister for human resource development. Dr. Tilaar authored over 200 articles and 20 books on Indonesian education. He has served on the boards of numerous commissions, nonprofit organizations and foundations in Indonesia. Tilaar received the IU School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award in 2009. In 2012, he was the recipient of the Thomas Hart Benton medal, given to individuals who have achieved a level of distinction in public office or service and have exemplified the values of IU.
Ruth Cowling (B.S.’69, M.S.’73), longtime art educator, has been reappointed to the Indiana Arts Commission by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. She will serve until November of 2023.

Frank Kominowski (B.S.’61, M.S.’62) writes that he spent 34 years teaching in Indianapolis and 19 years as a volunteer for the Red Cross disaster relief. He adds, “I have just finished writing eight songs. They are love songs and country and western. They are on CDs and unpublished.” He lives in Martinsville, Indiana.

B. Patrick Bauer (M.S.’74), former Indiana House Speaker, has announced he will not seek re-election after serving for 50 years. He is the longest-serving current member of the Indiana House. He is a former South Bend teacher and Ivy Tech administrator.

Kerry Prather (B.S.’77, M.S.’81) has been named acting president of Franklin College. He has served as the institution’s director of athletics and head men’s basketball coach for more than 30 years. He previously served as acting vice president for administration and acting vice president for enrollment management.

Bruce Sutchar (M.S.’74) spent three years with the department of Counseling and Educational Psychology under Dr. Rex Stockton, Dr. Alan Bell and Dr. Richard Reed. He went on to obtain a master’s degree in comparative religion and was most recently appointed the Midwest Director for the Universal Peace Federation.

John Tilford (B.S.’73), a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former veterans service officer, has announced his intent to run for Congress. He plans to run as an independent candidate for U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth’s seat that represents Indiana’s 9th Congressional District.

Delberta Vannoy (Ed.D.’77) of Shelbyville, Missouri, has been awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in the field of education. Vannoy worked in public schools and in higher education in Kansas, Nebraska, Indiana, Texas, and Missouri throughout her 40-year career. She was an associate instructor and visiting assistant professor at IU from 1972–1979, and she partnered with Fort Worth Sister Cities International to take 10 high school students for a homestay in Nagaoka, Japan. Most recently, Vannoy taught at Binh Duong University in Vietnam.

Kimberly Banta (B.S.’85) was elected to the Kentucky General Assembly in November, representing the state’s 63rd District. She is a former principal, assistant superintendent and retired chief academic officer of Kenton County Schools.

Philip Ehrhardt (Ed.D.’82) was appointed co-interim superintendent of the Evanston School District 65 in Indiana. He most recently served as superintendent of Benjamin District 25 in West Chicago.

Carol-Anne Hossler (Ed.S.’89, Ed.D’97) has written a book entitled, Dr. King, The Rabbi, and Me: A Connecticut Journey. It is her personal account, written in diary format, of the trials and tribulations of an adolescent girl in the 1960s. When she read that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be speaking at a nearby temple, she phoned the rabbi who then arranged a personal meeting with the civil rights leader. He left her with a memorable message.

Marilyn Price (Ed.D.’81) ran for re-election and retained her seat on the City Council in Northville, Michigan in the November election.

Amy Cornell (M.S.’91) is the senior associate director for strategic alumni engagement at the Walter Center for Career Achievement in the College of Arts and Sciences at IU Bloomington.

Curt Durnil (B.S.’93), an Indiana State Police Sergeant, was recently recognized in a ceremony for achieving 25 years of service with the ISP. In his current position as public information officer, he is responsible for coordinating and facilitating department public education and information programs.

Douglas Feldmann (Ph.D.’99) is a professor in the College of Education at Northern Kentucky University and a former scout for the Cincinnati Reds, Seattle Mariners, and San Diego Padres. He is featured in a new MLB Network Presents documentary series, titled Birds of a Different Game: The ‘80s Cardinals.
**Class Notes**

**Dawn Knight** (B.S.’93), English teacher at Westfield High School in Indiana, recently published a book with IU Press titled *Race and Football in America: The Life and Legacy of George Taliaferro*. An inspirational story of overcoming adversity, the book centers around IU alumnus and NFL trailblazer George Taliaferro, who used his platform as an elite athlete to fight for social justice.

**Myrna Hernandez** (B.S.’94, M.S.’99), former Dean of Students at DePauw University, now serves as the associate vice president and senior associate dean of students at the College of Wooster.

**Emily Menkedick** (B.S.’06, M.S.’11) joined Regional Opportunities Initiative (ROI) in August as an educational specialist, working with regional school districts, post-secondary institutions and industry partners as part of ROI’s Ready Schools Initiative. Prior to joining ROI, Menkedick worked for 13 years with the Monroe County Community School Corporation in Indiana as a classroom teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal at Grandview Elementary.

**Jacob Oakman** (B.S.’02) was named director of strategic communications for the Indiana Republican Party. The governor also appointed him to serve on the Indiana Arts Commission. He was most recently a special assistant to Governor Eric Holcomb and deputy press secretary to former Governor Mitch Daniels.

**Uzoma Obidike** (M.S.’08), a certified career advisor and founder of She Leads Beautifully, was named a 2019 Influential Woman of Northwest Indiana.

**Claire Plantenga** (B.S.’02), a high school French and Spanish teacher in San Antonio, Texas, was recently selected as the Teacher of the Year for LOTE (Languages other than English) in Texas for Region 20. This award recognizes excellence in developing and incorporating research-based approaches to increasing student proficiency in speaking another language. She was recognized by her superintendent and by the state at the World Language Educators Institute held in San Antonio, Texas. Claire attributes the foundation of her success to the unique international opportunities she experienced through IU, including spending a summer studying in France with the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages during high school, the coordination between the School of Education and language classes through the College of Arts and Sciences, and the opportunity to study abroad in Spain through the Office of Overseas Study. She credits the Community of Teachers program at the IU School of Education as deeply impactful, due to the small class size, highly engaging professors, innovative skills-based portfolio model, and long-term internship placement with mentor teachers for both world languages, leading to dual certification.

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David Reetz (Ph.D.’08) has been elected president of the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors. The organization educates and advocates for collegiate mental health and is committed to social justice in higher education. Membership includes mental health leaders across nearly 1000 institutions of higher education, both domestic and international. Reetz is director of counseling and psychological services at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., where he lives.

Mary Roberson (Ed.S.’02) was named Superintendent of Sheridan Community Schools in Indiana. She has served as the Superintendent of Perry Central Schools for the past 17 years.

Andrea Tooley (B.S.’02) has been appointed president of the Dubois County Indiana Community Foundation board of directors. She is the former executive director of A Kid’s Place, a nonprofit child care center in Huntingburg.

Daryl Werner (M.S.’04, Ed.D.’13), currently serving as principal of Manchester Elementary School in Aurora, Indiana, was named to Kids Discovery Factory Board. He also serves on the board of the Indiana Middle Level Education Association as well as the Oldenburg Renewable Energy Commission.

2010s

Fintan Blessinger (B.S.’11) wed Janine Suesse on June 15, 2019, in St. Henry Catholic Church in Ferdinand, Indiana.

Michelle Gough (Ph.D.’13), senior vice president of Project Lead the Way, was recently appointed by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb to the Indiana Charter School Board. She will serve until June of 2023.

Bethany Gross (B.S.’16), a math teacher at Bedford Middle School in Indiana, appeared as a contestant on “Wheel of Fortune” in August, winning a total of $2,000.

Adam J. Herman (Ed.D.’17) has accepted the position of executive director of the Student Program Office at Rice University’s Jones Graduate School of Business in Houston, Texas. Adam joins Rice Business with more than a decade of leadership and service at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business. As executive director of the Student Program Office at Rice, Adam will continue his previous work improving the student experience and fully supporting full-time, professional and executive M.B.A. students. He is looking forward to meeting IU alumni in Houston.

Olivia Hopf (B.S.’15), Spanish teacher at Heritage Hills High School in Lincoln City, Indiana, wed Kyle Anthony Wilgus on October 5, 2019 in St. Ferdinand Catholic Church.

Rachel Koester (M.S.’18) was recently recognized as a 20 Under 40 emerging leader by the Evansville Courier & Press. She serves as the EVSC ESL coach with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in Indiana.

Daniel Maxwell (Ed.D.’16), associate vice chancellor and associate vice president for student affairs at the University of Houston, was honored by the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) with the Butts-Whiting Award, their highest award for leadership and service that recognizes long-term commitment to the union and activities profession as well as service to ACUI. Maxwell was also recently named a 2020 Pillar of the Profession by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). The award recognizes individuals who have served as leaders, teachers, and scholars in student affairs and higher education.

Chris Sturgeon (M.S.’10), Decathlon Coach at Martinsville High School in Indiana, was named the 2019 Academic Coach of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). Sturgeon has led the team to three consecutive state championships.

Megan Welk (B.S.’13) joined Codelicious in Indianapolis as a curriculum development specialist to spearhead the enhancement of existing curriculum and development of new courses.

Kelsey Wright (M.S.’16) was recently recognized as a 20 Under 40 emerging leader by the Evansville Courier & Press. She serves as director of school transformation for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in Indiana.
The 20th Instructional Systems Technology (IST) conference took place at the School of Education on March 6, 2020. The conference is a free, student-run event that offers graduate students a safe venue to gain experience in presenting, organizing and attending professional conferences.

education.indiana.edu/istconf