



IU Graduate & Professional Student Organization

Garden Party

Friday, April 14
5:00 - 8:00 PM
DeVault Alumni Center

Enjoy the great atmosphere and music. Free food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Beer and wine will be available at \$2 per glass by the Bloomington Brewing Company.

Enter to win great drawing prizes. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Middleway House.

Co-sponsored by the University Graduate School.



We can build an even stronger community

Message from GPSO Moderator Paul Rohwer

Congratulations to all graduating students. Indiana University seemingly plants Spring on campus this time of year, so take a study break this Friday and come to the Alumni Center Tent (A route or park across from the stadium). We are hosting the annual Garden Party from 5-8pm.

Most every student relates to just how isolating the campus can be at times. Because the professional schools operate distinctly from the college, a divide develops. To bridge the divide, community building has become our focal point. Increasingly, you see our organization offer events, symposiums, and resources to foster community. For example, the research symposium, ice skating, rock climbing, and the power of procrastination talk by Jorge Cham of phdcomics.com were all initiated by feedback from you.

We *can* do more. Send us your thoughts to gpso@indiana.edu.

Best wishes,
Paul Rohwer
Moderator

PS: Jorge Cham has drawn a comic for America's hottest state school:
<http://www.phdcomics.com/comics/archive.php?comid=700>

Congratulations to the 2006 Faculty Mentor Award Winner **Associate Professor Randall Bramley** **Department of Computer Science**



The GPSO proudly announces that Randall Bramley is the winner of our 2006 Faculty Mentor Award. Many students he has mentored over the years submitted letters of support, and every letter emphasized his tremendous outpouring of support for students.

As one of his students commented, "He is an authentic person who really cares about the success of graduate students. He is wonderful advocate for students. I am aware of many circumstances where he has stood up for graduate students who have been mistreated, especially those from underrepresented groups who are the most vulnerable. He is the reason many graduate students are still here at Indiana University completing their graduate work."

Bramley's award will be formally announced and presented at the Garden Party.

In the News: Continuing Issues

Health Insurance Benefits

Over the last few months, our health insurance woes have taken center stage. Final modifications will be made by the University on April 20. The same menu of modifications is available for you at <http://www.iu.edu/~gpso/survey/saa.php>. Deductibles, aggregate maximums, prescription caps, and more will be modified to avoid students paying \$175.

Families, however, will pay much more for coverage. Estimated to cost more than \$6,000 per family, they will be forced to look elsewhere. As student academic appointees (SAA), we simply do not earn enough to make the increased cost affordable. We generally work 20 hours a week on paper, half the full-time 40 hours or 50% full-time equivalency (FTE). Yet, IU provides over \$9,000 per full-time family. SAA families? Not even half.

Your representatives are calling for University Insurance Equity. The representatives have asked the Board of Trustees to apply 50% FTE to all SAA individual, spouse, and dependent health insurance premiums, thereby aligning graduate and professional students' benefits with their FTE status by contributing half the support offered to full-time employees. Details can be found at <http://www.iu.edu/~gpso/news/news.php>.

Child Care

Campus Child Care has five facilities, but it also has a waiting list in the hundreds. This availability issue has led faculty to organize emergency baby-sitting services, and our organization has started to develop solutions to ease the stress and burden on parents. Next fall, we plan to collect 9,000 signatures to support campus child care, then build upon the interest to begin an advocacy and support group. Collectively, we will address and improve the campus for parents.

Indiana Graduate Student Leadership Invitational

Students from Indiana State, IUPUI, Notre Dame, and IU gathered at IUPUI to reflect upon conditions and graduate organization. After a wonderful introductory talk by Dr. Silk, students from each campus then presented on issues concerning their own campus. For example, Indiana State associate instructors have a \$6,000 per year stipend. They self-organized in order to advocate for better stipends and working conditions. At IUPUI, a campus smoking ban had student groups split. Undergraduates were in favor, while the graduate student organization voted against it. Next, the Notre Dame representative provided an overview of pending legislation at the national level. And finally, we presented our approach to address IU's significant campus restructuring. Many thanks to Joe Link for organizing this event that helped add perspective to our university life issues.

In the Spotlight:

Outstanding Graduate Student & Researcher



Katie Siek

Katie is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Computer Science. Her research is at the intersection of human computer interaction, medical informatics, and ubiquitous computing. For her dissertation research, she is creating a mobile application to help underserved, chronically ill (End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)) patients monitor their fluid and sodium intake. This project is challenging because the patients have varying literacy, computation, and computer skills. The contributions of her dissertation are (1) developing a framework to conduct user studies in non-lab environments, (2) designing interface guidelines for low literacy skilled populations, and (3) creating methodologies for integrating technology into underserved populations.

Katie enjoys her work because she gets to create technology applications that help people. Most people think computer scientists sit around programming all day. This stereotype is no longer true. She gets to talk to nurses, doctors, dietitians, and with actual ESRD patients. Sometimes when she is feeling bad about her research or productivity, she only has to visit an ESRD patient to have things put into perspective. Her participants are battling for their lives; she is just trying to get a piece of paper.

Katie is a National Physical Sciences Consortium fellow and a founding member of Indiana University's Women in Computing (WIC) group. She has served as president of both WIC and the Computer Science Graduate Student Association. She holds a B.S. in computer science from Eckerd College and a M.S. in computer science from Indiana University. In her free time she enjoys rock climbing, yoga, biking, running, crocheting, and cooking.

The GPSO needs your feedback!

GPSO SAA Online Health Survey

Aetna/Chickering, the SAA/International Student health provider, came to the University asking an increase of \$1.7 million more than expected. The University responded by coordinating the principal Bloomington Campus and IUPUI Deans to allocate \$1.4 million from budgets. This leaves \$300,000 or \$175 per person to pay. The SAA Health Benefits Committee has chosen to modify the plan, avoiding the cost per person by diminishing the plan benefits.

175 students chose among the same options placed before the SAA Health Benefits Committee.

Please choose the modifications for yourself on our website at <http://www.iu.edu/~gpso/survey/saa.php> because a handful of options are split:

Reduce Aggregate Maximum For All Enrolled to \$250,000:

46% do not want to reduce the current \$500,000 maximum. 54% chose this modification. The SAA Health Committee is fairly certain to make this reduction. Importantly, this aggregate maximum applies per diagnosis.

Reduce Dependent Aggregate Maximum to:

- 25% - Do not alter
- 18% - Reduce to \$250,000
- 25% - Reduce to \$100,000
- 32% - Reduce to \$50,000

The SAA Health Committee appears unwilling to reduce the dependent maximum to \$50,000, and a majority of graduate and professional students agree.

Reduce Non-Preferred Care coinsurance to 50% with no out of pocket maximum:

While 43% do not agree, the SAA Health Committee is likely to make this modification.

Add a prescription cap to those filled outside the health center:

38% do not want a prescription cap, 32% agree to a \$5,000 cap, and 30% would agree with a \$2,500 cap. The SAA Health Committee has agreed to a \$5,000 cap.

Thus far, the committee's agreed-upon modifications amount to \$158 per person. Aetna/Chickering will be asked to accept the total modifications. In the event that Aetna/Chickering balk and refuse to accept nothing but \$175, then the committee will be asked to make additional reductions.

Please go through the modifications and provide your input today. Your feedback will greatly help the four student representatives decide April 20.

Stay active and stay healthy this summer

Here are some on-campus and community summer fitness and wellness opportunities:

Recreational Sports Summer Facility Hours

SRSC	Monday-Thursday	6:00 am-11:30 pm
	Friday	6:00 am-9:00 pm
	Saturday	8:00 am-9:00 pm
	Sunday	8:00 am-11:30 pm

HPER	Monday-Thursday	6:00 am-10:00 pm
	Friday, Saturday	6:00 am-9:00 pm

For information on aquatics, intramural sports, and fitness/wellness opportunities (including personal training, group exercise, and mind/body sessions), visit www.recsports.indiana.edu/.

Bloomington Parks & Recreation Swimming, Hiking, Golfing, and More

See a listing of facilities and activities online at <http://bloomington.in.gov/parks/>.

Recipe for Health

Sun-sational Summer Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh or frozen berries
- 1 cup plain or vanilla lowfat yogurt
- 1 cup calcium fortified orange juice
- 1/2 cup of ice

Directions:

Place ingredients into blender and mix on high until smooth. Garnish with a fresh strawberry.

Yields: 2 Smoothies

Nutrition Facts Per Serving:

Calories 130; Fat 1.5g; Carbohydrate 25g; Protein 6g; Fiber 2g

Other Upcoming Events (April - September)

Maithreem: An Indian Music Concert

6:00 pm, Saturday, April 15, Neal-Marshall Center
Presented by the IUB Association for India's Development (AID)
www.indiana.edu/~aid

Admission free and open to the public! Showcasing a sample of Indian vocal and instrumental music...from the Classical to the Contemporary. Sponsored by the IUSA, Bombay House Restaurant, and Patel Brothers, Indianapolis. For further information, email aid@indiana.edu or call 812-320-0505.

Be Beautiful Bloomington: Downtown Cleanup Day

April 27, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm (www.bloomington.in.gov)

Help beautify downtown Bloomington. All are encouraged to make downtown Sparkle and Shine. Volunteers may check in at 8:00 am at City Hall for supplies. Call 334-BBBB to register.

City of Bloomington Community Farmers' Market

Every Saturday morning, April to September, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm
Every Saturday morning, October / November, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
Showers Common in Downtown Bloomington

Experience the largest market in the state. The Farmers' Market is your spot for the freshest flowers and produce, the finest locally produced meats and dairy products, even fair trade coffee and tasty pastries.

Looking for local arts-related events for the summer?

Visit the Bloomington Area Art Council's online calendar at <http://bloomingtonarts.info>.

Amnesty International Meetings

The local chapter of Amnesty International will continue to meet regularly throughout the summer and next academic year. For meeting times and location, please contact Christy at amnesty@indiana.edu. For more information, see www.indiana.edu/~amnesty.

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

Bloomington Animal Care & Control
3410 S. Old S.R. 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
Tel: 812-349-3492

Come to Bloomington Animal Care & Control to pick a new feline best friend. Adopt a shelter cat, save a life, and acquire a life-long companion.

Third Street Park Concerts

Fridays 7:00 - 8:30 pm, Starting June 2 (www.bloomington.in.gov)
Free to the public.

Taste of Bloomington

June 17, 3:00-11:00 pm, Showers Common

42 of Bloomington's finest restaurants will participate in the 23rd Annual Taste event. Live music all day and a special Waiter/Waitress race at 4 pm. Children's activities include WonderLab and fun with Polka Dot the Clown. For information, see www.tasteofbloomington.com.

Phonologyfest

June 19-29, Co-sponsored by the IU Linguistics Club (IULC)

Phonologyfest is a two-week series of lectures on Optimality Theory and Germanic Phonology including a weekend workshop focusing on Current Issues in Phonology such as Long Distance Processes, Laryngeal Phonology and the Nature of Phonological Representation in the Lexicon. Free to IU affiliates if registration is received by June 1. Visit www.indiana.edu/~phono/ for more information and to register, or email phono@indiana.edu with questions.

Fourth of July Parade in Downtown Bloomington

July 4, 3:00-4:15 pm

Bloomington/Monroe County Fourth of July Parade is a community tradition with over 130 entries. Route begins at 11th and College and goes south to the Courthouse Lawn.

2006 Associate Instructor Workshop on Campus Climate

Tuesday, August 22, 7:00-9:00 pm, IMU Frangipani Room
Wednesday, August 23, 7:00-9:00 pm, IMU Frangipani Room
Offered by the Office of Academic Affairs

This workshop on diversity and campus climate issues equips new AIs with techniques for working in the classroom. These are repeat sessions, so individuals attend only one. Registration for both evenings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Questions about the workshop should be directed to Katie Kearns at kkearns@indiana.edu.

GPSO's Fall 2006 Events

Get Oriented at IU:

New Graduate & Professional Student Orientation

Sponsored by GPSO, University Graduate School, and IU Libraries
Thursday, August 24

Join fellow graduate and professional students at Wells Library in the afternoon to welcome new students to the IU campus. Contact gps@indiana.edu if you would like to help.

Graduate & Professional Student Survival Week

September 25-29

Sponsored by GPSO, this week-long series of events focuses on general issues of graduate school life, professional opportunities, and wellness.