IDS Alumni Newsletter Fall 2004

ALUMNI! NEWS FROM YOUR UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AT MSU! THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE IDS ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER!

In this issue -

- IDS Diamond Anniversary - Plans for Spring 2005
- IDS Diamond Anniversary - Fall 2004 Program Highlights
- Update on “Class Notes”
- Alumni in the News
- Staff Update
- Report on Curriculum Review/Revision

Hope you enjoy reading the Fall edition. We wish you a happy, fulfilling, and productive New Year! PLEASE KEEP SENDING YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

____________________________________________________________________________

IDS DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY -- THE FINALE!

Come join us for the IDS Diamond Anniversary Celebration -- Spring Session (April 2, 2005). Join with classmates and colleagues in celebrating the 60th anniversary of your undergraduate major. We’re expecting a large turnout - alums, faculty, staff and current students.

Theme: Looking to the Future - The Challenges Facing IDS in the 21st Century

Highlights:

- Keynote address by Ernest Green (class of '62), member of the “Little Rock Nine,” former director of the A. Philip Randolph Education Fund, former assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor, and current Vice President of Lehman Brothers, Washington, D.C.

- Remarks by Dr. Marietta Baba, Dean, College of Social Science

- A panel, made up of alums, current students, and faculty/staff
o A visit to the “Memories of MSU: A Sesquicentennial Exhibit” at the MSU Museum

o A Broadway Series Show - Little Shop of Horrors - at the Great Hall, Wharton Center (block of reserved tickets for Diamond Anniversary program participants who wish to attend)

Please save this date and time on your calendar. Make 2005 your year of celebration! Come back to campus and join in the festivities.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY - FALL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We’re happy to report that our Fall Anniversary “Kickoff” was a success. Highlights included:

o Welcoming remarks by Dean Marietta Baba

o The keynote address by Ambassador Donna J. Hrinak (class of ’72). Her topic: The Multidisciplinary World. Donna has served as U.S. Ambassador to Brazil, to Venezuela, to Bolivia, to the Dominican Republic; former Coordinator for Policy for the Summit of the Americas; and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Mexico and the Caribbean. She is a recipient of the U.S. Government’s Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of State’s Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards. Donna is also the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by the MSU Alumni Association in 2001.

Donna’s talk inspired and challenged us all!

o A panel discussion, featuring distinguished Divisional Major/MDP/IDS alumni

Panelists included -

  - Richard Astrein (class of ’76), Owner, Astrein’s Creative Jewelry (Birmingham, MI)
  - Dr. Carol L. Fowler (class of ’63), Director, Department of Personnel Services, Archdiocese of Chicago
  - Dr. George Logan (class of ’68), Assoc. Professor Emeritus, Urban Affairs, MSU
  - Eric L. Pelton (class of ’84), Attorney, Kienbaum, Opperwall, Hardy & Pelton, P.L.C. (Birmingham, MI)
  - Romelia P. Widders (class of ’98), Senior Counselor, International Admissions, MSU

o An awards ceremony

Three individuals were honored --

Liz Schweitzer (class of ’72) - Outstanding Social Science/MDP/IDS Alumni Award - “for her outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary program . . .”
Dr. Charles Morrison - “for his outstanding administrative and intellectual leadership as director of the Multidisciplinary Program (1978-1986) . . .”

Dr. Carl Goldschmidt - “for his outstanding administrative and intellectual leadership as director of the Multidisciplinary Program (1986-1992) . . .”

Dr. Bruce Bigelow, Assistant Director, IDS, was also recognized for his role in chairing the Diamond Anniversary Planning Committee.

- A statement on the history of the program/major

In preparation for the 60th anniversary, Dr. William Marx, Senior Academic Specialist, IDS, prepared a brief history of the program/major. This document is included on the IDS web page. Our thanks to Bill!

For additional information, including photographs of anniversary program participants, see the IDS website (http://www.cis-ss.msu.edu/ids/). We plan to include a video segment from Ambassador Hrinak’s address shortly after the first of the year.

UPDATE ON “CLASS NOTES”

As reported in the Spring 2004 newsletter, we’re continuing to develop a new section of the newsletter to include information you’d like to share with other alums. It’s called “Class Notes” (see the attachment). We’d like to hear from you - to know where you are and what you’re doing. A brief statement (i.e., no more than 1 or 2 paragraphs) could include information pertaining to personal/family matters, professional accomplishments, current job positions, promotions, etc. You could also include comments about your impressions of/reflection on your undergraduate education, including your multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary major. Please include your name (at present, and at the time you attended MSU) and your year of graduation. Send the statement to - Bruce Bigelow, bigelow@msu.edu or mail to IDS, 302 Berkey Hall, MSU, East Lansing 48824.

With your permission, we will place “class notes” on the IDS website. We will also include them in a table-top display at the Spring Session of the Diamond Anniversary observance.

ALUMS IN THE NEWS

Dr. C. Kurt Dewhurst (class of 1970) was named a 2004 recipient of the Americo Paredes Prize at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society. The award, named for Americo Paredes (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, “recognizes excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities studied by folklorists, as well as in teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities.” (MSU News Bulletin, 12/9/04) Dr. Dewhurst is director of the MSU Museum, Michigan’s natural and cultural history museum, which has recently been designated as the state’s first Smithsonian Institution affiliate. Congratulations, Kurt!
Liisa Bergmann (class of 2003) was selected this fall by a university-wide committee to be one of MSU's three nominees for a Rhodes Scholarship. Liisa readmitted to MSU in January 2004 to pursue a second bachelor’s degree in anthropology as a way of preparing for bio-medical studies. Over the past year, she has grown increasingly interested in the subtle and complex ways that the study of neuroscience (with emphasis on human perception and learning) and the study of enculturation may be integrated. She hopes to continue to pursue her studies at the graduate level at Oxford University (UK), which has one of the finest interdisciplinary programs in neuroscience and anthropology in the world. Kudos, Liisa!

In mid-November 2004, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (class of 1972) was elected by her colleagues to be the third-ranking Democrat in the Senate. As secretary of the Democratic Caucus, she will assist Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) in setting the party’s agenda. In announcing the election result, Reid commented that Stabenow is known for her “dynamic smile, . . . as well as her expertise on health care issues and Social Security.” (Dee-Ann Durbin, Associated Press, 11/1/04) Congratulations, Debbie!

STAFF UPDATE

On January 11, Shirley Hodges will officially retire from her position as Administrative Assistant in the Center for Integrative Studies, which includes the IDS major. Shirley has been with our program for the past twelve years, and she will leave with a total of 41 years of service to the university. Thanks, Shirley, for all your dedication and hard work. We appreciate your support and assistance, and we wish you the very best in your new endeavors (i.e., genealogical research)! (Shirley leaves for Arizona on January 12!)

Melissa Bankroff, former office assistant in the Study and Internship Programs office in the Center for Integrative Studies-Social Science has been hired to fill the position of Administrative Assistant. Welcome, Melissa!

IDS COMPLETES CURRICULUM UPDATE

In Fall Semester 2003 and Spring Semester 2004, IDS administrative and advising staff completed a comprehensive review of the courses included in the core course lists in each of the eight IDS interdisciplinary concentrations. Staff prepared a set of recommendations for changes in each of the concentration course lists. Staff consulted with members of the IDS Advisory Committee and chairs or assistant chairs of the departments that offer the courses. The recommended changes were approved by the various curriculum review committees at the university. The changes became effective as of the beginning of Fall Semester 2004.

IDS staff see these changes as an important step in moving the IDS Program into the 21st Century.

The eight interdisciplinary concentrations are -
All for now. Happy New Year! Hope to see you at the anniversary celebration on April 2nd!

___________________________

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE POSTING INFORMATION ON THE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ON THE IDS WEB PAGE.

E-Newsletter Editorial Board:

Nona Anderson
Ann Beaujean
Bruce Bigelow, Editor
William Marx
Assefa Mehretu