

Programs in Action

A forum for IAAN members (or non-members) to discuss, and inform other members about programs at their institutions..

The Undergraduate Studies Program (USP) at Purdue University

By Rita Baker and Sue Aufderheide, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN

The Undergraduate Studies Program (USP) at Purdue University is busy evaluating its newly consolidated program. Due to the overlap prevalent in the functions of two programs at Purdue, they have been combined. The two programs were:

1. The original Undergraduate Studies Program, established in 1996, was designed for the traditional, first time college student uncertain about what major to pursue, and
2. The University Division was designed for students who were, or had been, enrolled at Purdue and changed their minds for any number of reasons, about their chosen major.

This new unit is tailored to meet the needs of a large population of undecided students. In June 2001, the consolidation of two programs formed the new USP.

The USP staff consists of Director, Dr. Susan Aufderheide, eight advisors and a receptionist. The staff provides academic advising for 1100 students and must have knowledge of all of Purdue's programs and resources. The goal of the program is to help students choose a major suited to their specific interests and abilities.

Each advisor teaches one section of a fall only course, EDPS 105, Academic and Career Planning, for beginning students who enter Purdue through USP. Interest inventories, career assessments, and research of majors, are just a few of the activities required in the course. The staff is compiling statistics to measure the effectiveness of matching major choices with Holland codes and other inventory results. Staff in the program also teach GS 119, Introduction to Purdue's Academic Programs, a course for any Purdue student who would like to explore the many majors Purdue has to offer.

Students are limited by university regulations as to the number of semesters and/or credit hours that

may be taken as a USP student. Advisors work with students to make sure they are on their way to a school and major in a timely manner.

So far the response to the program has been positive. Students and families have reported that taking time early in the college career to explore possibilities is beneficial. Continuing students who make the move to USP say that the resources available are valuable as they re-evaluate their college career decisions. Today's trends in major colleges show that many students change majors more than once over their college career. USP researchers are evaluating the success rate of providing the students with good decision making skills and the ability to graduate in their selected major.

For more information concerning Purdue's Undergraduate Studies Program, please contact: Dr. Susan Aufderheide, Director West Lafayette, IN 47907-1073 e-mail: ska@purdue.edu Phone: (765) 494-0843

The Indiana College Network Web Site – Your Distance Learning Resource

By Elissa Marie Reiling, ICN Coordinator

The Indiana College Network (ICN), Indiana's gateway to distance learning opportunities, recently debuted its new Web site at www.icn.org. The site features full plans of study for degree and certificate programs available through distance learning from Indiana's colleges and universities, as well as a searchable class database, listing Internet, interactive videoconferencing, CD-ROM, videotape and cable/public television courses. Site visitors can preview distance education classes and order free publications. Please bookmark www.icn.org to use as a resource when you advise students who may want to take college classes at home this summer or who have class conflicts in the fall.

Participating ICN institutions include Ball State University, Indiana State University, Indiana University, Ivy Tech State College, Purdue University, Taylor University, University of Southern Indiana and Vincennes University.

Registration for summer distance education classes is taking place now, and fall class registration will begin in April. If you have questions about ICN or would like to request any of our publications, please feel free to contact us at 1.800-ICN-8899 (1.800.426.8899) or info@icn.org.

Please send your suggestions/comments to:
Sangita Handa, shanda@purdue.edu
MATH 903
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
WEST LAFAYETTE, IN 47907

To become a member, or to re-
new an existing membership,
please send e-mail to Karen Sut-
ton at KSutton@indian.viu.edu

Some Activities of the Board of Directors by Midge Keller and Sangita Handa, Purdue Univ., W.L.

The IAAN board of directors is very busy trying to revitalize the organization under the able guidance of the interim president, Joanne Evers. Several ideas are being discussed, and steps taken to implement them. We solicit any new ideas and your input into these ideas and plans, and therefore a brief summary of the last meeting on February 15 is presented:

- A questionnaire developed by members was discussed. It is planned in order to seek input from academic advisors across Indiana on their opinion about the IAAN organization.
- A motion was moved, seconded and approved to raise the annual IAAN dues to \$15.00 per year.
- The new IAAN website was discussed.
- The members were informed that NACADA has plans to change its configuration to give more responsibility and representation within the regions. It is anticipated that the state Liaison representative to NACADA will be elected through NACADA from the respective state members.
- The newly instituted Outstanding Indiana Academic Advisor Award was discussed. Award nominees will be solicited for 2002-2003. The selection procedures/application were discussed.
- Changes in by-laws were approved. They have been posted on the IAAN website <http://iaan.indiana.edu>.
- The revisions in the current IAAN brochure were finalized.
- It was decided that I-Care should be made more functional.
- State Conference plans were discussed and the conference fee was raised to \$17.00.
- Appointment of coordinators for different Regions of Indiana (to be defined) was discussed.
- Committees/Chairs will be recruited for the newly defined committees in the by-laws.
- There will be elections for the following offices during the State Conference in May 2002.
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary, by appointment
 - Treasurer, as stands
 - NACADA Liaison

Please join us for the State Conference and prepare to be involved in exciting projects that will impact education in Indiana.