Pride in STATE LIFE
STATE LIFE is more than a campus or a major, it’s a state of being. Our mission is education and that isn’t limited to the classroom. Indiana State University students find themselves not just in work, but also in play.

Our student life programs enrich their education and open them up to incredible new experiences. They explore the world right here in Indiana – they eat food they can hardly pronounce and dance at beach parties in the dead of winter.

New freshmen are welcomed into the fold, while graduating seniors are given a tearful farewell. In between these moments we come together as Sycamores, creating a culture that is unique to our campus, to us and to ISU.
Q: What is one of the greatest achievements for Student Affairs in 2013-2014?

A: Our motto is “Students First,” so all of our efforts go toward engaging the students on campus and supporting the academic mission. One of our most successful engagement campaigns is “Blue Swag” for students who display a sense of pride in the university and pride in themselves. You can’t buy “Blue Swag;” you have to earn it.

Q: What do Sycamores get from Student Affairs that can’t be found anywhere else?

A: The impact of our individual relationships is immeasurable. Our programs guide our students in the right direction, but when they need personal attention we are also here. We provide advocacy and empowerment programs, social engagement opportunities and services for physical and mental health.

Q: At the end of a stressful day, what brings you back to ISU the next morning?

A: My faith keeps me grounded. If God is willing, I’ll return for a new day with faith that I will get it right. Some of our students come in with family responsibilities or serious issues. Some of them come to college but have no idea what it really means to go to college. They are the reason I am here and the reason I will keep coming back.
Our campus is alive and vibrant – not just with trees, but with Sycamores.
Welcome to the neighborhood

Indiana State University welcomes a new class of freshmen to college life with a week unlike any they’ve experienced before.

By Sara Palmer

This was the moment. For the rest of their lives, freshmen coming into Indiana State University will look back on Welcome Week and think: This was the moment. As multitasking, fast-paced human beings, we are often incapable of realizing how much we’re changing until we can stop for a second and take a breath. In those rare moments we get a chance to look back and reflect. For many ISU students, when they look back they’ll see Welcome Week as that moment when everything changed, even if they do not know it just yet.

Every fall State welcomes its newest Sycamores with an entire week dedicated to plunging into college life. Not only are there opportunities to make new friends and explore new interests, but the university also plans activities to help freshmen really understand how to handle their new responsibilities as college students.

“I made a lot of new friends,” said Sierra Carter, a freshman criminology major from Evansville, Ind. “Welcome Week definitely helped because we got a full week to get to know the campus and get a feel for what kind of people we will be around for the year.”

The transfer is not always easy, but, more often than not, it is a tremendous amount of fun. Activities such as Convocation, Donaghy Day, Passport to College, ISU Fest and dozens of other information sessions show students that college life is a unique mixture of scholastic and social.

At State, welcoming new students lasts more than a day and, truthfully, more than a week. You’re always welcome at Indiana State University.
"We get a feel for what kind of people we will be around for the year."

- Sierra Carter, freshman, criminology major (second from left)
Reunited at last! Campus was abuzz with siblings, parents, and grandparents excited to see what everyday life is like for their freshmen. Held on Sept. 14, 2013, this was the first opportunity for many parents to see their college students after that tearful goodbye on move-in day. Whether the transition was easy or rough, families near and far came to tour campus and check on their students.

“Family Day is important for students and their families, because it makes them feel more at home and more connected to the university. Students want to show their families around because they are proud of their school,” said Freda Luers, director of campus life.

Students and their families could participate in a carnival on Friday night, and the hit movie “Monsters University” was played at the Hulman Memorial Student Union. Saturday kicked off with an early-bird breakfast at the Barnes & Noble bookstore. Throughout
Family Day is important for students and their families because it makes them feel more at home.

- Freda Luers, Campus Life Director

the day families also got the opportunity to visit some of the wonderful facilities offered to ISU students, such as the recreation center, the art gallery and the Cunningham Memorial Library. Parents got the chance to ask any questions that they might still have, while young siblings between ages 3 and 11 enjoyed arts, crafts and other cultural games. A favorite recipe brunch was offered to all families and students in the dining towers.

Finally, everyone put on their blue attire and headed to the football stadium to enjoy some pregame tailgating. The atmosphere was electric and full of school spirit as everyone cheered for the Sycamores, who dominated Quincy. To celebrate the great win, some families ended the fun-filled day by going downtown to the Blues at the Crossroads Festival to enjoy some food and music from live bands.

Overall, Family Day was filled with lots of activities for all ages, and gave every loved one a chance to see how their freshman is adjusting their new life at Indiana State University.
The library comes alive

By Esther Perisho

Dozens of student organizations and library faculty members set up tables to provide information about community engagement, library resources, and extracurricular activities at Cunningham Memorial Library’s 11th annual Library Extravaganza. Around 5,900 students bombarded the library for free food, music, prizes and information on Sept. 12, 2013.

“This is our biggest event of the year, where we introduce our distance students and local students on campus to the products and services the library makes available,” explained Greg Youngen, the library’s interim dean and organizer of the event.

Organizations that participated include the American Democracy Project, the Office of Diversity and the University Art Gallery.

While numerous students were drawn in by the free food, many stayed to learn about campus resources and to win prizes. Tables that showcased the different resources available on campus were scattered throughout the first floor. Upon arrival, each student was given a card, which got stamped at each table. At 10 stamps, he or she was entered to win a prize.

“The Extravaganza staff was really helpful and friendly,” said Humam Ouldmy, a premed major and first-year student. “The Extravaganza is also really helpful for commuter students who want to learn about campus.”

Andrew Rutan, a psychology major and first-year student, was excited to see so many different individuals exploring the library during the Extravaganza.

“I know going to the library isn’t the most exciting thing for most people, “ Rutan said, “but I saw a lot of smiles on people’s faces that day.”

Overall, the Library Extravaganza was a huge success. Students walked away from the event happy, fed, and a little more prepared for successfully engaging in campus life.
Top: The Library Extravaganza allows students to explore all the resources on campus in one place.

Bottom: Students visit info tables to learn about specific programs.

Photos: ISU Communications & Marketing
Sycamores take the stage
Indiana State University was the host of an eclectic and entertaining variety of theatrical productions in 2013-2014. Colorful musicals, classical dramas, contemporary pieces and even plays written and directed by Sycamores all graced the ISU stages. Each performance was exceptional in its own way and pleased not only the audience but those involved in the productions, too.

The theatrical season kicked off in October with “Life is a Dream,” a classic drama originally written in the 17th century by Pedro Calderón de la Barca. Performed in the New Theater, the story followed the journey of Seigismund, played by Dylan Gentilcore, a prince locked away by his father because he was prophesized to ruin the kingdom. While a classical piece, the play was given a modernist twist. Instead of period costumes, many of the actors wore...
contemporary clothes and the set was rather minimalist. These design choices made the dated production intriguingly relevant.

“‘Life is a Dream’ was like a dream for me,” said Gentilcore, a junior majoring in theater. “Every rehearsal was a new challenge, and I continued to learn each and every night, including our final performance. The piece itself is terrific and working with the cast and crew was a joy.”

New Theater also housed a play written and directed by two Sycamores – Josh Julian and Trever Hanson. “Vivian’s Lament” made its world debut in February to a full house of eager audience members. The play’s main character, Vivian Tenderhorn, played by Jessica Hall, an arrogant woman recently married into the aristocracy, is hosting a dinner party. However, the guests aren’t showing up, her husband is philandering with the pool boy, and her arch adversary has stopped by for a visit.

The production was campy, dark and funny and as the story progressed, the dilemmas grew increasingly more dramatic.

The play had great plot twists and acting performances. Hall’s portrayal as Vivian was vivacious and even a bit intimidating, while Ylana Aukamp triumphed as Vivian’s nemesis Sally.

“‘Vivian’s Lament’ was a pure blast!” said Aukamp, another junior theater major. “I’ve never done a comedy before so it was new territory for me, which made the experience a little nerve-wracking, but the cast and crew did
a great job at making me feel comfortable.”

Just as some productions seek to entertain, others seek to inform. Two productions in March honed in on an important social issue – women’s rights. “The Vagina Monologues” and “A Memory, A Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer,” sponsored by the Feminist Majority and the Office of Diversity, were performed together in the African-American Cultural Center. Both plays raised money through ticket sales for the Council on Domestic Abuse and V-Day.

“The V-day is a global campaign to educate and put an end to violence against women and girls,” said Markanda Baugh, a freshman social work major and actress in “The Vagina Monologues.”

Both plays were penned by Eve Ensler, a popular feminist writer, and performed by Indiana State students. Rather than a cohesive narrative, both plays were a series of monologues with individualized focuses such as love, abuse, self-esteem, sex and, of course, vaginas. There were no props or music, but the performers didn’t need them to enthrall the audience with their passionate deliveries. The spectrum of emotions that the two plays presented was unmatched by any other...
“Life is a Dream” centers around the conflict between fate and free will.

Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing

production at Indiana State this year.

“There is just something so magical about getting on stage and making people laugh ... or feel emotions,” Baugh said. “I feel like [theater] is an expression of feelings, just like art.”

While most productions this year were directed and produced by faculty and students, there were also professional shows. As a part of Indiana State’s Performing Arts series, a group of performers came to Tilson Auditorium to delight audiences with their rendition of “Smokey Joe’s Cafe.” The musical is a collection of unrelated songs written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, with no exposition or established characters. This concept may be unusual, but the musical is critically acclaimed and has been nominated for seven Tony Awards. “Smokey Joe’s Cafe” featured classic songs such as “Love Potion Number Nine,” “Stand by Me” and “Hound Dog,” sung by truly talented
vocalists. The show was also interactive, with the performers often dancing or singing with audience members. One man was brought up on stage and asked to sit in a chair while one of the female performers sang to him.

The theater department wrapped up its season with “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” an interactive musical mystery in which the audience chose the ending. The play is based off a mystery novel of the same name by Charles Dickens. Dickens died before finishing the manuscript, so the villain behind the disappearance of its titular character was never unmasked. More than 100 years later, playwright Rupert Holmes decided to base a play off the story in which the audience could choose the “killer,” the detective and the couple who eloped. The play had some truly notable performances, with Charles Adams delivering a splendid performance as the Chairman of the Board, a man who acted as a sort of narrator for the show. Great singing talent was also featured by Abby Cunning, who played Edwin Drood, and Mackenzie Tank, who played Drood’s childhood friend. The interactivity of the production and the enthusiasm of the actors kept the play engaging enough to satisfy the audience’s hunger for entertainment, and the visual elements of the musical were nothing less than superb.

“Life is a Dream” was one of nearly a dozen plays that ISU’s theater department put on for the 2013-2014 academic year. Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing
Music to the people

The eclectic sounds of the 47th Contemporary Music Festival entrance audiences at ISU

By Raelyn Francis

The 2013 Annual Contemporary Music Festival was different than any other before. This year, the guest composers performed their music, rather than having someone else playing it. The festival, which took place Oct. 23-25, 2013, started Wednesday night with the guest artist recital. The audience silently enjoyed the performance of guest composer Evan Chambers, and guest artists Mary Bonhag, soprano, Evan Premo, double bass, Martha Krasnican, piano, and Logan Strawn, viola.

Students hear their works rehearsed and performed by a professional orchestra. They also got to teach kids in other schools about music and composers. For nearly 50 years, the contemporary music festival has grown to show students the lives of professional composers, performers, critics and scholars.

“One hope is that students become aware that there are composers who are living and writing music now,” said Professor Kurt Fowler, organizer of the music festival. “We play so much music composed by people who are no longer living, but musical composition is alive and well today. The festival makes sure that our students are acquainted with new music. It’s really an educational event for students who are studying music.”

The festival has featured numerous nationally and internationally known conductors and composers. Eighteen of the past guests now have won the Pulitzer Prize for music, and four have received the Grawemeyer Award.

The music played in the opening concert was influenced by traditional folk music. Premo and Strawn set the tone for the night with the first piece, “Fisherstreet Duo,” for viola and bass. This haunting hymn was named after a small tourist town on the west coast of Ireland.

Chambers performed the next piece, “The Lament,” for violin and fixed media. The violin’s soft notes were surrounded by the sounds of bombs exploding and people talking. The sounds transplanted the audience to the front lines and the sound of rain hitting the muddy earth captured the sadness of war. The audio was taken from Chambers’s trip to Ireland.

Premo and Bonhag performed the next two pieces, “Pastor Hicks’ Farewell” and “In Old Virginny.” When Shawn Jaeger composed these pieces, he took old folk lyrics and composed new music with them. The first song describes a tired, dying preacher who very much loved his wife. The second transitioned from a man looking back on a past love, and the woman’s point of view of the man. Chambers performed his “Tannahill Songs,” which was inspired by a poet/songwriter named Robert Tannahill.

The festival gave students opportunities learn from the guest artists, as well as hear performances by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. The ISU Contemporary Music Festival has had the artists come and go, but in end the main goal is to introduce to students the life of composers and their music.
Every year, Indiana State University brings in notable speakers from around the world. For students, these speakers provided various insights into many aspects of life – aspects that many students today probably wouldn’t have been aware of otherwise.

Notable people who have spoken at ISU in the past include: Ralph Nader, Nancy Grace, and Dinesh D’Souza. Though many students look up to their professors and recognize their insight, professors can only recreate so much of the real world in the classroom. This is where outside speakers come in. They are usually still closely involved with the subjects on which they speak, and they can add to what professors teach.

Henrietta Lacks’ cells are immortal, though she died of cancer more than 60 years ago. Before she died, these cells – called HeLa cells – were removed from her body without her knowledge. These cells were used in developing the polio vaccine, studying cancer, analyzing the atom bomb’s effects, as well as in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

Veronica Spencer and Shirley Lacks spoke on the topic of these HeLa cells, acknowledging the benefit to humanity in terms of the advancement in medical knowledge, but also debating the ethical means of removing these cells without Henrietta’s consent. Spencer and Lacks discussed this, along with the other forms of human experimentation that have taken place in the past.

Spencer and Lacks showed students...
that the end doesn’t always justify the means. For students, this is a lesson in ethics that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

**Neal Barnard**

Dr. Neal Barnard is best known for his medical research in healthy living – more specifically, how to lose weight. His book, “21-Day Weight Loss Kickstart,” was the main topic of his presentation. This diet is based off the premise that anyone can change the way they eat for just 21 days, and, after 21 days, anyone can begin to see the benefits of their diet to stick with it. Barnard’s diet is unique because it is a vegan diet.

Barnard was a great speaker for ISU students because college stress is notorious for packing on a few pounds. Though some students may not be trying to lose weight, the tips that he provides can be used by students to live healthier lives, and prevent them from being in a position where they need to lose weight. Barnard helped students learn about ways to develop good eating habits.

**Kathleen Welch**

Kathleen Welch, a native of Indiana, works in Chiang Mai, Thailand, as a streetside pediatrician. When she attended school, she simply wanted to be an international pediatrician, but after learning about the negative effects of human trafficking and realizing that she could help, she chose to pursue streetside pediatric care.

Welch tried to educate students about human trafficking and opportunities that are out there for people wanting to make a difference.
Neal Barnard helped students understand the ways they can develop healthy eating habits now, that will stick around for the rest of their lives. Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing

She noted that human trafficking is made up of much more than just the sex trade. Human trafficking, as she defined it, “Is a faceless crime. It takes away a person’s face, and replaces it with a barcode.” She also shared that there are options out there for anyone who wishes to follow in her footsteps.

**James Gibbs**

James Gibbs is a professor who focuses his research on conservation biology, though his team of biologists are more generalists than specialists. He works all over the world, studying a variety of endangered species. As a conservation biologist, his goal is keeping these endangered species from becoming extinct. One particular species that he has focused on recently is the giant tortoises on the Galapagos Islands.

Gibbs is definitely passionate about what he does. For biology majors, he served as an example of what they can hope to become someday. Also, because biology is so hard to replicate in the classroom, Gibbs served as an extension to the classroom. He has been out in the field and has seen what many students
learn in class. He shared his experiences with students, helping connect the classroom knowledge to a real world example.

**Lilly Ledbetter**

Lilly Ledbetter is best known for the case she tried against Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. She was hired by the company in 1979 and retired in 1998. When she retired, she sued the company for paying her significantly less than her male counterparts during the time she worked there. She lost the case because she didn’t file the lawsuit within 180 days of her first paycheck, but after the trial, she became a prominent advocate for women’s equality. Since her trial, she has helped to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act – a law that loosens the timeliness requirements for filing of a discrimination suit.

Ledbetter afforded students the opportunity to view a level of oppression that students typically never notice. In listening to Ledbetter speak about her experiences watching men receive higher wages for the same level of work she did, ISU students learned about discrimination in the workplace.

**Josh Green**

Josh Green graduated from Indiana State University in 2002 as an English major and a creative writing minor. Shortly after, he began working in journalism in Atlanta. He continued writing and recently published his first book of short stories, entitled, “Dirtyville Rhapsodies.” He visited ISU to read from his
collection of short stories, and also to answer questions for aspiring writers in a creative writing class.

Green was an example of what someone can do with an Indiana State University degree. He graduated from the same school that the audience members were currently attending and is now a published author. For students, he serves as a success story that helps to motivate our aspirations. Also, with his recent endorsement from Men’s Health magazine, students, especially English majors and creative writing minors, can see someone who has conquered the harsh world of book publishing.

**Ernest Green**

Ernest Green was one of the Little Rock Nine. Following the Brown v. Board of Education ruling of 1954, segregated schools were no longer allowed. In 1957, nine African-American students, including Ernest Green, attended a historically all-white school. Of the nine students, Green was the only senior, and the first African-American to graduate from Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. His success in graduating from Central High proved African-Americans were equally capable of succeeding at the school.

Green demonstrated that despite all the ridicule, harassment, and violence he was forced to endure, he was still successful academically. As college students, hearing what this man persevered through showed us how grateful we should be for our freedoms.
today. Green, along with the others from the Little Rock Nine, paved the way for the education system we take for granted today.

**Joel Greenburg**

Joel Greenburg is most famously known for his book, “Echoes of their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon.” In this book, he takes a unique look at passenger pigeons—a species of birds that was once the most populous bird on earth. In the world today, this bird is near extinction. Greenburg focuses mostly on human-caused extinctions and this was the main topic of his conversation. If we, as humans, can prevent these species from becoming extinct, why don’t we?

In 1957, nine African-American students, including Ernest Green, attended a historically all-white school. Green was the only senior and the first African-American to graduate from Central High School.
ISU supports marriage equality

Indiana State University officially opposes HJR-6, a proposed amendment to the state constitution that bans same-sex marriage.

By Nikki Jones

Same sex marriage has always been a heated debate topic in the United States, but this year more than ever. While the arguments range from religious to political, more states are opening the doors to marriage for same-sex couples. As the times change, the laws have begun to change as well. Indiana State University’s faculty senate, staff council and student government association have all showed their support of marriage equality by voting in opposition to HJR-6, a proposed amendment to the Indiana constitution that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman.

This amendment prevents same-sex couples from marriage and the legal benefits that come along with this union. ISU prides itself on its rules against discrimination based on several factors, including sexual orientation. This state policy, if put on the ballot in 2014, will not only affect same-sex couples, but everyone across the state.

“Our governance groups saw this as a human rights issue that not only contradicts our current policy but, if adopted, could impact the university’s ability to attract and retain faculty, staff and students,” said Daniel J. Bradley, president of ISU.

“Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing
ISU students Nicholas Penington (left) and Tabitha Barham (right), won the 2013 Mister and Miss Gay ISU pageant. Photo: Sara Palmer

With courage and confidence

The 2013 Mister and Miss Gay ISU pageant brought color, culture, and community to ISU students.

By Sara Palmer

When the reigning 2012 Miss Gay ISU took the stage, the crowd members leapt to their feet, cheering and stomping to the beat of her first number. When she kicked her leg up over her head, the applause shook the roof of Tilson Auditorium. The only time the audience cheered louder and longer was at the end of the night when the crown was passed on, signaling a new era for the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning) community at Indiana State University.

Nicholas Penington, aka “Miss Nikki Saint-Queer,” a junior studying social work, claimed the 2013 title of Miss Gay ISU. Tabitha Barham, aka “Mr. Jerry Curl,” a sophomore studying pre-dentistry, won the first ever Mister Gay ISU crown.

The lights dimmed and the show began. Four contestants battled head-to-head, two for the title of Miss Gay ISU and two for the title of Mister Gay ISU during the event, held on Oct.
12, 2013. This was the first year that the mister category was added to the event.

“I think the Mister/Miss Gay ISU pageant is a great door opener for educating students in the LGBTQ community,” Barham said. “Even though it’s just the tip of a giant iceberg, I’ve seen that it has opened a lot of peoples’ eyes and minds towards being more accepting of LGBTQ persons and acknowledging how equality for all people is still an ongoing fight in America today.”

The pageant represents the desire to make the Indiana State campus a welcoming community for people of all races, genders, ethnicities, orientations, and identities.

“I competed for the crown because I wanted to gain the chance to advocate for the LGBTQ students here at ISU,” Penington said. “Since I have been here I have found services, resources, and programs for gay students, in my opinion, to be lacking. Yes, they have been improving, and the offices have been really trying to help, but the improvement is too slow, and the steps are too small. So, I am hoping by winning Miss Gay ISU 2013, I can help advocate for more services, give my opinion of policy and hopefully be taken seriously as a representative of Spectrum and the LGBTQ voice.”

The pageant consisted of long and short talent competitions and a question and answer session. Guest performers, including the 2012 Miss Gay ISU and Miss Gay Muncie, rounded out the show with vibrant dance routines and colorful costumes. The event was hosted by Spectrum, ISU’s LGBTQ student organization.

“Mister and Miss Gay ISU is important here on campus because it raises general awareness of the LGBTQ community,” said Dylan Wright, director of programming for Spectrum. “It is a fun way to educate the audience and a great entertainment for those already familiar with drag. The contestants gain experience in the drag world and are able to network and make new friends.”

Nearly 300 people attended the event, which raised funds for the Council on Domestic Abuse, a not-for-profit that strives to end family violence through prevention and education.

The executive board of Spectrum shares an emotional moment on stage. Photo: Sara Palmer
The participants for Indiana State’s Beauty Recognized: From the Inside Out fashion show lined up excitedly behind the wings of the runway. However, these young women had a purpose other than modeling clothes. Hosted by the Student Counseling Center, the event held on Feb. 26, 2014, sought to raise awareness for eating disorders and also to perpetuate the message of inner beauty. The fashion show was also a part of National Eating Disorders Awareness week.

“Eating disorders [are] a very difficult topic to discuss. There are a lot of stigmas attached to [them],” said Melissa Grinslade, a staff member of the Counseling Center. Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness. While females and athletes are particularly at risk, people from all walks of life can be affected. “Eating disorders don’t discriminate. They don’t care how much money you make. They don’t care what gender you are. They don’t care how old you are.”

Grinslade went on to show two videos using the screen above the runway. Both clips were commercials from a current Dove campaign that discussed the negative and incorrect self images most people hold for themselves. “Hopefully all of you will be able to leave tonight and remember that being yourself is the prettiest thing you can be,” Grinslade said.

After passing the microphone to WTHI’s Patsy Kelly, who was the emcee for that night, the fashion show began. The models were all nominated by their peers and faculty members. As the participants danced and posed on the runway to bouncy music, Kelly read aloud the personalized nominations.

“Sometimes you meet a person who has the innate ability to brighten the room as soon as she enters it,” one nomination said about a model. In addition to the nominations, the participants were lauded by an energetic crowd that cheered and clapped as the models strutted down the runway. The shining smiles of the models were definite signs that they were feeling the support. The fashion show had a brief intermission, where a group of students from the African Student Union performed a hip-hop dance routine. The rhythmic, bouncing choreography was a crowd pleaser.

After the final model had exited, Grinslade encouraged the audience to come up to the runway for one big finale. Accompanied by the musical track “Let it Go” from the movie “Frozen,” the spectators joined the models onstage for a few minutes of laughing, singing, hugging and dancing. It was a great ending to an uplifting night, and the event not only improved the confidence of the lovely young women who modeled but the members of the audience as well.

Photo: Jon Garcia
To be crowned Miss ISU takes more than just good looks and charm. Even though Jessica Weesner, a senior accounting major, has both in abundance, her compassion for others was her main ticket to holding this year’s Miss ISU title. She had previously competed twice in the ISU pageant, but after being inspired by a friend, Weesner decided her senior year that she wanted to become Miss ISU.

“I knew it would really give me the motivation to try something new, learn, and better myself,” Weesner explained. The part of the pageant she found most enjoyable was getting to know the other contestants, and meeting new people on campus. Dancing prepared Weesner for having the confidence to be on stage, but the swimsuit portion of the pageant proved to be the most challenging because of the hard work and training she did to prepare for it. When asked about representing Indiana State University, Weesner said, “I just love being able to give back to the University. I have had an incredible experience here the last four years. I love promoting ISU, for what a great university it is, to younger kids, and encouraging them to do service.” Some of the most rewarding opportunities that Weesner has experienced by holding the Miss ISU title include the self improvements she has made and meeting new people.

“I’ve had a lot of opportunities to meet an amazing amount of people. I’ve met alums, faculty, and a lot of people that can make a difference, so it’s been really neat for me to dig a little deeper into ISU and learn more about people who have made this university what it is today,” Weesner explained. Serving the role of Miss ISU has opened numerous doors.
Jessica Weesner had only competed in two pageants before winning the Miss ISU crown. Ashley Clarke, second runner-up; Jessica Weesner, Miss ISU; Ayanna Sykes, first runner-up; and Maggie Riall, third runner-up, were this year’s top contenders in the Miss ISU pageant.

for her. Weesner has been able to work with alums and soon will be able to go to the board of trustees meeting. Being out and about in the community has been an important part of the experience for her. The biggest opportunity of all from her experience is the future Miss Indiana pageant in which Weesner will be competing. She continues to prepare for it by working with a personal trainer and practicing for interviews. After graduating this May, Weesner plans to get her certified public accountant license, then she wants to work for a public accounting firm. Her long-term career goal is to work for a not-for-profit organization and get a controller or CFO position.

“I love promoting ISU, for what a great university it is, to younger kids, and encouraging them to do service.”

- Jessica Weesner, 2013-2014 Miss ISU
Over the years, Take Back The Night has become an internationally recognized event that takes a stand against sexual violence by speaking out on college campuses to raise awareness. On Nov. 12, 2013, Indiana State University hosted its annual Take Back the Night event at the Hulman Center, where students gathered together to rally against sexual violence. ISU faculty, staff, students and the Terre Haute community became a united front against sexual assault by sharing stories, supporting one another and creating an open discourse about this serious issue that faces campuses worldwide.

The Take Back the Night Foundation seeks to end sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse and all other forms of sexual violence. The idea focuses on ending the violence by ending the silence. It is estimated that each year there are 207,754 victims of sexual assault in the United States. That’s about one victim every two minutes. Of these, less than 50 percent are reported to the police. Take Back the Night aims to promote speaking out against this violence by raising awareness and getting communities involved. Since so many cases of sexual violence remain unreported, sexual violence could be affecting anyone.

As part of the worldwide movement to “take back the night,” women walk without fear through the night and reclaim the streets, which for many years have been sources of fear and violence. At ISU, the event was organized by the university’s Women Studies 450 course. Students from this class organized the march and rally for a semester-long student activism project. They marched to choruses of voices chanting: “Out of the halls, into the streets, we won’t be raped, we won’t be beat.”

Martha Reed, an administrative assistant at the Indiana State Career Center, spoke of her own personal experience of domestic and sexual violence.

“One in four people in this room will be touched at one point in your life by some type of violence,” said Reed. “The realization that others have suffered the same fight awakens a new hope within you.”

Photos: Nikki Jones
“Out of the halls, into the streets, we won’t be raped, we won’t be beat.

-ISU students chanting in the Take Back the Night march
Having a safe and welcoming campus is a major priority at Indiana State University. This is what the Sycamore Safe Zone program stands for. This ally development program was created through the Office of Diversity to make lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals feel accepted and safe on the State campus.

“The core mission of ISU is to embrace the diversity of individuals and the Sycamore Safe Zone program is a way of showing students, faculty, and staff that regardless of sexual orientation or sexual identity, they will be accepted on our campus,” said Joel Phillips, program coordinator for the Office of Diversity.

The Safe Zone event hosts workshops that educate people on how they can help create a safe campus for all students. The workshops also encourage people to keep an open mind when it comes to differing personal beliefs and diverse cultures. Anyone in the Indiana State community can attend the one- to two-hour Sycamore Safe Zone workshops, where a Safe Zone facilitator will conduct a presentation that includes activities designed to educate and challenge stereotypes.

There are three different levels in training to be an ally for the LGBTQ community. The first level, Safe Zone 101, is designed to introduce participants to LGBTQ people, and dispel myths involving this community. It will address bullying, homophobia and heterosexism. This first level of training is required for those who are beginners in Safe Zone training. After participating in the Safe Zone 101, students can receive Sycamore Ally training. This level builds off of the knowledge learned from the first level of training, including discussions on historic and current issues facing LGBTQ people. The last and more advanced level, Sycamore Advocates, allows guided discussion and encourages deeper critical thinking on how we can make the world a safer place for the LGBTQ community.

Safe Zone is one of many ways students, faculty, and staff can spread acceptance of diversity at ISU. Educating people about the LGBTQ community will help take the first steps for people all over the campus and Terre Haute to keep an open mind to a changing and improving society.

Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing
“The core mission of ISU is to embrace the diversity of individuals.”

- Joel Phillips, program coordinator for the Office of Diversity
It’s Showtime!

Sponsored by the African-American Cultural Center, Sycamores took to the stage with talent, poise and pride.
A Scary 5k!

Leave it to Sycamores to come up with a new twist on an old holiday. Students celebrated Halloween with a costume 5k.
Eureka! ISU strikes oil on campus

By Raelyn Francis

Standing tall and proud, waving an American flag, the new Pioneer Oil derrick towered over Indiana State University’s campus. Drilling started in December for what is hoped to be a successful oil well. Oil was first discovered 1,000 feet below the surface as early as the 1860s in an area on the east side of downtown Terre Haute. In recent years ISU has capped at least two wells on university-owned property, but university officials have often wondered how much, if any, oil remained under its property. Until recent advances in technology, it was not economically possible for oil companies to take...
on such an operation in an urban setting.

“This will provide an on-campus learning opportunity to faculty and students who are studying disciplines associated with geology, geography and other related sciences,” said Diann McKee, vice president of ISU’s business affairs.

It is not known at this time how much oil is underground or how much the university will make off of this project, but if oil exists, they will continue to drill until the oil is gone. Any oil extracted will be sold by Pioneer Oil to a refinery. McKee explained that Pioneer Oil is responsible to secure and maintain compliance with all federal and state statutes and regulations governing exploration and operating any oil or natural gas operation. Pioneer Oil has been in business since 1972, and currently operates over 1,000 wells in Indiana, as well as Illinois and Kentucky.
State students fight against insect infestation

By Nikki Jones

Indiana State students joined the fight against an emerald ash borer, which is traveling south from Michigan and devouring all ash trees in its path. An ISU research class consisting of nine undergraduate students and five graduate students partnered with ISU Grounds Maintenance to examine the insect’s effects. There are currently 450 ash trees on Indiana State’s campus and, thanks to the research of our students, these trees could possibly be saved. The emerald ash borer is a green beetle that is native to Asia and Eastern Russia. Outside its native region, the emerald ash borer is an invasive species, and emerald ash borer infestation is highly destructive to ash trees. After wiping out nearly all ash trees in Michigan, it began making its way south and has infected Indiana State University ash trees.

Top and Bottom Left: Students examine the trees to see which ones can be saved.

Right: Students get hands on experience both in the field and in the lab.

Photos: ISU Communications & Marketing
ISU again named Tree Campus USA

By Raelyn Francis

As you walk through the Indiana State University campus you will notice an abundance of strong, beautiful trees lining the walkways and standing tall all over the buildings. They shade the students, Sycamores themselves, as they chat, laugh and sometimes even study. It’s obvious that for a school with the motto “Go Trees,” these trees are immensely important to Indiana State University’s identity.

In 2014 ISU was named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the sixth year in a row. The Tree Campus USA program started in 2008, and was developed to inspire people and campuses around the nation to plant and celebrate trees. A university must meet five standards to be deemed a tree campus. The first standard is that the university must have a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, consisting of a student, faculty, facility management and a community member. There should also be a Campus Tree Care Plan with clear guidance for planting and maintaining trees. The university has to have a campus tree program with dedicated annual expenditures to support that program. It also must have an Arbor Day observance to educate the campus community on the importance of trees at the university. Lastly, the college must have a service-learning project that engages students firsthand in projects related to trees.

Thanks to the hard work of ISU’s tree management staff and student volunteers, ISU has met these standards for six years now. This program has had wonderful impact on the environment by encouraging tree planting, educating students on conservation, and making our campus the beautiful one that it is today.

It’s obvious that for a school with the motto “Go Trees,” these trees are immensely important to Indiana State University’s identity.
Jean Kristeller, co-founder of the Center for the Study of Health, Religion and Spirituality, and professor emeritus of psychology, first became intrigued with contemplative gardening while completing undergraduate studies in Japan. The idea of peace, meditation, and connecting with oneself inspired Kristeller to create a contemplative garden on ISU’s campus. The garden took two years to complete. It consists of thyme and elderberry plants with a stone walkway leading through the garden. There are benches where students and faculty can sit and enjoy the serene sounds of a small fountain. Kristeller spoke at a small dedication ceremony in the Root Hall courtyard in October 2013. Faculty and friends who helped contribute to the garden recognized Kristeller’s two-year effort.
Top: ISU psychology professor Jean Kristeller shares her experiences and gratitude with colleagues and supporters.

Left: The contemplation garden is nestled in the L-shaped courtyard near Root Hall.

Bottom: During the dedication, Kristeller’s colleagues spoke about the benefits of having a place for physical and mental relaxation.

Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing
Construction begins on new downtown student housing

By Esther Perisho

With more than 12,000 enrolled students at Indiana State, the university determined there was need for more student housing in the downtown Terre Haute area. In development by Thompson Thrift, the building constructed at 500 Wabash Ave. will feature restaurants, shops, office space, a student dormitory and an outside dining area. The construction is the implementation of an aspect of Indiana State University’s larger strategic plan.

“One of the initiatives of the strategic plan is to provide economic revitalization of the downtown area along with providing housing options for students,” said Diann McKee, ISU’s vice president of business affairs and finance and university treasurer. While the building will be a massive change for Terre Haute’s downtown, Thompson Thrift and ISU want to ensure that the building won’t affect the area’s historical integrity.

“Our design is meant to be compatible with the historical nature of downtown,” said Adam Fischer, the project manager for the construction. He and Thompson Thrift’s marketing supervisor, Sara Lindsey, have provided projections on what the finished building will look like:

“The 22,000 square foot ground floor will offer a mix of restaurants, shops and office space,” Lindsey and Fischer explained. “Student housing will be made up of 75 apartment-style units. These one-, two-, three- or four-bedroom units will feature private bedroom/bathroom suites, along with a common area where students can gather to study or socialize.”

The student housing portion of the building will be reserved for upperclassmen, McKee revealed.

“It is an exciting project not only for the university but as an attractive different housing opportunity for students,” she said. “With the enrollment growth we have experienced, we have had limited housing opportunities for upperclassmen on campus.”

The project is scheduled for completion by July 2015. Paul Thrift, president of Thompson Thrift Development, feels like the building will be an excellent addition to downtown Terre Haute.

“We are very pleased with the progress of the architectural plans,” Thrift said. “This project will be hugely impactful in continuing efforts to develop downtown into an attractive business, retail and residential center.”

“It is an exciting project not only for the university but as an attractive different housing opportunity for students.”

-Diann McKee, vice president of business affairs and finance
Top: Thompson Thrift demolished the empty buildings that stood on the site during March 2014.

Right: An artist’s rendering shows the public what the new retail space will look like when finished in July 2015.

Photos: ISU Communications & Marketing
Unexpected residents find a home in the towers

By Kuae Kilgore

In 1967, Indiana State University built the Stateman Towers, twin buildings that scrape the sky at 15 stories as residence halls.

“By the late 1970s, enrollment at the university had declined and the buildings were no longer needed for student housing,” said Dave Taylor, ISU director of media relations. “However, facilities were needed for the then schools of business and education.” By the time the 1980s rolled around, the towers had a new purpose – serving as classrooms for business and education majors.

As the buildings continued to tack on years and gain more maintenance problems, the relocation of both colleges was set in motion. In 2010, these programs, Scott College of Business and Bayh College of Education, found new homes. With no idea how to use the towers in the future, the board decided that demolition was the best option.

Progress seemed smooth until a private developer came forward with a proposal for Indiana State University, asking to buy the towers to renovate them for apartments. ISU would then forfeit any rights to the property. In the meantime, a few unexpected residents moved into the towers.

On investigation, three falcons were found at the roof of one of the towers. These falcons were the first to hatch in 50 or 60 years in the Wabash Valley area. In mid-20th century, the peregrine falcons vanished from most of North America. Less than 50 years ago, nests along the Mississippi River disappeared. It is thought that the decline in population was due to the use of DDT pesticide. Should demolition continue with the Statesman Towers, a nesting box will be placed on another tall building on campus with hopes that the falcons will relocate.

Since the cost of renovating the towers for student residences was deemed too expensive, ISU decided to build Reeves Hall. ISU also partnered with Thompson Thrift Development on the construction of on-campus housing in a combined retail/housing complex on Wabash Avenue.

For now, the towers remain standing and the falcons get to keep their home.

“The Statesman Towers were set for demolition.

Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing
For the seventh annual Bat Festival, Indiana State University went over the top. The 800 visitors who attended the Bat Festival in the Science Building on Sept. 21, 2013, experienced hands-on games, crafts, activities and exhibits with live bats and extraordinary presentations. There were multiple festivities for all ages and this event was family-oriented. Children and adults visited with award-winning authors and artists, looked at science exhibits and took an educational bat walk at dusk. If you like to get your hands dirty, then you would have loved exploring a bat cave and learned how to garden for bats!

This festival continued at Fairbanks Park later in the evening, allowing adventuresome participants to experience bats in the wild. So why does Indiana State host this event? Rob Mies, TV personality, conservation biologist, bat expert, author and executive director of the Organization for Bat Conservation, spoke about the benefits of bats and other wildlife, the need for conservation and what can be done to protect biodiversity. Animals are presented in a way that will entertain, educate and engage. Bats are a necessity in any environment and contribute to our beautiful natural habitat. While entertainment is a common aspect of the festival, its goal is to encourage the public to understand and protect the environment and educate them about the devastating consequences for natural ecosystems and human economies should bat populations continue to decline around the world. The bat festival is sponsored by the Indiana State University Center for North American Research and Bat Conservation.

“The festival has been growing every year with people coming from out of state to visit. More and more families are coming to entertain their kids for free in a great educational way,” Mies said.

Left: Bat Festival participants got up close and personal with bat species in Indiana.

Right: Rob Mies hopes to cultivate curiosity, instead of fear, about the lives of bats.

Photos: Jon Garcia
Batty for bat boxes

Students and families gather for an eco-friendly workshop creating healthy habitats for Indiana bats.

By Esther Perisho

This spring, Indiana State hosted its first bat box building workshop at the Institute for Community Sustainability. In addition to helping participants build charming shelters for the bats of Indiana, the workshop also sought to inform about the role bats play in the environment.

“We get a lot of questions about bat boxes … so we thought it would be important to show people how to build a box so that they could build their own for their backyard or their farm,” said Joy O’Keefe, director of ISU’s Center for Bat Research. O’Keefe and three other Indiana State doctoral students directed the activity. After a brief introduction, the participants were soon bustling around the workspace, armed with hammers, wood and nails. Several families were in attendance. Under the guidance of their parents, the children worked with an intense diligence that can only be admired.

The boxes built in this workshop can hold a colony of approximately 100 bats each. Having such a colony in your backyard can be very useful, as the animals are one of nature’s top pest control specialists.

“Bats are voracious predators of insects. A pregnant female can eat up to her body weight in insects every night and so if you have a colony of 100 or 200 bats in your backyard, you may not have a mosquito or potato bug problem,” O’Keefe said.

Despite being so helpful, bats generally are held in a negative light. Scott Bergeson, one of the doctoral students helping with the activity, hopes that this workshop will clear up some misconceptions about bats.

“I think this project is important for the community and for bats,” Bergeson said. “… It also gets people more invested in bats, which are not as fearsome as people think.”

The finished bat boxes will offer a welcome shelter to bats, as the deforestation in Indiana has left them fewer places to roost. It is workshops like this one that will help establish the bat as not a frightening foe, but a useful ally.

“… This project is important for the community and for bats … which are not as fearsome as people think.”

- Scott Bergeson, ISU doctoral student
Top: Joy O’Keefe, director of ISU’s Center for Bat Research, shows off the final product.

Bottom: Student and staff volunteers dusted off their wood shop skills to build the bats new homes from scratch.

Photos: Kaylynn Sigler
The red, white and blue
State celebrates Constitution Day

By Sara Palmer

Sycamores are a patriotic bunch. Take Constitution Day, for example. On Sept. 27, 2013, ISU celebrated the 226th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution with day-long festivities to reflect on how far our country has come since that monumental day in 1787. Events included panel discussions on freedom of speech, talks on the importance of responsible citizenship and Constitution readings at the fountain.
Top: Julian Winborn gives a brief introduction to the Constitution.

Previous Page: Robert Ben-Zion Van Sickel, a political science professor, speaks to students about the Constitution and some of the upcoming cases for the Supreme Court.

Middle: A student expressing his First Amendment right by writing on the free speech wall.

Bottom Right: Nearly 100 students, faculty and staff participated in Constitution Day activities.

Photos: Jon Garcia
Can SLAVERY be UPROOTED by CONSTITUTIONAL means?

“So I say in relation to the principle that all men are created equal, let it be nearly reached as we can.”

February is dedicated to the honor and memory of the many people who have helped African-Americans achieve equal rights in the United States. Indiana State University has several events that educate students about African-American history. On Feb. 6, 2014, the Cunningham Memorial Library hosted an event that honored President Abraham Lincoln. This exhibit featured a draft of Lincoln’s first inaugural speech and photographs of original documents, such as the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment.

ISU also supported events off-campus. Terre Haute’s Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church played a historical role in the Underground Railroad. The church hosted an event to remember all of the runaway slaves the church helped reach freedom. They also celebrated Frederick Douglass for his part in helping to raise money for one of the earliest African-American children’s schools.

Back on the ISU campus, the Hulman Memorial Student Union observed Presidents Day and African-American history by showing the award-winning movie “Lincoln,” along with providing popcorn and drinks. The Brotherhood of Successful Scholars (B.O.S.S.) hosted the Night in Paris Ball, which raised money for the Minority Male Scholarship.

ISU understands that the best way to keep history from repeating itself is through education. Black History Month is a time to remember the people whose sacrifices for our freedom and to honor the struggles that they endured.

Left: The Cunningham Memorial Library held an interactive exhibit with more than half a dozen stands that created a walk-through timeline on President Abraham Lincoln and slavery in the United States. Photo: ISU Communications & Marketing

By Raelyn Francis
ISU student Makyla Thompson works out at the Rec Center three to four times a week.

Sycamores sweat it out

ISU’s students stay motivated to grow in mind and body at the recreational center.

By Esther Perisho

Loud music pumps in from speakers overhead. A young woman wipes sweat from her brow as she completes another lap on the indoor track. A group of men laugh as they kick a ball around the indoor soccer field. On any given day, from early in the morning to late in the night, you can walk into the Indiana State University Student Recreational Center and see students racing each other on stationary bikes, lifting weights in the massive free weight room or clocking miles on one of the dozens of treadmills and elliptical machines. With its flexible hours and variety of equipment, the Rec Center has made it easier for busy Sycamores to stay in shape. Makyla Thompson, a sophomore majoring in communication, is one of the many students taking advantage of the Rec Center’s resources in her mission to get fit.

“I was watching this music video and there were these dancers – really fit, professional dancers, and I was like, ‘I want to be like that,’” Thompson said. She has been visiting the center three to four times a week for the majority of
this academic year. In addition to using the broad variety of exercise equipment at the Rec Center, she also attends many of the center’s offered fitness classes such as yoga, cycling and Zumba.

While Thompson has achieved many of her fitness goals, she has still run into many obstacles, such as eating right.

“It’s not as easy as people think it is,” Thompson said on eating healthy food. “You may think, yeah, I’ll just eat fruit. But it isn’t as simple as that. It’s hard. ... It’s a lot harder when you’re a college student because there isn’t much variety in the foods offered on campus. And if they’re healthy, the food is nasty.”

Even though she has run into a few hurdles, Thompson has been able to jump over all of them by staying motivated.

“The way I stay motivated is by having my friends to support me,” Thompson said. She and her friends often work out together. She also listens to music and watches fitness videos on YouTube to keep herself inspired. After all her hard work, Thompson is very pleased with the progress she is making.

“I am seeing results that I want,” Thompson said. “I don’t feel weak like I used to. Like when I’m doing yoga and we have to stand in planks, I don’t feel tired quickly ... because I’m getting stronger.” Thompson has had to buy clothes in smaller sizes because she’s lost weight.

She has not only seen physical results, but mental results as well. “I smile a lot more now,” she said. “… I feel great.”

Thompson will continue to work on her fitness goals just as she continues to work on her academic goals. Although she is often busy, she still finds the time to exercise and find healthy eating options. Her success is a great example to any student who is considering taking the first step in improving their health and fitness.

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**Rec Center in a Nutshell**

- Elevated walking and jogging track
- Gymnasium with three courts
- Natatorium complete with lap pool, leisure pool, 22-person spa and water volleyball and basketball
  - Open 7 days a week
- Personal training and health assessments
- Massage therapy
- Cardio and strength-training equipment
- Intramural sports

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ISU student Makyla Thompson is pleased with the progress she is making at the Rec Center. 
*Photos: Jon Garcia*
After a seemingly endless winter, ISU celebrated spring with a week dedicated to doing what Sycamores do best – having fun and serving the community. During Spring Week, held April 7-13, 2014, student organizations get even more involved on campus through events like Sycamore Remix and Battleship. They also roll up their sleeves and tackle community needs through activities like Donaghy Day and Relay for Life.

Spring Week is essential in helping students make that final push to the end of the semester. It keeps them energized, active and, most of all, inspired. The Tandem Race is a great example of students getting outside and recharging their bodies from the winter hibernation. For graduating seniors, Spring Week is a way to remind them of the values they have learned at State – to be leaders who make a difference in the community.

This year started off with a horrible snowstorm that delayed even the first day of class for spring 2014. Sycamores had to deal with more than two months of constant snow, wind and below freezing temperatures. The winter was stressful and it showed on everyone’s faces. Spring Week helped to thaw out that chill, to bring some life back into weary students and inspire everyone, student, faculty and staff, to bloom and grow.
Sycamore Remix

Student organizations show off their personalities and get creative by designing a performance consisting of dance and lip-synching to the songs of their choice. A new rule this year required performers to have at least one song from the ‘70s. The artists ranged from Michael Jackson to The Who. More than 1,200 people were in the audience.
**Tandem Race**

An annual ISU event since 1970, where each tandem bike holds one male and one female rider. This year 10 organizations participated, as both groups and individuals, and 723 people attended the event.

1st Place
- Alpha Chi Omega
- Sigma Phi Epsilon

2nd Place
- Delta Gamma
- Alpha Tau Omega
- Lambda Chi Alpha

3rd Place
- Chi Omega
- Kappa Alpha
- Phi Kappa Psi
Donaghy Day

During this universitywide biannual community service event, students sign up for a location to help out more than 30 nonprofit organizations. Theta Chi had 51 percent in attendance. Overall, 250 people volunteered their time and 170 of the attendees were Greek.
Blue Fun Run

A mile run/walk event is a chance to bring the university together in a fun activity. Everyone is encouraged to wear blue to show off their Sycamore pride.

The Blue Fun Run/Walk was held April 5, 2014, at 10 a.m. at Rec East. This event was hosted by the Student Wellness Initiative, Employee Wellness and SGA.
Battleship

The concept is simple, the execution is hard. Sink another team’s boat using only buckets to fill the boats with water. Contestants were allotted two sinks before disqualification. Roughly 500 people attended and 23 ISU organizations participated. Three rounds were held, then the final two duked it out for the winning spot. The winner of the event was Phi Delta Theta and runner-up was Alpha Tau Omega.