



NEWSWATCH

Vol. 2020-21 No. 5

December 2020

**Next meeting: 2 p.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2021
via Zoom**

Davis-Ajami to speak about nursing

No surprise here: Merriam-Webster has named “pandemic” its Word of the Year. The pandemic has focused attention on the vital importance of nurses. When retirees Zoom together Jan. 13, **Mary Lynn Davis-Ajami**, associate dean of IU School of Nursing, will talk about the pandemic’s impact on the nursing profession. She will also discuss what changes IU’s Regional Academic Health Center will make to the nursing program. The health center, along with IU Health Bloomington, is scheduled to open in 2021.



Dr. Davis-Ajami has had a roundabout route to her current position. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing at the University of Evansville and graduated as a family nurse practitioner from the second class of master’s of nursing students at the University of Southern Indiana.

Life led to a detour from nursing. After serving in intensive care units, she worked for a Fortune 500 finance firm before earning her MBA at Wake Forest University. “I noticed that corporate culture focused on outcomes, efficiency, and effectiveness,” she says. “I realized I could use my experience from that company in the health care arena.”

She has managed multiple outpatient clinics, and her research has used national databases to focus on cost and quality outcomes in complex chronic disease cases.

After receiving her Ph.D. from Ohio State University, Dr. Davis-Ajami taught at the University of Maryland and Virginia Commonwealth University. She joined the IU faculty in 2017 as associate professor and was appointed associate dean, in charge of the School of Nursing’s Bloomington campus, shortly thereafter.

Please join us Jan. 13 to hear about the challenges facing the nursing profession today.

Bicentennial changes campus look

With students gone from campus until February, retirees might well want to explore some changes that the IU’s Bicentennial has wrought. Several historical markers have made their appearance, along with a statue and a portrait that are part of the Bicentennial Bridging the Visibility Gap project.

Shortly before the campus closed this spring, a portrait of the late world-renowned opera singer Camilla Williams was unveiled Feb. 5 in the Indiana Memorial Union East Lounge. In 1977 Williams joined the School of Music’s voice department as its first Black faculty member.

A historical marker placed in October close to the main entrance of Maxwell Hall celebrates the Groups Scholars Program. This program began in 1968 with the twin goals of recruiting disadvantaged students and supporting them to the completion of their degrees. From a pilot with 43 students in 1968, the program served nearly 13,000 historically underrepresented and first-generation students during its first 50 years.



The first statue of a woman on the Bloomington campus honors pioneering scholar Elinor “Lin” Ostrom, the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in economics. The statue, behind Woodburn Hall, joined a historical marker placed in October 2019. At the dedication of the statue Nov. 12, the area behind Woodburn Hall was named the Ostrom Commons.

Michael McAuley, who also created the Hoagy Carmichael sculpture, spent nine months working on the Ostrom sculpture, which is cast in bronze.

Two other historical markers were placed in October. One, at the Indiana Avenue entrance to Franklin Hall, marks the campus studio of Indiana artist T.C. Steele. In a pioneering artistic residency, Steele served as honorary professor of painting from 1922 to 1926. In



his spacious campus studio, located on the top floor of the University Library (now Franklin Hall), Steele welcomed students to visit him during his six-month annual residency over the winter. The campus has acquired more than 75 of his works.

A marker at the north entrance to Swain Hall East (formerly Biology Hall) honors Alfred Kinsey, who, according to the plaque, “revolutionized the scientific study of sexual behavior and provoked a national conversation about sexuality.”



Markers installed in 2019 include:

- Collins Living-Learning Center, “a national leader in high-impact residential education centered on self-governance, the arts, and sustainability since 1972”;
- *Hess v. Indiana*, inside Maurer School of Law library, “an important case for its protection of speech that does not incite immediate unlawful action”; and
- University Lake, built in 1911 to ensure an adequate water supply for the campus, thus ending fears that the university would move to Indianapolis.

As part of the celebration, the university conferred nearly 800 Bicentennial Medals, “in recognition of distinguished and distinctive service in support of the mission of Indiana University.” IURA members who received medals include **Doug Bauder, Dick Bauman, Ken Beckley, Bonnie Brownlee, Terry Clapacs, Pam Freeman, Steve Gottlieb, Jim and Joyce Grandorf, Ralph Gray, John Hobson, Bruce Jaffee, Tony Mobley, Pat Ryan, Edson Sample, Judy Schroeder, Max Skirvin, and Sue Talbot.**



IU Document Services, which copies and mails *NewsWatch*, also received a medal. The bells rescued from the tower after the 1990 Student Building fire were melted down to make the medals.

Within striking distance of goal

At the Dec. 9 meeting IURA Secretary **Perry Maull** announced that 153 IURA members have contributed \$221,770 to our United Way goal of \$275,000. To underscore IURA's importance to the United Way fund drive's success, Perry pointed out that last year the United Way raised \$1.1 million. IU accounted for \$783,000 of that, and IURA was responsible for \$277,000 of IU's total.

"IURA is an important part of the university's efforts to help the community," said President **Charlie Matson**, "and the need is great."

Brother William shares rule of threes

At the Dec. 9 meeting of the IURA, **William Morris**, host of WFIU's *Soul Kitchen*, discussed what he called the "epistemological paradigm" that guides his life as lawyer, disc jockey, and ordained Episcopal deacon. His own rule of threes points up what he termed "the intersectionality of faith, law, and music."

He finds inspiration in a code of behavior outlined by Aunt Betsey Trotwood in *David Copperfield*: "Never be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel. Avoid those three vices ... and I can always be hopeful of you."

William's Aunt Gladys had her own rule of three, he said. Besides the four-letter words parents and teachers outlaw, Aunt Gladys said there were three *five*-letter words that were even worse: blame, shame, and guilt. "Those three words can weigh us down," she said.

William's rule of threes applies also to the music he plays, "tunes with a groove and music with a message": gospel, soul, and rock and roll.

In introducing the speaker, IURA Vice President and Program Chair **Doug Porter** said, "When you talk to William for the first time, it is like catching up with an old friend. His warmth, congeniality, approachability, and humor will draw you in. When you listen to his radio show, you will swear that the playlist was compiled just for you. It will be 'Hey, I remember that song!' or 'How could I have forgotten that song?' or 'Wow, that song is perfect for this particular moment in time.'"

Bearing out Doug's introduction, William chose two pieces of music to illustrate his philosophy of life. The first, Dolly Parton's "When Life Is Good Again," is particularly apt for today. "When life is good again, I'll be a better friend," Dolly promises. "We've been brought to our knees," she sings, but "this too shall pass away." We need to change our ways and right our wrongs, she says. "Open our arms and let the whole world in: Let's try to make amends when life is good again."

William also shared "Pop's Recipe," by gospel singer Mavis Staples: "Accept responsibility/Don't forget humility/At every opportunity/Serve your artistry/Don't subscribe to bigotry, hypocrisy, duplicity/Respect humanity/That's Pop's recipe, y'all."

Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready," as recorded by the Chambers Brothers, would complete William's rule of three. Inspired by the March on Washington, Mayfield's song offered a message of redemption, forgiveness, and hope. This message resonates with William. "My favorite word in the English language is *encourage*," he said, "and *courage* is a very important part of that."

William puts his faith into action. In addition to his disc jockey job, William practices what he calls "underdog law" in Bloomington, specializing in housing and employment discrimination.

How did he come to "Soul Kitchen"? When he taught English as a second language at IU, William enjoyed taking international students on tours of the Courthouse Square, visiting the courts and explaining the justice system. He also took them to volunteer organizations. "When I heard the spiel at WFHB, I thought, 'This is for me.' When someone couldn't take his Tuesday afternoon shift, I filled in. It was like Lou Gehrig stepping in for Wally Pipp." Then, when Joe Bourne retired, William was asked to join

IU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 8393
Bloomington, IN 47407-8393

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Bloomington, IN
Permit No. 2

WFIU. It's been such a good fit, he said, that there's an effort to syndicate the show nationally.

William attended college on a football scholarship. He also played baseball and was a track champion in high school. For two years he was sports editor for the college newspaper. Athletics, therefore, is important to him. "There are so many points of inspiration," he said. "At the end of the game, you get tired, but you got to keep going. Sports teaches that lesson well."

A video link to the December meeting is available at <https://bit.ly/brotherwilliam>. As long as the IURA is meeting on Zoom, Webmaster **Allan Edmonds** is posting video links on the Events page at iura.indiana.edu.

Here's your membership directory

Included with the December *Newswatch* is a membership directory, compiled by **Doris Wittenburg**, IURA database manager. The directory contains information for the IURA's 444 members. Last year the directory included 408 members. In 2018 there were 453 members, 419 in 2017, 421 in 2016, and 379 in 2015.

Telephone numbers and email addresses appear only for people who opted to include them in the directory. Couples with different last names are listed under both last names. Because the directory is for

members only, it is not being distributed in electronic form. It is being mailed with the newsletter, even to those who have requested email delivery of *Newswatch*. Email delivery will begin with the January issue. Address corrections should be sent to Doris at dwittenb@indiana.edu.

Editor **Judy Schroeder** writes *Newswatch* eight times a year (nine in 2021). For comments or corrections, please contact her at jschroed@indiana.edu.

A special gift to members

The IURA will meet by Zoom in March, the IURA board decided at its Dec. 2 meeting. As far back as anyone can remember, there have been no March meetings. The explanation: such a meeting would take place during the university's spring break and retirees too would be on vacation. But COVID-19 and the cancellation of IU's 2021 spring break obviate that logic. The board, therefore, approved the expenditures involved in producing an additional newsletter.

