



# the LINK

FOR THE ALUMNI OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

Spring 2007

## Inside this edition:

- ◆ Faculty Spotlight  
Dr. B. Gail Wilson
- ◆ COMM 475 - Senior Portfolio  
Presentation
- ◆ Featured Alumni
- ◆ Alumni Connections



## Our Mission Statement

As a professional and theoretical emphasis area of higher learning, the Department of Communications Media of IUP is committed to the creation, preservation, expansion and transmission of knowledge. The Department has the responsibility to include, within its concern, the needs of the profession as a whole and the society at large as its resources allow. In meeting these responsibilities, the department is committed to preparing students for communications professions. In doing so, it offers quality undergraduate programs in which students learn to design, produce and evaluate media messages.

## Contact the department

The Communications Media Department  
121 Stouffer Hall  
1175 Maple Street  
Indiana, PA 15705-1087

Phone: (724) 357 2492  
Fax: (724) 357 5503

<http://www.coe.iup.edu/cm>

# Meet the Faculty...

## Dr. B Gail Wilson

Dr. B. Gail Wilson grew up on a farm in northern Kentucky, where her family grew tobacco and raised beef cattle. She attended Morehead State University where she received her bachelor's degree in Radio and Television. After graduation she was hired by MSU to work at the university's radio station, WMKY-FM, a 50,000 watt NPR affiliated public radio station. She continued her education at Morehead State University, where she received a Master's Degree in Communications and Journalism. Dr. Wilson was the first in her family to receive her Doctorate which she earned at the University of Pittsburgh and graduated in 1992.

Dr. Wilson began teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1986 as an Instructor of Communications Media. As her education and experience teaching increased she was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and now is a Professor in the Communications Media Department.

Dr. Wilson teaches many classes including Broadcast News-writing, Scriptwriting, Media Presentation Skills, Promotion for Radio, TV, and Cable, and Senior Portfolio Presentation. There are also numerable other classes that she has taught in her 20 years at IUP making her a very popular teacher with the Communications Media students.



However, when she is not holding class or grading papers, you can usually find her outdoors. Dr. Wilson loves to garden, hike with her husband, and mountain bike ride. Also, Dr. Wilson can be found with her nose in a good novel or cheering on her favorite basketball team. GOOOO Kentucky Wildcats!

Dr. Wilson has a very unique teaching style that benefits many students. Her thorough instruction allows students to produce material that will not only earn them good grades, but will assist them in their career. Dr. Wilson believes in a "hands on" style of teaching, her students have proved to learn most when learning the material from experimenting themselves.

Dr. Wilson contributes her time and efforts to many organizations on campus. One of these organizations is the Liberal Studies Committee and the Liberal Studies Revision Committee (LSRSC). The LSRSC is working diligently to revise the Liberal Studies requirements for the entire university. Dr. Wilson has been part of the committee for the past three years and has a part-time appointment in the Liberal Studies Office to help with the revision process.

# COMM 475 Senior Portfolio Presentation

After the first week in March, you cannot help but stumble over the nearly 130 portfolios in Dr. Wilson 's office. Her Senior Portfolio Presentation class teaches students how to effectively arrange their work samples to show to potential employers.

This class is only offered in the spring semester. It meets two days a week until spring break. The one credit course is set up to end early in the semester so students will have their portfolios completed for internship and job interviews during the spring break.

Dr. Wilson has received positive feedback from students who claim that their finished portfolio placed them above the competition. For example, David Dibert stated that, "Both sites that I interviewed with found the hard copy portfolio highly informative and helpful to them. They also said that having the portfolio set me apart from others interviewing, and it is my belief that having the electronic and hard copy set me apart even further, and I am grateful for having the portfolio and will continue to use it."

She teaches her students how to design their portfolios to match their career interest. Students interested in TV and Radio use samples of their audio work or TV productions. Students interested in photography have enlarged pictures of their best photos while students interested in Public Relations tend to focus more on writing samples.

Dr. Wilson teaches her students not only how to create a very professional looking portfolio, but also how to present the finished project. After students have completed the assignment, they are required to set up a mock interview with Dr. Wilson and present their work. Each student is able to personalize his final work by making dividers with their own designs.

The final portfolio has many different samples and includes work from broadcasting, graphics, photography, and gaming.



Dr. Wilson requires her students to present their material in leather binders with contents correctly labeled and divided by subjects. The paper and ink is of good quality which adds to the professionalism of their portfolios. Along with samples of their work is their resume, cover letter, recommendation letter, and a reference listing.

After all portfolios are submitted, the students compete with each other for the department' s Klingensmith award. The award is presented to the student with the best portfolio. As in years past, the award will be presented to the student at commencement.

“Dr. Wilson is always capable, prepared, and takes her work seriously.”

Dr. Kurt Dudd  
Department Chairperson

## Featured Alumni



Melanie graduated from IUP in 1996 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications Media. She is thankful for the one-on-one teaching style in her core classes that provided her with experience and knowledge that she highly values. Melanie appreciates every professor and advisor that was willing to answer her questions on and off the clock. She also thinks that the extra-curricular activities offered by the Communications Media department prepared her for her career. Melanie participated in an entertainment show at WIUP-TV and was also part of a show at WIUP-FM. Both of these activities helped her put textbook knowledge into real world use.

Currently she is the morning traffic reporter for WTAE TV. She works very early every morning, 5am-9am on air. Her day starts at 3am and ends around 10am. She reports seven times an hour in the 5am and 6am live shows on traffic in every part of several Pittsburgh counties. She also participates in reports during Good Morning America from 7am-9am.

She is also contributing to the first all weather and traffic channel for Comcast Digital cable which will be the first 24 hour local weather and traffic station.

"I have no doubt in my mind that if I hadn't had the courage to work at the TV and radio station on campus I would not be where I am today." Melanie feels her participation in the TV and radio groups gave her great instruction. She is very thankful for her advisor, Dr. Wilson, for her assistance in her internship at WQED TV in TV editing and local radio work at the former WESA radio in Charleroi, PA. "When the majority of my friends were working 10-hour day jobs over the summer, I was out learning my field for no pay."

In Melanie's free time she is kept busy with her two-year old daughter Quinn Arabella. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her daughter and husband. She also teaches adult hip-hop dance class. Melanie loves reading a good book, going for walks and getting together with friends to watching a good movie.

## Alumni Connections

### Jim Duzyk

Jim graduated from IUP in 1997 and then went on to earn his Master's in Business Administration at Robert Morris University. Jim believes his experience at a 4 year college helped him to grow up. His experience at IUP allowed him to look to peers and professors for mentorship. The time management skills he gained while at IUP really helped him to be successful in his career.

Jim's time at IUP was devoted to being successful in his classes as well as extra-curricular activities. Being involved on campus helped him not only be an active citizen, but helped him in the field of Communications Media.

Jim is the Sports Information Director for Robert Morris University. RMU is a Division I sports association with 23 intercollegiate programs which keeps Jim very busy. Jim's job is to release team information to the public. He deals with the media on a daily basis and creates press releases and publications. He recently redesigned the RMU website for the sports teams. (<http://rmucolonials.com>)

His experience at IUP is a direct correlation of his success. He participated in the school newspaper, the PENN, for 4 years. His work with a sports professor helped him receive an internship and "get his feet wet." In his free time Jim likes to spend time with his family, hike, mountain bike, enjoy nature and friends.



# Alumni Connections

## Mike Skultety

In 1986, Mike graduated with a Bachelor 's Degree in Communications Media degree. He believes that his experience in the work force has furthered his education and that he is always being more educated. IUP prepared him to work for a company like Apple Solutions because of intense training in the new digital technology. He learned things like video editing, audio editing, photography, and music while studying at IUP.

Mike is a consultant for Apple Solutions. His job includes training within the team of CompUSA, assisting in sales, marketing, merchandising, education of team members and management, as well as conflict resolution within technical support.

Mike associates his career success with the education he received at IUP. He believes that the Communications Media faculty taught him leadership skills which enabled him to be successful.

He spends a lot of his free time at Blue Ridge Parkway on his bicycle with a camera in hand.



Jim Duzyk



Mike Skultety



Dominic DiDominico

## Dominic DiDominico

Dominic is a 1991 IUP graduate and has worked in the field of videography since 1985. He worked for WJAC in Johnstown, WGAL in Lancaster, and WPXI in Pittsburgh.

IUP taught him many skills that made him successful in his career. When he attended IUP, videotape was popular and students were learning the new technology "on the fly."

Dominic remembers how students worked together to learn the new technology with the trial and error method. The production classes gave him hands on experience that allowed him to be successful. He says "textbook knowledge is great, but being in the field and learning from experience is the best knowledge one can learn."

Dominic is retired and spends time taking digital pictures, going to car shows and keeping an open mind to learn technology everyday.



IUP 's New Mascot  
The Crimson Hawks

## Contact the Department

The Communications Media Department  
121 Stouffer Hall  
1175 Maple Street  
Indiana, PA 15705-1087

Phone: (724) 357 2492  
Fax: (724) 357 5503

<http://www.coe.iup.edu/cm>

This edition of "the LINK" was designed by Nicole Novak, undergraduate in the Communications Media Department.  
Editing by Mary Ann Rapach. For information on the AECT program, please visit <http://www.coe.iup.edu/aect/>

IUP Communications Media Department wishes Mary Ann Rapach  
A Happy Retirement



25 years in the Communications  
Media Department  
35 years at IUP

You Will Be Missed