

the preface

IU South Bend's official student newspaper

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Justin Chupp, the new face of the SGA

By NICK WORT
Staff Writer
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IU South Bend's Student Government Association (SGA) has a new president and a new face in: Justin Chupp. Formerly an SGA senator, Chupp plans on leading the association and the student body towards a sharper focus on student involvement and towards increased cooperation between on-campus clubs and organizations.

"I really love to be the change that I want to see and I love leadership. I think that this is an opportunity to really serve the student body as well as the IU system," Chupp said. "I really enjoyed being involved with student government as a senator over this last year, and I believe that I can help make a difference here on campus by representing the student body's voice and making sure that their voice is represented both in committees and also university-wide."

Chupp's new position within the SGA was not the only change in the association. Four of the 12 senators are completely new to the SGA. The other eight are returning to the roles they held last year.

"I'm really looking forward to this year and the amount of leaders that we have in student government this year. They're excited about making a difference," Chupp said. "The Student Government Association is not there to represent themselves, but the student body as a whole. And we really encourage students to become engaged in the meetings as well as reaching out to their elected representatives to continue to let their voices be heard."

Chupp plans on focusing his time as SGA president on increasing student life and stu-



dent involvement on campus, as well as helping increase communication between students and organizations on campus.

"I think that one of the things is really working with students, faculty and administration. Kind of collaborating and having conversations on campus about things that are important to the student body. That way we can work together and really help move this campus forward towards its needs," Chupp said.

One way the SGA hopes to improve student awareness and input is by creating town hall-like events on campus. At these events, students would be able to communicate directly with the SGA, as well as IUSB's deans and the chancellor. Chupp noted that this idea is not set in stone and is currently not up and running, has yet to come to life, but it has been favorably received by many of those who would be involved.

"I know it's difficult sometimes for students to feel like their voices are actually heard at that level. And so I believe that that is something that I would personally like to look into," Chupp said.

Working with clubs is also an important goal for the SGA this year, as well as trying to create ways for IUSB's various clubs to come together and organize.

"As always, you want to move forward, and one way of doing that is helping clubs collaborate with each other and create partnerships in similar events," Chupp said. "Events where they can come together and maybe bring both sides together, which might attract more of a variety of students."

One proposed plan is the Titan Tour. This program's specifics are still being finalized, but it will work towards increasing student involvement on campus and increasing club communication. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about this program in the coming weeks as it is unveiled and finished. The program will also receive support from Titan Productions.

"It is very encouraging, as I work with faculty, administration, as well as other student leaders here on campus, Chupp said. "There's a lot of enthusiasm for this year moving forward and a lot of enthusiasm for collaborating together. I think that this is very beneficial in helping everyone continue to find areas that need improvement as well as helping us leverage each other when needed."

Chupp also pointed out that the SGA can be a great resource for the many incoming freshman.

"New students should know that the Student Government Association is a position of service and not a position of power," Chupp stated. "Their voices are valuable to us. I hope they believe that they can make a difference and I hope they see that they can utilize the SGA to continue to push their ideas."

SGA meetings are held almost every Friday. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for noon, with the possibility for meetings at 1 p.m. The SGA can be contacted by e-mail at iusbgsa@gmail.com, or by phone at 574-520-5572.

Justin Chupp, SGA President for the 2014 - 2015 school year
Photo provided/Justin Chupp

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Delay in 21st Century Scholarships and Frank O'Bannon grants due to States system update

By: BREANNA GALLEGOS
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There have been many students wondering why the disbursement of the state's 21st Century Scholarship and the Frank O'Bannon grants has been delayed. After talking to Cynthia Lang, associate director of financial aid and scholarships at IU South Bend, the answer is simple.

The system update for the state's new changes caused the delay, which also led to the delay of aid to IUSB. The state's system updated because of the changes made within the 21st Century Scholarship. Starting this year, incoming freshman are now required to take 30 credit hours a school year. Indiana's 15 to Finish program makes it possible for them to graduate within the four-year timeline. This change within the scholarship required the state to update

their system.

An email from Mary Jane Michalak, associate commissioner of student financial aid with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, also sheds more light on the situation.

"To renew and remain eligible for the maximum student financial aid award, students receiving the Higher Education Award, the Freedom of Choice Award or the 21st Century Scholars Award must complete at least 30 credit hours each year," Michalak wrote. "Students who complete at least 24 credit hours during their first year may still be eligible for state financial aid, but will receive an amount that is less than students who complete 30 credit hours." The issue at IUSB's end appears to be clearing up.

"We believe to have received all the files we need and we will have remaining rewards posted as soon as possible," Lang stated.

"The primary reason for the tech-

nology issues we experienced relates to changes made in the state financial aid system, which require institutions to report credit hour completion information for some students," read an email, in part, which was sent to impacted students. "The renewal of state financial aid is contingent upon students completing a certain number of credits, and therefore, this information was critical to the creation of awards for those students. This is the first year these credit hour requirements are in place, and the computer programming associated with the change has been significant. Our delays impacted institutions, and ultimately, you."

If 21st Century Scholars have any questions, contact Michelle Hairston at the Making the Academic Connection Office 574-520-4479. You can also contact student financial aid with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education directly at Awards@che.in.gov or by phone at 888-528-4719.

LGBT at IUSB

How IU South Bend stacks up against IU Bloomington

By: LATORIA LAND
Staff Writer

If anyone were to take a look around an Indiana University campus, the large amount of diversity within the student body and faculty would be very apparent. The IU system holds a reputation for accepting people regardless of race, religion, age, background or sexual orientation. This open arms approach has been noticed by many and recently earned IU Bloomington recognition as one of the top 50 LGBT-friendly colleges and universities of 2014 by Campus Life.

The accolade highlights the campus' commitment to a supportive atmosphere for the LGBT community. Many of the students and faculty members at IU South Bend feel that their campus provides a supportive environment as well.

The incorporation of the Campus Ally Network (C.A.N.), the support of the women and gender studies department and programs that promote awareness all help to foster an LGBT-friendly environment. Kevin Gillen, speech communications professor at IU South Bend and co-leader of C.A.N., has witnessed an overwhelming increase of support for the LGBT community over the 12 years that he has been teaching on campus. Gillen feels that this is due to "more exposure for the women and gender studies program, and other classes and courses that are more current with variable top-

ics." These courses can aid in promoting awareness and acceptance of diversity.

According to Gillen, the C.A.N. organization strives to educate and "create a safe haven for anybody questioning anything to do with their sexuality." They offer educational training sessions both on campus and via Oncourse during the fall and spring. The organization sometimes partners with the women and gender studies department and other local programs such as the GLBT Resource Center of Michiana to make a positive impact in the area.

"IU South Bend is friendlier than other campuses that I visited in the past," said IUSB senior Russell Williams.

Williams believes groups like C.A.N. help to bolster an already accepting campus attitude, although he feels the university still holds room for improvement when raising the awareness of the community.

"A lot of people may not know what LGBT means in specific terms or may have a lot of misconceptions," Williams said. "Anything in the community would help," explained Gillen, including "more exposure and transparency."

He encourages anyone with questions to look up the C.A.N. organization on the IU homepage or to contact the women and gender studies program directly. Gillen feels positively about the LGBT relationship on campus and advises the best way to create a friendly environment is for the community "not to see the LGBT people as different, but just see them as people."

Sustainability and Wellness Club to host garden party

Gardening, hot wings and friends. Students looking for a relaxing event Monday, Sep. 8 should stop by IU South Bend's very own unity garden. The event will be from 4-6 p.m. with the help of Goshen College's Sustainability Leadership Certificate Program. Students will be able to help with harvesting, pull weeds, spread mulch and learn more about sustainability. Students will also be able to enjoy dinner including pizza, hot wings, fresh fruit and vegetables. Check out our webpage at iusbpreface.net or like us on Facebook for full coverage of this event.

Secular Student Alliance gets new president, joins national alliance

By: RYAN LOHMAN
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The IU South Bend Secular Student Alliance introduced its new president at a meet-and-greet Monday, Aug. 25 in the club room of the Student Activity Center.

Robyn Black, a graduate student of liberal studies, took the helm of the organization for its second year on campus and has already made some big changes.

At the meeting, Black said that the national Secular Student Alliance, a network of secular student groups throughout the country, asked her to lead the IU South Bend chapter after she spoke at their conference in Columbus, Ohio last summer.

"I was invited as a speaker and our regions coordinator was in attendance," Black said. "She approached me to restart the student group, because the three students working on the project last year all graduated."

According to Black, the Secular Student Alliance that existed on campus last year lost all of its leadership and lapsed at the end of the spring semester before affiliating the group with the national alliance. However, her meetings with representatives at the conference finally yielded this affiliation.

"Because I attended this conference, I was given access to numerous resources to assist in building and running a student group," Black said. "I also affiliated the group with the national Secular Student Alliance and the Center for Inquiry to bring more resources to campus."

Those resources have already included a banner with the group's name and literature to distribute to those with questions for the group – questions they can ask when the alliance holds its ask-an-atheist day, one of the few events Black already had in the works by the time of the meeting.

Six others attended the meeting, which was informal and inviting. Members sat in a circle and spoke at will. After introductions, each member told the story of how they came to support the secular cause. The specter of creationism, the biblical explanation for the origins of the world, loomed large in the discussion. Most of the members raised concerns about it being taught alongside evolution within Indiana high schools. Members also expressed the need for community among secular students.

The 2014 Secular Student Alliance national meeting in Columbus, Ohio at which Black spoke.
Photo provided/ Robyn Black.



«Skeptics, freethinkers,

atheists, non-theists, humanists, secular humanists

and all other students interested in maintaining the wall between church and state are invited to attend our meetings, events and lectures»

- Robyn Black, Secular Student Alliance president

The students who spoke identified as atheists, although Black said she intends to create a larger umbrella for members to join under.

"Skeptics, freethinkers, atheists, non-theists, humanists, secular humanists and all other students interested in maintaining the wall between church and state are invited to attend our meetings, events and lectures," Black said.

According to Black, students can expect to see lecturers stopping at IUSB who would otherwise have skipped South Bend on the way to Bloomington, a result of the new affiliation with the national alliance, along with the Center for Inquiry, an Amherst, New York-based charitable organization.

No speaker is currently scheduled, but Black said she intends to have more information by the next meeting, which will be held in September. For more information about the Secular Student Alliance, its schedule of meetings and to see a video of Black speaking at the conference, visit @SSAatIUSB on Twitter.

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Titan Productions: on campus entertainment for all of Fall

By: NICK WORT
Staff Writer
 @nickwort

Titan Productions, IU South Bend's programming board has a busy semester ahead of them, with new and returning events all throughout September and October.

"We combine the elements of the fun college experience of campus events with their underlying academic aspects," said Sirena Barrell, Executive Producer of Titan Productions. "We create opportunities for students to connect their classroom experiences with their outside of the classroom experiences. We try to help students identify with campus."

Barrell began helping Titan Productions as a volunteer, and she stressed the importance of volunteers to the organization.

"We're a smaller school and we don't bring lots of acts in. Students can volunteer and we don't turn people away. We're not about excluding, were about including and bringing everyone together," Barrell said. "Even if you aren't a paid employee you are just as important as I am."

Though Titan Productions creates many events on their own, they also frequently collaborate with other clubs and organizations on campus.

"We're very open to having people come and share their ideas, we like students to bring their ideas for campus programs and events" Barrell said.

"There are a lot of clubs and organizations on campus, and i know we advertise a bit more than a lot of them, but that doesn't mean we don't want to know who they are," Barrell said. "We try to collaborate with as many people as possible and it usually works because our name is a little more well known."

Students can look forward to a variety of events from Titan Productions throughout the semester, with a large amount of events during IUSB's Spirit Week. While Spirit Week begins on September 28, Titan Production's events begin on the 27 with a community service event in partnership with Unity Gardens. Other spirit week events include the Make a Wish With the Chan-



Students get splashed with color at the Titan Splash event for Welcome Week. Though this event was put on by the Office of Student Life, Titan productions assisted.

Preface photo/Nick Wort

cellor annual event, a volleyball tailgate, an open mic night and the Nearly Naked Mile.

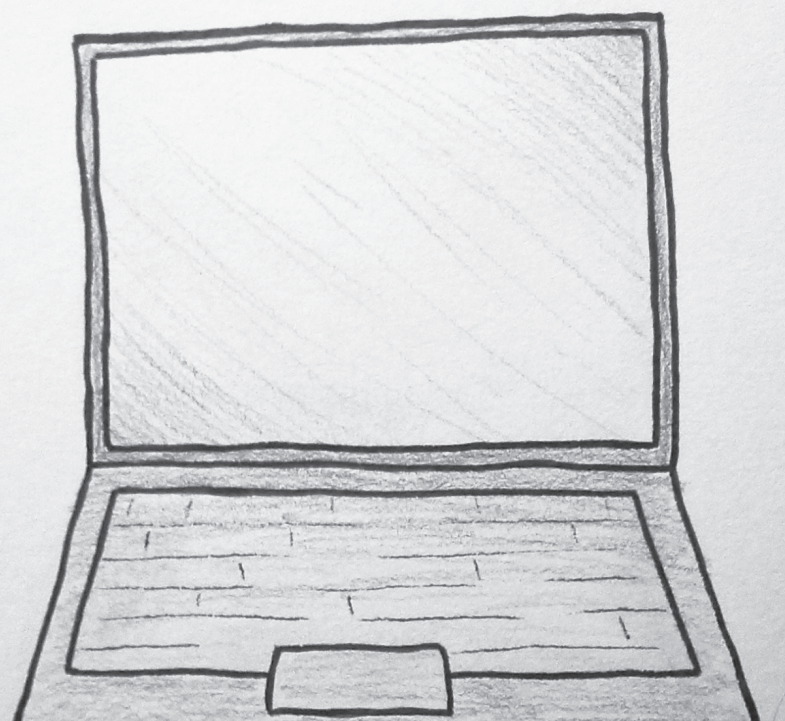
Titan Production's will also be bringing back Trivia Night on September 18, with another night expected in the spring semester. Other fall events include a still unnamed comedian, and an LGBT awareness event in October, with more details coming throughout September.

The organization will also be partnering with the Greek Council for the Greek Olympics. These games will be composed of various activities for clubs and small groups of students to compete in including life size water pong and an obstacle course.

Titan Productions meets every Friday at 3 p.m., these meetings are open to the student body. For specific information on any of these events, or for more information on Titan Productions, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/TitanProPresents or their Twitter at twitter.com/iusbtitan_pro.

IUSB ADVENTURES

procrastination machine



By Traci Bremer

Titan of the week: Lexi Millard

By LESLIE LESTINSKY
Staff Writer
 @2WriteLoveLilly

My quest to shine a light on IU South Bend's best and brightest has brought me to senior Lexi Millard this week. I met her in the charismatic gender studies lounge of Wiekamp Hall. Within the lounge, you will see a hollowed out television, filled with Barbies as well as several other dolls lined up and creatively costumed to emulate feminist issues. The room itself so uniquely parallels Millard's fascinating personality.

Where is your Hometown?

Goshen. I've lived in Goshen basically my whole life, home-schooled.

What is your major and how did you land on that choice?

I'm an English major with a gender studies minor. I was originally a computer technology major at Ivy Tech, graduated and I hated it. I hated my job. So I was pushed to come back by one of my friends that goes here. Originally, I came in as a creative writing major and was going to try to write comic books. But before I got here, the professor that offered the comic book course decided to never offer the class again so that kind of screwed up some of my plans. I ended up taking some literary courses and just kind of fell in love with it. Turned out, I was naturally good at it. It was something I fit in with quickly. For a while I was thinking I would still do a computer science minor so I could still market myself, but then I decided to screw that and just go with a gender studies minor. I decided to focus on personal growth skills versus practical skills, because really a degree doesn't necessarily give you a job in your field, anyway. Why not focus on something I love and I'm interested in rather than following the flow and becoming a business major or whatever because supposedly that will pay the bills?

How do you stand out around campus?

I've been fortunate enough to be made aware by my professors of academic opportunities around campus. There's the undergraduate research journal, conferences at other universities and grants you can get to write papers over the summer, which I've done twice now. There are research prizes that give you money. Basically, what makes me different is that I've taken back as

much money as I've spent going to school here by getting grants and research prizes and such. There are opportunities to make college pay you back a little bit which is nice.

Do you have any plans on the horizon, post-college?

Yeah, graduate school. I'm hoping to get my PhD in literature and really be a pretentious bastard, even more so than I already am. I try to stay down-to-earth, but I can't! Looking at a lot of places. The big ones are Rutgers, UCLA, University of Michigan and Bloomington.

How do you want to leave your mark on IUSB?

School is about more than just practical skills. Most people are going to college because you're taught that's how you get a job. To me, college has been much more about finding something I'm passionate about, finding something that makes me basically a better me - makes me a better person in the community. I did the practical skills thing, I did the computer technology. I got a job that paid 40-hours-a-week and it was terrible - one of the worst experiences of my life, actually. I think that, yes, I'm paying however much in order to do this self-discovery thing, but it's way more worth it in the long run than getting a job that I hate and will probably quit eventually. Trying to think of school as something more than an investment in a career, but an investment in self.

What is your favorite thing about IUSB?

Oh, easily my favorite thing is the freakin' people here! Professors, students, staff. The food service people are amazing. Everyone here -- at least those that I've interacted with -- is good people, accepting people and brilliant people. There are tons and tons of smart people that are really great to know.

Least favorite?

Well, my reflex is to say parking. The parking is the worst thing in the universe.

So tell me, what are you reading, watching, listening to right now?

So I don't actually read a lot for pleasure, even though I'm an English major. I read a lot for school, so I've wandered away from that. I look forward to doing that in the down-



Lexi Millard (@BrazenAndQueer) takes it easy in the gender studies lounge of Wiekamp Hall.
Preface photo/ Leslie Lestinsky

time between undergrad and graduate school. As far as watching and listening to, I've gotten way into riot girl music from early '90s. Heavens to Betsy, Bikini Kill, Sleater-Kinney and that was kind of sparked because I'm a huge video gamer. I don't remember my final count, but I beat like 30 games over the summer. That's all I did outside of my summer research. There's a game called "Gone Home" that has riot girl music all the way through it and it's wonderful. Also, I finally started catching up with Adventure Time on Cartoon Network. Basically it's episodic, but somehow they're still able to tell a long story arch and it's crazy and I love it. You don't expect it from a kids' cartoon. It's wicked smart. It's got feminist issues, LGBT issues in it and handles them really well.

What is your advice to other students, particularly new students?

Don't go into college with a plan! You're supposed to decide your entire future when you're like what, 18 or 19? When you're 18 or 19, you don't have a clue what you're doing with life. I still don't have a clue and I'm 23! People think they have to pick a career, they have to pick basically their whole life as they're coming into college when, yeah, that question should be on your mind, but you need to be open to that changing. Be willing to explore what opportunities the school gives you. You never know what's going to spark your interest. Approach general education classes in a positive manner, knowing that this could be something that changes your life and life path and just go with it. Also, professors are a resource not to be afraid of. Professors are there to help you - bother them once a week. They're paid to help you. Don't annoy them, but using them as a resource is incredibly important.

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Lady Titans experience success on and off the court

By: BEKKA OXLEY
Staff Writer
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A fresh season has begun for IU South Bend's lady Titans and they are ready to be the team to beat.

So far this season, they have experienced success, going 3-1 in the University of Michigan-Dearborn Earlybird Tournament.

Head coach Jamie Ashmore-Pott, who has been coaching the team for four seasons, said that the wins and losses at the tournament were team-oriented.

"We worked well as a team and we figured out how to play well together as a team really well, too. On and off the court, everyone was cheering, excited and pushing each other," Ashmore-Pott said.

The team is looking forward to more successes this year as they continue into their season.

According to Ashmore-Pott, this year's team is different from teams in the past because all the girls have meshed well together and have gotten along with one another since day one.

"This group has already formed such a good bond that we haven't had to spend as much time doing outside team bonding that we have in the past," Ashmore-Pott said. "They really are a good group that became friends from the beginning."

Sisters Krystle and Melanie Troyer, both seniors on the team, agreed that their team's chemistry is a lot stronger this year compared to previous years.

"We trust each other on the court, so we are able to gel well, play well together and dig up more balls than we would if we didn't have that kind of trust," Krystle Troyer said.

Even though the team has a lot of strengths this season, they also have some challenges ahead.

"I would say we have a tough conference and our goal is to win the tournament, so we will keep pushing game by game," Melanie Troyer said.

The sisters both said that they were excited for the Bethel game this week because their sister, Amanda Troyer, is a senior on the Pilots team.

Ashmore-Pott said that this year's team will be exciting to watch and that spectators can expect to see a lot of energy on the court.

"They are really volleyball-oriented in the fact that it's going to be fast-paced and high energy," Ashmore-Pott said. "They won't get outworked. It'll be fun to watch them chasing the volleyballs down and never giving up on the ball."

The team's next game will be at home versus Bethel College on Wednesday, Sep. 3 at 7 p.m.



The Lady Titans practice in the SAC as they gear up for their next game.
Preface photo/Bekka Oxley



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Why declining album sales aren't the endgame for music fans

By: DYLAN LEMERT
Columnist
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Sometimes, I like to try to convince myself that my high school years were the last truly good times of a musical golden age. With the second half of the '00 decade edging just shy of the fully digital era, insurmountably-priced CDs still lined the shelves of most department stores, monuments to a more tangible era of consumption.

Tuesdays have been the standard new album release day in the U.S. for quite some time, but a decade ago Tuesdays seemed different; picking up the latest release from a favorite band was nothing short of a sacred process. I'd retreat to my upstairs bedroom where I'd pop in my newfound copy, careful not to scratch it, into a probably-5-watt, 6-disc CD changer I kept on my dresser.

The best part was being able to slide out the lyric booklet that came packaged with the case so I could follow along with the music. The artwork was the cherry on top, a visual representation to accompany the audible one, which for me completed the experience and is something I believe to be sorely lacking from today's new-fangled digital albums.

Pretty soon though, and perhaps inevitably, the compact disc became a relic. If they're even sold in stores anymore, I haven't noticed,



and apparently neither has the general public: CD sales have been on a steady decline since around 2002 (which, for reference, is the same year 'N Sync went on hiatus and never came back. Coincidence?).

Many blame the birth of the digital music file, a harbinger which completes that great cycle which began with the phonograph and morphed into the vinyl record and then the eight-track and the cassette tape and the CD and has finally culminated with a virtually indestructible, highly flexible piece of data.

But even the intangible, it seems, is too good to last. According to

an article published by *Billboard.com* last week, weekly total album sales—physical as well as digital—have hit a new low. Such a low, in fact, it's the weakest sales have been since Nielsen SoundScan first began tracking these statistics in 1991, translating into a figure just shy of 4 million.

This may not be the worst thing in the world, however. Look at what's been happening with vinyl: Jack White's June-released *Lazaretto* sold 40,000 copies on wax its first week, the biggest seller of its type since the vinyl version of Pearl Jam's *Vitalogy* hit shelves in 1994.

This continues the recent trend of rising vinyl sales and should serve as a hopeful anomaly for fervent music consumers. And while this spike is likely just because vinyl is cool and retro, it could also be a form of statement from the devoted music community against the newer, flightier digital one.

Most tellingly, vinyl's renewed stature is a great example of how segments of the industry have managed to overcome despite a deluge of setbacks (though only time will tell if the ol' compact disc makes a similar rebound).

Sure, vinyl will never be the domi-



A patron browses at a used record store. Album sales, both physical and digital, have witnessed a record-setting decline in 2014. Photo/Wikimedia Commons

"Guardians" of the summer box office

By: JORDAN RAE LUCAS
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I will be the first to admit that I was skeptical about Marvel's plans to develop a film with a talking raccoon. My doubts and those of many fans of the franchise were not assuaged when the casting for sci-fi action-comedy "Guardians of the Galaxy" was announced.

Could Chris Pratt, the lovable oaf from NBC's "Parks and Recreation," be believable as the leader of a ragtag crew of aliens and criminals? Would audiences accept an iconic action hero like Vin Diesel as a sympathetic talking tree with a three-word vocabulary?

If the film's \$258 million box office-topping total earning is any indication, the answer to both questions seems to be a resounding yes. It helps that the characters, who on the surface, seem to be a body swap

for the actors, are not completely against type. Pratt's Peter Quill may fancy himself a ladies' man and a born outlaw, but leans more toward the charismatic hubris of a 12-year-old playing cowboy. Diesel's Groot balances his innate adorableness by being the brutish muscle for Bradley Cooper's ("The Hangover") bounty-hunting, genetically-modified raccoon, Rocket.

Cooper, as well as the final members of the team --Zoe Saldana's Gamora and Dave Bautista's Drax--seemed more suited for their roles. Cooper has more or less built his career playing the cocky bad boy with a sensitive side. Throw in some fur, an inexplicable Brooklyn accent and a Napoleon complex and you have Rocket. Saldana is no stranger to playing strong, no-nonsense women in the male-dominated sci-fi genre, starring in "Avatar" as well as J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek" films. Bautista's claim to fame as a profes-

sional wrestler made him a logical choice to play a character known as The Destroyer.

Overall, the characters as well as the actors' performances were very well-crafted. I only wish each character had been given their own standalone, lead-in film. The Marvel Cinematic Universe has, perhaps, spoiled its fans with films like "Iron Man" and "Thor" that fully fleshed-out individual characters and their tragic backstories before putting them on a team together. In noticeable contrast, all the characters except Quill have their personal tragedies summed up in a sentence.

The first five minutes of the film provide Quill's tale of woe: becoming an orphan and being abducted by aliens in the same night. The opening of the film seems very bleak in contrast with the funny and fantastical tone of what follows. Similarly, the other characters' heartbreaking lines of dialogue seemed abrupt

and clunky as though added to the script as an afterthought.

The stellar, if unexpected, cast was not the only strength of the film. The filmmakers managed to suspend the movie in a time all its own. "Guardians" is set in space in 2014, a fact that is very difficult to remember through the course of the film. Between the space-aged technology and a soundtrack and pop culture references that predate 1988, the film is pleasantly disorienting. It is rare for a sci-fi film to be anything but futuristic and certainly never nostalgic, but this one manages to do just that.

There is a nice juxtaposition to hearing The Jackson 5 playing in a spaceship. Part of the climactic battle at the end of the film even takes the visual form of Space Invaders. This slightly gag, as well as the repeated references to "Footloose," may have gone over the heads of the younger audience members, but



helped make the film enjoyable for the whole family. This was especially important for a movie in which the premise could have easily veered toward campy children's movie territory.

In short, it seems only fitting that "Guardians of the Galaxy," a film about underdogs who save the day, was underestimated only to bring in the largest box office total of the summer blockbuster season.

Words of encouragement shared at New Student Induction Ceremony

By: MELISSA SEYBOLDT
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IU South Bend's incoming freshmen had the privilege of attending a New Student Induction Ceremony on Friday, August 22, where Chancellor Terry Allison and the Academic Deans formally welcomed them into the university's community.

Chancellor Allison began by emphasizing what it takes to graduate in four years – 45 hours of study a week for full-time students. He assured that IUSB has many resources and programs to help students reach the end of the tunnel.

"IU South Bend already has many attributes designed for your success," he said Allison. "Small classes, access to excellent faculty, programs to help you be more successful in your classes, and student activities to help keep you engaged. We are focused on improving your coordination of these opportunities, focused on your success."

He asked that the students, in

turn, focus on their success as well, and offered them advice on how to do so.

"Show up to class," "Be prepared," "Write, write and re-write," "Limit your working time," "Know the rules and stay on track," "Communicate," and "Find a mentor" were some of the main pieces of advice.

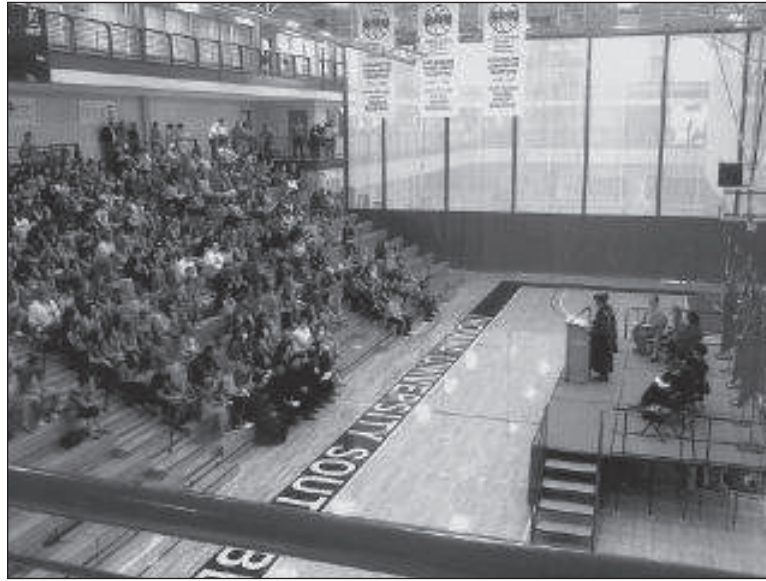
Sophomore Hannah Van, sophomore at IUSB, was a student guest speaker. She challenged new students to step outside of their comfort zone and stay socially engaged throughout their college career.

"You can learn and grow from one another," she said. "Together we will achieve more."

Students weren't the only ones to get a dose of encouragement. Jann Joseph, executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, gave a heartfelt message to parents in the audience:

"Your job does not end when your children go to college," Joseph said.

She urged them to remain involved in their children's lives "in a way that you will frequently ask



Chancellor Terry Allison speaks at the New Student Induction Ceremony on August 22.
Preface photo/Melissa Seyboldt

about their progress," but not as helicopter parents.

The ceremony reflected IUSB's latest efforts to retain students.

"In the past three years, nearly one in three freshmen here didn't

make it to their sophomore year," Allison said.

"That's not because we're trying to weed you out. We're not. We want to keep you. We want you to progress, we want you to succeed."

We want you to graduate sooner than later."

According to the South Bend Tribune, while the total credit hours students have enrolled in this year have decreased 3.1 percent, "early numbers indicate about 63.6 percent of students who enrolled for the first time in fall 2013 at IUSB are enrolled to return this fall [...] about a 5 percent improvement over the retention rate last fall for returning second year students."

Whether or not IUSB's student retention efforts pay off in the coming years, it was evident at the ceremony that the students were enthusiastic about beginning their college journey, and hopeful that they would reach the end.

As the ceremony came to a close, the students raised their IUSB Titan pins - given to them to symbolize their transition into the university's community - and declared in unison, "I will graduate in four years from Indiana University South Bend."

A star is born in the Northside basement



Jordyn Nutting (left), Tristan Conner, and Kala Erickson (right) while filming "The Prey".
Photo credit/The Prey

By: CHRISSY BOHLMANN
Staff Writer

This July, five friends in the IU South Bend theatre program created the student film "The Prey." The film was shot in the scene shop located in the basement of IUSB's Northside Hall. Daniel Blevins, the director, producer, editor and camera operator, said he assembled a cast from four of his friends already interested in Blevins' film ideas. The four actors, Tristan Conner, Kala Erickson, Jordyn Nutting and Marlon Burnley, relay the story of "two sisters being held against their will in a dirty workshop," as Blevins said.

This film, the third that Blevins has created, is posted on YouTube under the title: "The Prey (A Short Film by Daniel Blevins)". Blevins explained that "The Prey" was actually an idea taken from an earlier film of his which did not work out. This made casting simple because, "three of the four actors were already going to be involved with the first project," Blevins said.

"I was in an independent film in Goshen a while ago," Nutting said. Speaking on her commercial acting she continued, "I did one for a soda shop that's local and one for United Way." Conner also has acted in films in the past.

"I did one called 'Martini Mom and Devil Spawn,'" Conner said of the Deviant Studios production.

While all of the actors hope to continue their acting careers, Erickson is inching closer to that goal.

"I actually have a meeting with an agency on September 18," said Erickson. "Hopefully that will go somewhere- help get me out there."

Each of these filmmaking careers started, however, from a love of movies.

"From the time I was ten, me, my uncle and my cousin made these little home videos," said Blevins.

Similarly, Erickson related her introduction to film.

"When I was little, we didn't have cable so my mom bought us tons of movies," she said.

The four actors share the passion of filmmaking along with the experience.

"I like the intimacy and how close we get to act," Conner said.

This intimacy, Nutting continued, is different than acting for theatre productions because in theatre you have to over-exaggerate your emotions to get them across. "I love that aspect of getting to walk in someone else's shoes," Erickson said.