The IUPUI Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) model, also known as workshop chemistry, was conceived in 1998 by David Malik, Ph.D. It is implemented only in the CHEM-C 105 (Principles of Chemistry I) course in the School of Science. It is a mandatory component of the course; students register for the lecture and a workshop section.

The C 105 workshops are two-hour active-learning sessions in which students in the course will practice doing challenging problems collaboratively. Chemistry content, communication skills, and good teamwork practices will be emphasized in these peer-led sessions where students are expected to be active participants. Workshop sections usually do not exceed 12 students.

Workshop leaders are students who have taken C 105 previously and earned a grade of B or higher. These students have an interest in helping to educate new students in chemistry while improving their own comprehension and skills. The workshop leader acts as a coach or a mentor to six to eight students. Before the semester begins, the workshop leaders attend an orientation where they learn to guide and direct students’ learning. As a part of their continuous training, workshop leaders enroll in CHEM-C 496 (Methods in Teaching Chemistry). Each week all the leaders get together with faculty to review the upcoming material and take their understanding of the material to the next level. At the same time, the leaders learn more about group dynamics, session management, and pedagogical methods.

The number of leaders differs from fall to spring, with approximately 55 leaders in the fall and around 25 percent of that number in the spring. The amount of students follows this same pattern, with numbers reaching up to 500 in the fall and decreasing to half that amount in the spring.

The PLTL program organization may be perceived as atypical for a university program. During its inception, the chain of command was clear due to the fact that there was a need for a specific leader making the many decisions and setting interventions in place that are necessary when beginning a new program. The program has since moved in the direction of being student led. The chain of command is quite linear; one could say almost nonexistent.

According to Dr. Malik, the goal of the program is to be more self-operational, with shared governance among the students and faculty involved. A large component of what keeps the PLTL machine running is the super leaders. These are current C 105 mentors that have excelled so much that they have earned a position as program coordinators, serving as the mentors to the mentors. The super leaders have much more responsibility when it comes to program operations, including hiring and training new mentors, planning the weekly course meetings, and keeping track of and dispersing scholarships. Our current super leaders are Stephanie So, Kystle SchneppPfister, and Kevin Mauser.

Another component of the support staff is taken on by someone at an administrative level. This is the learning specialist. This person serves as a resource for the leaders to aid in group dynamics, session management, and facilitation methods. The learning specialist facilitates workshops with the leaders on topics relating to pedagogy and leadership development. Since this person is a full-time staff member of the university, she is also a resource to the super leaders when it comes to administrative decisions and program interventions. Shannon (Slye) McCullough, formerly a student mentor for the Bepko Learning Center, came on board in 2005 as the first learning specialist in the IUPUI PLTL program, and recently this position has been filled by Jessica Blackerby, who has also worked in the Bepko Learning Center as a student mentor and coordinator. She will assist the program in further developing the leaders in a pedagogical aspect.

A mentoring program could not completely succeed without the support of faculty members. As Dr. Malik transitioned out of the instructor role, Lin Zhu came in as our faculty champion. He works very closely with the support staff and the leaders, providing them guidance and assistance in training.

Assessment of the PLTL program is done every semester by way of student evaluations. Student satisfaction is consistently high for our mentors and the program model. Students report that the program model. Students report that the program has aided in their success in the course, and we constantly have positive remarks about the student mentors. In 2006 the PLTL super leaders and support staff conducted a research study to determine gains that mentors make through their experiences in the program. We found that the benefits do not stop with the students, and the mentors are leaving each semester reporting gains in many dimensions, including content knowledge, interpersonal skills, and civic engagement. The student and support staff are continuing to evaluate the PLTL program to show others just how effective this mentoring program is. They have presented at national conferences and are trying to get their work published to share with others the benefits that this wonderful program provides.
The fifth annual IUPUI Mentoring Symposium was held this past fall on Saturday, September 29. The Mentoring Symposium has been jointly organized by the Bepko Learning Center and Orientation Services for the past five years and continues to grow every year. This year was the biggest symposium ever as we expanded to include mentors not only from every mentoring component in University College, but also mentors from other areas at IUPUI and other schools such as Purdue Calumet.

Another exciting addition to this year’s symposium was the presence of two nationally recognized motivational speakers. Maura Cullen, who delivered a moving and thought-provoking talk on diversity, is considered a foremost authority on issues of diversity and leadership on college campuses today. The second featured speaker, Paul Wesselmann, gave the mentors a motivational talk about taking care of others while remembering to take time for themselves. In addition to around 100 presentations each year, Wesselmann also sends out a weekly inspirational e-mail to over 15,000 members of The Ripples Project.

In addition to having featured guest speakers, the symposium offers our mentors a chance to visit sessions that are intended to assist in their personal and professional development. Opportunities to attend these workshops and sessions have grown very rapidly since the inception of the symposium in 2002. For example, at the 2004 Mentoring Symposium, there were only eight concurrent sessions offered. At the 2007 Mentoring Symposium, there were 21 concurrent sessions from which attendees could choose. The symposium is also unique in that student mentors from all across the campus have a chance to present their knowledge and research with other mentors. The number of these student-led sessions is also growing rapidly. A few descriptions of mentor-facilitated concurrent sessions offered in 2007 include:

**Learning Styles and Study Skills**
(Georgia Waddups and Dustin Blackwell)
Explore the importance and implementation of learning styles and study skills through collaborative and active learning. In this session you will experience and learn to facilitate different learning styles. Key study skills will also be explored in order to actively understand and address diverse student study needs.

**Assertiveness Training**
(Greg Roberts and Katherine Figueroa)
Are you tired of being a pushover? Do you intimidate others and make them feel like they can’t be honest with you? Don’t you wish there was something in between being a pushover and being aggressive? There is! Come learn about assertiveness and how it is the most effective way of communicating and getting things done!

**Returning Mentor Panel**
(Chris Hardin, Nick Stepp, Stephanie So, and Casey Thompson)
Returning mentors from all mentoring components at IUPUI discuss what to expect as a new mentor, as well as emphasize techniques, experiences, and problems they have encountered.

In the 2007 Mentoring Symposium, University College invited several colleges in the Indiana University and Purdue University systems, in addition to other schools from across the state. At the 2008 Mentoring Symposium, University College wants not only to invite more outside schools to attend, but also invite proposals from other schools for concurrent sessions. Behind the hope for increasing the size of the symposium is hard work by mentors to make this happen. Expect to see the 2008 Mentoring Symposium bigger and better than ever.
My mentor is friendly, easy to approach, and very knowledgeable of the subject matter.

Mentoring is a great way to get extra help and understand items that I have problems with.
University College mentors impact the lives of many throughout IUPUI’s campus and in Indianapolis. From their daily dedication to the success of students to their participation in many semester community service events, University College mentors are always making the difference. Now, thanks to the recent development of the course UCOL-U 204 (Mentoring: Independent Study), mentors are finding even more ways to contribute to the betterment of this institution. Here are some of the projects researched by mentors and currently being implemented by University College:

**Online Pre-Academic Mentor Training**

Inspired by the literature suggesting that individuals are partial to online training, Michael Heath and Georgia Waddups decided to research if any aspects of the Bepko Learning Center’s academic mentor training would be better presented in an online format. After successfully identifying several training components, the Bepko Learning Center developed and implemented its first online, pre-academic mentor training session for the spring 2008 semester.

**Instructor Manual**

Many professors across several programs are working with student mentors; however, there seems to be some confusion regarding the responsibilities of a mentor. John Blanchar and Maraysa Raffensparger have accepted the challenge to clarify the confusion and are currently working on the development of an instructor manual. This manual will become a tool for faculty to learn the role and responsibilities of student mentors and how to use student mentors to their fullest potential.

**Online Pre-Orientation**

Online pre-orientation is a project originally started by Devika Bellamy, Fernando Mercado, and Nicholas Stepp that researched the idea of putting IUPUI’s most valuable information for traditional incoming first-year students into one interactive, appealing, and user-friendly Web site. Christopher Hardin and Mathew Wade furthered this research by examining what aspects of orientation are compatible with technology and would be more beneficial if offered in an online format. The orientation team was very excited by the research of these mentors, and this project is currently being developed for implementation.

He’s very good at addressing someone’s problems, trying his best to find the answer. He goes out of his way to help an individual. He tries his best to make sure you know the material.
Another Successful Mentor Celebration Completed and One in the Works

BY MEGAN NALLY AND MARAYSA RAFFENSPARGER

The fall 2007 celebration was a Thanksgiving-themed dinner buffet held in the Business/SPEA Building with about 65 people in attendance. Mentors and team leaders from all components came to socialize and reconnect with fellow mentors, instructors, and staff members. While indulging in delicious food, everyone reminisced about good times as a video displayed pictures and music, capturing each unique program’s memories. Along with the dinner, mentors were invited to participate in a raffle. Names were drawn out at random and winners received prizes ranging from stickers to sweatshirts. Our big winner of the night was Dr. Jacqueline Blackwell, who won an IUPUI blanket and sweatshirt. Overall, the fall celebration was a success, starting with the mentors who deserve praise all the way to the cleanup crew at the end of the night.

Although the fall celebration is just ending, student mentors from the Bepko Learning Center and Orientation Services are already planning the year-end Spring Mentor Celebration. One area that sets the spring celebration apart from the fall celebration is the formal presentation of grants, component awards, and special recognitions. This year, be on the lookout for the University College Leadership Grant, the William M. Plater International Scholarship, and the Barbara D. Jackson Semester Study Abroad Award as well as all of the component Mentor of the Year Awards, the Christine Jakacky Award, and the Tonya Conour Faculty Service Award. This year, the spring celebration will again feature poster presentations from student mentors currently enrolled in UCOL-U204 (Mentoring: Independent Study). This will give our student mentors an opportunity to share a little bit of their work and research that they have been doing all semester in trying to give back to the programs that have helped them so much.

University College held its Fall Mentor Celebration in November to recognize the efforts and commitment of mentoring components campuswide. The guest list included mentors from Nina Scholars, first-year seminars and learning communities, Bepko Learning Center, PLTL, Resource Desk, and various faculty, staff, and administrators who have supported these programs throughout the semester.

My mentor is very patient and able to present complex concepts in precise, easily understandable ways.

The Spring Mentor Celebration will again be held at the Indiana Historical Society at the corner of West and New York Streets, just off the east end of campus. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24. Be on the watch for an e-vite in your inbox or a paper invitation on your desk in the near future. Until then, you can check out http://uc.iupui.edu/learningcenter as more details are posted.
Resource Mentors Working Hard on Study Skills with First-Year Students

BY MEGAN NALLY

The Bepko Learning Center Resource Desk can provide assistance for students who need help with study skills. The mentors provide help with time management, goal setting, note taking, learning styles, memory techniques, and reading techniques. Students can come up to the Resource Desk during regular hours and receive help from a resource mentor. One of the biggest accomplishments is the Ball Residence Hall study skills workshops they provide to first-year residents. This semester, they are going to implement one workshop per month throughout the semester at Ball Residence Hall. Resource mentors are preparing for these workshops by reviewing chapters from Linda Wong’s book Essential Study Skills and taking assessment quizzes to prove their competency with each skill. After successful completion of the quizzes, they work together in teams to come up with interactive sessions that aim specifically at the study skills first-year students need most. The first Ball Residence Hall workshop is scheduled for February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the main lobby.

MENTORS OVERSEAS

Mentoring in the Military

BY ALEC CAWLFIELD

Recently, Bepko Learning Center mentor Alec Cawlfield took a moment to write about mentoring and his experiences in the military. Alec writes:

“There are two roles I fulfill in life. One is as an academic student mentor for the Bepko Learning Center. Through this medium I am able to interact with dozens of students on a daily basis. Developing the skills required to aid students in their educational goals has been of benefit to the other role I play in life and that is of a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Being deployed three times in my military career thus far has granted me the opportunity to exercise these mentoring skills in a completely different setting. Being a staff sergeant brings responsibility for training and supervising other Air Force members. In the Air Force I maintain aircraft weapons release equipment. I am charged with maintaining and training others to maintain fighter jets. In our Air Force professional development and education, mentoring is a skill we are encouraged to practice. I feel that continually developing my skills as a mentor at the BLC helps me facilitate the development of my trainees on the home front and the battlefront.”

JOSH FRITCHA’S SEMESTER IN ITALY

by Anthony Masseria

During fall 2007, Josh Fritcha, who has worked as a leader and a coordinator for OTEAM since summer 2006, had an exciting opportunity to spend a semester abroad in Italy, studying at John Cabot University in Rome. At the 2007 Spring Mentor Celebration, Josh was presented with the Barbara D. Jackson Semester Study Abroad Award by University College Dean Scott Evenbeck, a yearly award granted to students who wish to study abroad, particularly in developing nations. This scholarship helped tremendously in allowing him to take a semester off from his work at IU Kelley School of Business to experience life overseas.

Josh’s semester was full and exciting. Josh told us that the biggest culture shock upon arrival in Italy was not being able to speak the language. “When I got off the plane, all I wanted to do was eat, and I couldn’t even do that!” Josh shares. His orientation program at John Cabot helped him to overcome some of his language problems, but he was still very much out there on his own to navigate through a new city and a new language.

During his time at John Cabot, Josh recorded his experiences on a Weblog through Kelley to share with the IUPUI community. In his blog, Josh wrote about many of the wonderful places he got to visit. While in Italy, Josh had the chance to travel to such places as Tuscany, Pompeii, and Venice. He also took a few trips out of the country. Josh tells us that his favorite place to visit was Munich, Germany, where he was stunned by the castles and beautiful landscape.

When asked how mentoring at IUPUI had helped him prepare for his adventure overseas, he was firm in his response. Josh tells us that mentoring helped him to understand differences in cultures and people, to be accepting of other people, and to prepare for encountering new people and experiences. Even though Josh was able to use all of these valuable skills in Italy, IUPUI is definitely glad to have him back.
Bepko Learning Center’s Academic Mentor Program Becomes Internationally Certified

BY GEORGIA WADDUPS

Last April, the Bepko Learning Center student coordinators, with the assistance of Director Mark Minglin, submitted an in-depth application to certify our mentors internationally through the College Reading and Learning Association. Based on the amount and quality of training mentors receive as well as the number of hours they have mentored, certification at three levels is provided (regular, advanced, and master). This certification not only recognizes our mentors for their hard work, it also shows that our program adheres to and exceeds international standards, so much so that the application was chosen as an extraordinary example to present to other programs interested in achieving certification.

Log In and Stay Connected: New University College Mentoring Alumni Web Site

BY ANTHONY MASSERIA

This year, a group of student coordinators from the Bepko Learning Center has been in the process of developing a brand new mentoring alumni Web site, now found on Facebook. IUPUI University College Alumni is a new Facebook group that will help mentors who have served in any of our programs stay connected with other mentoring alumni. The group features up-to-date news about IUPUI and University College, information on upcoming events on and around campus, photos of some of our current and past mentors in action, links to mentoring component Web sites, and, of course, discussion boards and The Wall. You can log in to find out what your old colleagues have been doing, network with someone new, or simply catch up with an old friend. IUPUI University College Alumni on Facebook will be your chance to stay connected. For more information on how to join, visit http://uc.iupui.edu/learningcenter/alumni.asp.

The Bepko Learning Center to Be Represented at the Fifth Annual International Supplemental Instruction Conference in Orlando, Florida

BY GEORGIA WADDUPS

Recently, two groups of undergraduate students at the Bepko Learning Center submitted proposals to the Fifth Annual International Supplemental Instruction Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, May 28–30, 2008. Each year, staff and students from supplemental instruction (SI) programs from all over the world gather together to discuss best practices as well as other SI-related materials. With the guidance and support of Bepko Learning Center Director Mark Minglin and Assistant Director Shannon McCullough, each group’s proposal was accepted. Undergraduate students and Bepko Learning Center Student Coordinators Michael Heath, Maraysa Raffensparger, Katherine Figueroa, and John Blanchar will present on the use and effectiveness of Bloom’s Taxonomy in introductory courses. A second group of undergraduate students led by Georgia Waddups, Anthony Newton, Malorie Hensley, and Dustin Blackwell will present on the effectiveness and evaluation of resource and academic mentor training programs.
Mentor News and Updates: Summer/Fall 2007

Jenny Erkfitz and Linda Boone, both Bepko Learning Center mentors, gave a joint address at the December 2007 School of Nursing graduation ceremony.

Greg Roberts and Tyler Wilson of the Bepko Learning Center were recently accepted to the IU School of Medicine. Roberts and Wilson both serve as mentors and student coordinators.

Hermioni Lokko, an alumna of the Bepko Learning Center and a May 2007 graduate of IUPUI, recently completed her first semester at Harvard University School of Medicine.

Devanshu Chowdhary, a mentor from the Bepko Learning Center, was recently accepted into the IU School of Dentistry.

Davis Mayanja, who has worked for the Bepko Learning Center Resource Desk, OTEAM, and the learning community mentoring program, graduated from the IU Kelley School of Business in December 2007.

Jessica Blackerby and Anthony Masseria, both former mentors and student coordinators of the Bepko Learning Center, began graduate work in the IU School of Medicine in fall 2007. Masseria has a graduate assistantship with Orientation Services and Bepko Learning Center, and Blackerby was hired as coordinator of mentoring for Science Specific Initiatives through Bepko Learning Center and the Department of Chemistry.

Three new nursing students have come out of University College mentoring programs! Chelsea Davis (Resource Desk), Anna Beaman (Supplemental Instruction), and Julie Reindel (Supplemental Instruction) all began full-time work in the IU School of Nursing this semester.

Stephanie Simpson, a former OTEAM and learning community mentor, has just returned from an exciting internship with the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Florida.

James Eckerty, a mentor for OTEAM and the Summer Academy Bridge Program, has been working during the academic year in the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program.

Congratulations to Greg Roberts (Bepko Learning Center) and Krystle SchneppPfister (PLTL) on their recent engagement! They will be married this summer.

Megan Nally, a mentor and student coordinator for the Bepko Learning Center, began her program in respiratory therapy through the IU School of Medicine in fall 2007.

Lisa Lesher, a former mentor and student coordinator for the Bepko Learning Center, began her program in radiography through the IU School of Medicine in fall 2007.

Congratulations to Matt and Laura Wade (Orientation Services) on the birth of their son Landen on December 9, 2007.

Stephanie So was recently accepted into the IU School of Dentistry. So has been a mentor for the Bepko Learning Center Resource Desk and OTEAM, and she is currently a super leader for PLTL workshop chemistry.

Three University College mentors attended this summer’s To Mexico With Love program. Jenalee Doughty (Learning Communities, Resource Desk) received the William M. Plater International Award to help fund her trip. Casey Thompson (OTTEAM, Nina Mason Pulliam Scholars, and Learning Communities) and Lygia Vernon (OTTEAM and Learning Communities) also traveled to Mexico.

Demetrees Hutchins, a long-time mentor and supporter of the Nina Mason Pulliam Scholars program, has just finished her master’s degree in philanthropic studies with a certificate in non-profit management at IUPUI.

Congratulations to Kevin Mauser on his recent engagement! Mauser is a super leader for PLTL workshop chemistry.

In 2007, University College mentoring programs turned out over 30 of our IUPUI Top 100 Students. These students have served in such programs as Learning Communities, PLTL workshop chemistry, Resource Desk, Mathematics Assistance Center, and Nina Mason Pulliam Scholars. Congratulations go out to the following students for this distinction: Chris Audu, Jennifer Behzadi, Devika Bellamy, Kevin Combs, Lacey Creason, Angela DeMien, Nilashis Dey, David Eads, Hazel Gomes, Christopher Hardin, Cassandra Hamman, Eric Hunt, Nodira Isamiddinova, Nathan Kohley, Hermioni Lokko, Adam Maina Ari, Fernando Mercado, Robert Morgan, Hai Nguyen, Nicholas Noblet, Eddie Shmukler, Anita Sivam, Stephanie So, Casey Thompson, Lygia Vernon, Matt Wade, Ran (Andy) Wang, Brittani Whitmore, Tyler Wilson, and Stacie Wright.

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