

UIndy Athens Commencement 2011: Graduates from 21 nations



Every age, every generation is marked by its own hopes, fears, and tribulations. The value of an institution of higher education which can elevate its students to new heights of academic distinction and expertly prepare them for challenges never before encountered in our constantly changing world is vital and fundamental. On Wednesday, June 1 2011, the confidently joyful faces of the Graduating Class of 2011 were a true testament of the quality of education which was offered to them during their studentship at the Athens Campus of the University of Indianapolis.

In his opening speech, Athens Campus Chancellor, Vasilis J. Botopoulos, and University of Indianapolis USA Vice President, greeted dignitaries, distinguished guests, families and friends, who joined the faculty and staff of the Athens Campus of the University of Indianapolis for the conferment of degrees upon graduates from as many as 21 countries: Greece, Cyprus, the USA, Canada, Israel, China, Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Albania, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Turkey, Taiwan, Nigeria, Georgia, Armenia, Serbia, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Switzerland. Chancellor Botopoulos highlighted the significance of this day, which “would always be imprinted in the hearts and minds of everyone present” and wholeheartedly congratulated “the graduates who came together to bid farewell to their academic institution and celebrate the culmination of years of hard work to embark onto a brilliant and successful professional future.”

In harmony with a well-revered tradition in American academia, each year a distinguished personality addresses the graduates. This year’s Commencement Address was delivered by Ms. Joanna Despotopoulou, President of the Organizing Committee of the Special Olympics World Summer Games “Athens 2011”. In her speech Ms. Despotopoulou, recipient of the “Distinguished Civic Leader and Philanthropist Award”, expressed her contentment for being among such an outstanding group of graduates

and pointed out that as the President of the Organizing Committee she extends her sincere gratitude to UIndy Athens for the plethora of volunteers not only from the Athens Campus but also from the home campus who will be participating in the Special Olympics. Ms. Despotopoulou conveyed to the graduates her warmest wishes for progress and continuous growth following their eminent academic studies. She congratulated them and told them that if they put their mind to something that there is no challenge that they cannot overcome.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the United States of America and Fullbright Board Chairman, Mr. Thomas S. Miller, in his salute to the graduates observed the implications of change and the demands of an increasingly global community, and focused on the ways in which the unique education offered at the Athens Campus of the University of Indianapolis will empower students to participate actively in their futures.

The “Distinguished Contribution Award”, which was established by the University of Indianapolis for eminent personalities who have greatly contributed to our institution in distinguished ways, such as participating in the Ambassadors’ Forum. The Ambassadors’ Forum is an



innovative program that was established in 2004 by the University of Indianapolis and offers the rare opportunity and the exceptional privilege to our students to attend lectures given by Ambassadors from various countries, on-field experts of Diplomacy and International Relations. More than eighty Ambassadors have honored the UIndy Forum so far, to whom we are indebted for their invaluable contribution to the curriculum's resounding success. This year UIndy honored: H.E. Tom Norring, Ambassador of Denmark; H.E. Erkki Huittinen, the Ambassador of Finland; H.E. Renata E. Wielgosz, Ambassador of Canada; H.E. Ahmad Rusdi, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Etim Udo Uye, Ambassador of Nigeria; H.E. Saleh Mohamed Al-Ghamdi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and H.E. Jose Luis Pombo Morales, Ambassador of Uruguay.

The University further presented awards to the following companies and institutions: Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" S.A., the "Corporate Responsibility Award", received by Stratos Papadimitriou, the Chairman of the Board of Directors; CCC Group, one of the largest construction, engineering, procurement, development and investment global companies, the "Corporate Partner Award", received by Suheil H. Sabbagh, President [Group Human Resources], and Yanbu Industrial College, one of the best colleges of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the "Academic Partner Award", received by Dr Ahmed M. Dabroom, Managing Director.

The "Distinguished Alumni Award", with deep sentiment and joy, was awarded to Marianna Dimotaki-Toli '09, a distinguished theater director, actress and singer.

As with every year, the University honored one of its faculty, who embodies the mission of the University of Indianapolis which is to prepare its graduates for effective, responsible, and articulate membership in the complex societies in which they live and serve, and for excellence and leadership in their personal and professional lives. The 2011 honored faculty member was Professor Panayotis Karafotias, Chair



of the UIndy Athens IREL/PSCI Department.

The University of Indianapolis was particularly honored with the presence of several AHEPA members during the Ceremony. Their presence, once again, reinforced the UIndy/AHEPA strong affiliation, which has led to the enormously successful "Journey to Greece" program. This program offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to university students in the United States to travel to Greece, to enjoy its beauty and to immerse themselves in its ancient and modern culture while participating fully in the academic



experience offered by the Athens Campus of the University of Indianapolis. This year the "AHEPA Award" went to AHEPA Supreme President Nicholas A. Karacostas.

The "Outstanding Service Award" which has been established by UIndy Athens to honor one of our own for his or her outstanding service to the University, was presented to Dr. Vasilios Kiritsis, Associate Professor, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment & Student Affairs Emeritus. Especially for this year, the Faculty also decided to present this award to an outstanding diplomat, Fulbright Board Chairman & Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States Embassy, Mr. Thomas S. Miller.

The 2011 UIndy Athens Graduation Ceremony drew to a close with the Charge to the Graduates, delivered by the University's Vice President for Research, Planning and International Partnerships, Dr. Mary Moore, who conveyed to all the warmhearted congratulations of UIndy President Dr. Beverley Pitts. Dr. Moore reiterated the educational mandate of the University of Indianapolis to offer the best education available, to be a cross-cultural bridge connecting some of the brightest minds of our increasingly globalized world, and to guide its graduates to great heights of personal development and professional achievement.

Ms. Niki P. Stavrou was the Commencement Master of Ceremony, and musical accompaniment was provided by the UIndy Camerata under the direction of the Chair of the Department, Dr. Alexandros Halapsis.

Meet the University of Indianapolis

UIndy awards **more-doctoral degrees** than all but four of the largest universities in Indiana.

UIndy produces more **physical therapists, occupational therapists, and clinical psychologists** than any other university in the state of Indiana.



The average **class size** at UIndy is just 18 students (14 at UIndy Athens).

In a national survey of U.S. college students, **UIndy faculty rank near the top** in accessibility and helpfulness. And, graduating seniors are more satisfied with their educational experience than their counterparts at similar universities.

UIndy is among a select number of universities in the U.S. to receive a **2010 Community Engagement Classification** from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Fewer than 200 institutions nationwide have received the biennial award that honors schools whose mission and actions support community engagement.

UIndy draws a higher percentage of **international undergrads** than all but two Indiana universities – bringing the world to Central Indiana.



Through UIndy's **Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning**, Indiana has become a leader in the national movement to adopt the New Technology High School model as a way to engage and retain students. Indiana has more New Technology high schools in operation – eight – than any other state, and due to CELL, six of those schools are national demonstration sites – also the most in any state.



Law enforcement officers from around the world come to UIndy to receive training and certification in crime scene video analysis.

Few universities actually own a branch campus in another country, but UIndy owns the **University of**

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- Marketing • Sports Marketing
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- Computer Information Systems
- Operations & Supply Chain Management
- Global Leadership

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- Employee Assistance Programs (EAPA)

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Indianapolis Athens Campus, a fully integrated international campus located near historic Syntagma Square at the base of the Acropolis. The University also has affiliations in the Ukraine, Belize and China, including partnerships with Ningbo Institute of Technology in China that brings students to UIndy for their final two years of study, and with YIC Saudi Arabia.



Indiana's only degree in **Nurse Midwifery** – a master's program – is offered at UIndy.

begins here

UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

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• Philosophy • Political Science • Corrections
• Law Enforcement • Religion • Sociology
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• Information Systems • General Studies (Music)

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ΜΗ ΚΕΡΔΟΣΚΟΠΙΚΟΣ ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ

ΚΕ.Μ.Ε. UINDY ATHENS

The Indianapolis Opera Company, a first for the city, was **born at UIndy**, and the University has close ties to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra as well. Retired ISO conductor Raymond Leppard is artist-in-residence, and 11 ISO musicians teach in Uindy's Department of Music.

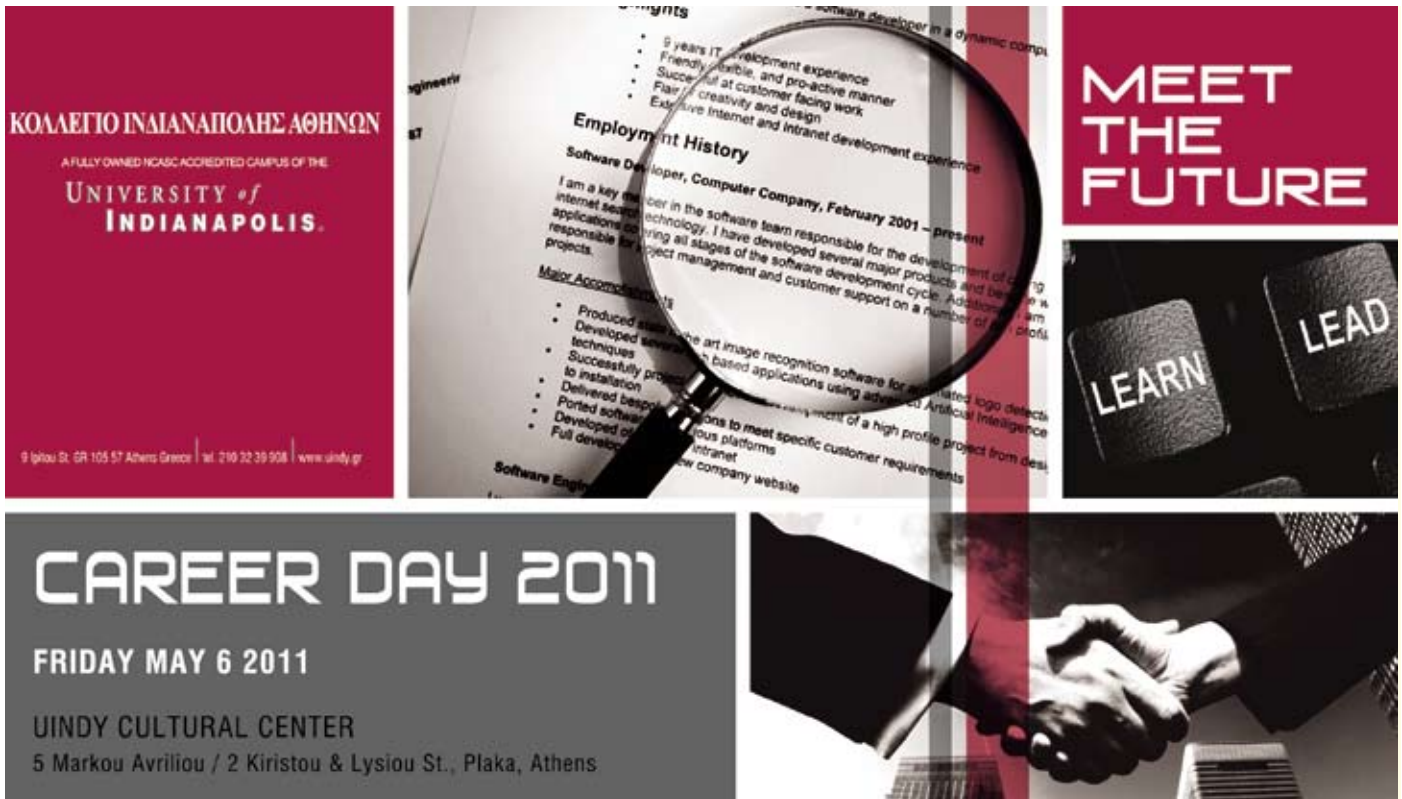


Ruth Lilly Performance Hall in the Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center – an Indianapolis landmark – has been rated one of the finest concert halls in the Midwest.

Uindy's **highly ranked nursing program**, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, offers master's degrees in six areas as well as a dual MSN/MBA degree, an accelerated master's degree for career changers and several topic-specific certificates.



U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks the University of Indianapolis as a **Top Tier University in the Midwest**.



Career Day 2011 – Meet the Future - took place on Friday, May 6, 2011 at the UIndy Cultural Center and was a resounding success according to the positive comments of all participating students and companies. The objective was once again to assist students as they make their transition from the academic to the work environment, while supporting one of the most essential and vital of UIndy Athens missions, to prepare its graduates for “effective, responsible and articulate membership in the complex societies in which they live and serve, and for excellence and leadership in their personal and professional lives.” This year’s event was marked by the enthusiastic participation of more than 100 students who were involved in all of its various preparatory stages (workshops, CV preparation process, company selection and scheduling). Furthermore, we were honored by companies representing various sectors of economic activities. The scheduling of the appointments was very tight, but all the participants showed high levels of professionalism and determination that resulted in the absolute success of the event. All the participating students had the opportunity to attend at least five interviews, offering them invaluable experience and prominent business contacts. The Career Services Office of UIndy Athens is determined to continue with the successful organization of similar events, aiming to create more career building and growth opportunities for our students and graduates in the future.



Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to contact: Mrs. Ellie Despotaki, e-mail: despotakie@uindy.gr
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Faculty & Students

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Program

The Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Program chose Dr. Susie Michailidis, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice President of the Euro-Mediterranean Academy of Arts and Sciences, and academician Professor Paata Kervalishvili, to organize and co-direct the Tbilisi-Spring-2011 conference entitled “Philosophy and Synergy of Information: Sustainability and Security.”

The event embodied a position of the NATO Science Committee to initiate and support learning, research and scientific work. It was again emphasized



Dr. Archil Prangishvili, Dr. Paata Kervalishvili, Dr. Susie Michailidis

and thoroughly defined that information is a tool, which could change anything.

Simultaneously on the basis of East-West cooperation, it is possible to elaborate and create the main apparatus for influence of nature and philosophy of information on sustainable, secure and widespread development.

Dr. Susie Michailidis also delivered a paper on “Synergy of Literature and Thought on Nature, Sustainability and Security” in which she stressed that culture and nature, literature and landscape, sustainability and thought have merged over many centuries. We read ancient authors and we hear how they spoke of their love, joy and appreciation of the countryside. It is important to remember their thoughts and ideas that should interest and stimulate our contemporaries.

Also, attending and invited to chair the panel was Ms. Vivian Gales, Assistant Professor, at UIndy Athens. Ms. Gales in her introductory speech pointed out that UIndy’s involvement in the Tbilisi-Spring-2011 conference was very important and that such opportunities for the University of Indianapolis faculty to perform in



Dr. Jean Bonnin, Ms. Vivian Gales

international settings raise the academic and educational standing of our institution.

Both S. Michailidis’ and V. Gales’ participation in the conference was received with acclaim and established extensive scientific relations with international academic and educational institutions. Comments from many leading academics from USA, France, England, Germany, Sweden, Greece, Russia and other countries expressed during the conference and afterwards suggest that there is interest in the University of Indianapolis’ educational programs and its academic activities. Dr. S. Michailidis was honored with the emblem of the Tbilisi Technical University - The Eagle - for her dedication to promoting scientific and academic achievements.

Wikipedia Party

Three students from the Music Department completed Wikipedia pages as part of their Spring Semester final projects.

Katerina Liata (MA Music program) created the “Generative Theory of Tonal Music”:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative_theory_of_tonal_music

Delaney Stockli (BA focus in music technology) created the “Rosary Sonatas”:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosary_Sonatas

Michael Glover (BA focus in music technology) greatly expanded a small “stub” article on the opera “Euridice” by Jacopo Peri:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euridice_\(Peri\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euridice_(Peri))



Odyssey in Athens spring 2011



The end of the semester came too quickly for the spring semester students. Many of them expressed the desire to stay on or to return one day to Greece, as this has become their second home. They had many opportunities to interact with fellow Greek and international students in and out of class throughout the semester and made long lasting friendships. At the farewell BBQ, it has become an Odyssey tradition to award a crown for Mr. and Ms. Odyssey (Those students who displayed the most spirit and really immersed themselves in the abroad experience.). This year the two students who were crowned as Mr. and Ms. Odyssey were Jamie Burns, Marketing major from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Rachel Bacon, Psychology major from SUNY Geneseo. The students were crowned with the traditional olive branch.



In addition to the crowning, the students also voted for their favorite class and professor. The Elementary Greek class was once again voted as their favorite class and Professor Joana Vasiliou, who teaches the Greek class, was voted as their favorite professor. Overall the students had an incredible experience, and when asked to describe it, they all answered: "Amazing!"

For more information on the Odyssey in Athens program, please refer to the Odyssey in Athens link on the University of Indianapolis website: www.uindy.gr

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AHEPA/UIndy Journey to Greece 2011

Asian Conference

Ambassadors' Forum

Special Olympics Volunteer Program

UIndy Sports

The UIndy Executive MBA program at YIC, Saudi Arabia

Odyssey in Athens

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