UCOL Faculty Member Wins Award

By Julie Stutzman

IUPUI University College is proud to recognize David J. Sabol as the first recipient of the Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars Award from McGraw Hill and the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition.

Sabol is a Senior Lecturer, Department of English and University College; Academic Coordinator for Learning Communities, University College; Co-Director, IUPUI Summer Bridge Program; and University College Coordinator, IUPUI Summer Success Academy.

The Excellence in Teaching First-Year Seminars Award was created in order to stimulate, encourage, and reward outstanding contributions to the advancement of teaching first-year seminars. Nominees may display excellence in the development of critical and analytical thinking, fostering student involvement in the community, and/or supporting effective utilization of campus resources.

Sabol was chosen from a group of 26 by a national panel composed of members and former members of the Advisory Board of the National Resource Center, past outstanding first-year student advocates, and other leaders in American higher education.

“While I am being honored for my work with helping entering students transition into IUPUI, this award is in fact a confirmation of the excellent work being done collectively for entering students at IUPUI,” Sabol said.

The award was presented to Sabol at the 2011 Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience on February 7, 2011.
Finding a tutor does not have to be a frustrating task thanks to the Tutor Matching Service on Facebook. IUPUI is one of seven schools using the Facebook interface to help students find academic tutoring. Of the seven schools, University College’s Bepko Learning Center is the only academic support center that has implemented the system; the remaining schools have adopted the service through student government.

The Tutor Matching Service on Facebook has replaced the old tutoring system Bepko provided for students in the past. “The old system was a faceless type of system where students would just choose from a list,” said Shannon McCullough, Associate Director of the Bepko Learning Center. She added that the new service is a “great way for students to use something they use every day.”

Landon Brothers, Assistant Director in the Office of Tutorial Support, said the old system had a lot of tutors, but had some issues. The new service, which is not only easier to use, provides a number of unique and even fun features that students can take advantage of.

- The scheduling feature permits students to pull up a calendar-like tool on a tutor’s page and choose from a list of times the tutor is available.
- The “Buy a Package” tool is very handy for parents who want to send their student money strictly for tutoring. Parents just add how much money they want their student to have in tutoring services, and the student can’t use the money for any thing else.
- Tutors can upload YouTube videos of themselves to truly market their experience to students.

McCullough believes the service provides a better way for students to be more involved with picking their tutors. She said the YouTube video feature really makes the search more personal for students when looking for someone to truly match them.

The Bepko Learning Center runs the service mostly hands off, allowing for tutors and students to make their own connections.

“It’s more efficient [this way] because when we’re the middle man, it takes longer,” said McCullough.

However, although they are mostly hands off, the Bepko Center does monitor the site.

“This provides some type of quality control,” Brothers said.

Additionally, on the Tutor Matching Service application, information is posted for all of the free departmental academic supports on campus. Bepko’s first priority is getting students free services, which is why they provide this information every semester for students. Also, some students just prefer not to use Facebook.

“We do have students who don’t want to be on Facebook, and we completely respect that,” Brothers said.

With a weekly report that looks at the amount of searches done on the site, the center has found that the service is receiving a good deal of participation so far. Both Brothers and McCullough expect to see participation continue to grow in the future. Check out the site and its unique features at http://www.facebook.com/tutormatchingservice?v=app_166382651924.
Dear Colleagues,

The calendar says spring has arrived, and with it, we can look forward to warming days, beautiful blooms, and that great feeling that the world is renewed. We can look toward the final weeks of the spring semester, the ramping up of orientation for our new crop of incoming students, and many wonderful events celebrating the accomplishments of students, staff, and faculty. Perhaps you can take a moment to reflect on all of your accomplishments this academic year and take pride in the work you do for the entire university through your role in University College. The heartbeat of IUPUI occurs in Taylor Hall and 518 Indiana Avenue. I have had the privilege of seeing what a group of highly professional, extremely dedicated individuals can do to support student success, and the pride I have always had in University College has only deepened in my few months serving as your dean. So, in the spirit of spring renewal, take a minute and tell a colleague something positive about his or her work, and let’s enjoy the sunshine.