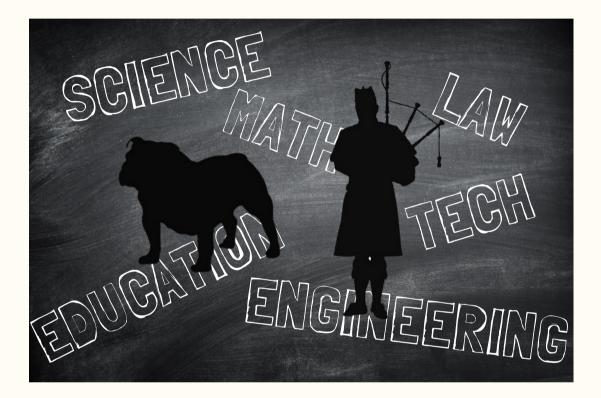
February 2022 Issue No. 18



THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF LEGACY NAFC



A Message From NAFC Education Foundation Executive Director, Tyler Bliss

This month marks the wind-up to the Education Foundation's biggest night of the year, the annual Education Celebration Gala on Friday, March 4th. Do you have plans to be involved? There are multiple opportunities to make an impact: donate items to the silent auction, attend the event, bid along from home, sponsor a table, make an outright donation, or help us spread the word. All the proceeds from the event will be invested back into the students, teachers, and schools in Floyd County. Join us!

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

If it takes a village to raise a child, then it surely helps to have a local university to build a better village. This month we feature two alumni, doing great things at IU Southeast. One is an accomplished scholar who just turned 70. The other is a rising star, not yet 40, in his first professional position.

I want to note, with sadness, the passing of Dr. John Moody (NAHS '54) this past November. He, too, was an IUS legend. Almost singlehandedly, he created the first undergraduate programs, majoring in secondary education there, and then graduate school options followed. His profile appeared here in December 2020, while he could still appreciate it. Once again, I want to thank his daughter Anita (NAHS '84), for helping me renew the connection with her dad.

We always keep our ears to the ground for more stories that you'd like to hear. Please tell us about the heroes of NAFC schools whose profiles belong here.

### ALAN ZOLLMAN, FCHS 1969

Alan was inducted as a Floyd Central Hall-of-Famer in 2021. At the banquet, in his remarks, he repeatedly referred to "204 feet". It's the distance his family lived from the school district boundary. It determined whether he would enroll in the NAFC School system versus Lanesville Schools. Alan feels quite certain about this: those 204 feet changed his life. Floyd Central provided the foundation for his career as a professor of mathematics and education.



#### **Rex Bickers, FCHS '70**

Alan earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics at IU Bloomington. He chose to serve and see the world through the Peace Corps, teaching high school math in Ghana. Back in the US, he was among the first half dozen FC grads who returned to teach there. Yet he kept on, in the pursuit of his own education, completing a master's degree, and then his Ph.D. (also in mathematics), in 1986.

The path to "the top" in academia often means a lot of intermediate destinations along the way. Alan had a typical number of stops, one was at Northern Illinois University. He earned tenure and had a very successful span of 21 years there. But a temporary opportunity opened at IUS in 2014. He took it and has stayed here ever since. Moreover, his career has flourished at IUS with million-dollar grants for the program "Growing Tomorrow's STEM Teachers" and other accomplishments. In 2019, the School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA) bestowed Alan with the George Mallinson Distinguished Service Award. It's the highest award granted by the SSMA. And in 2020, he earned the IUS campus-wide Distinguished Research and Creativity Award.

We asked Alan what made the greatest impact on him during his student days in the NAFC school system. He replied: My father never made it beyond 8th grade. So, becoming a university professor wasn't something I planned. Yet FCHS stressed academics. I learned how to learn, even to love learning at Floyd Central. This began my quest for knowledge journey that I am still pursuing – and enjoying.



#### **JAMES WILKERSON, NAHS 2001**

After high school, some highly focused students know what kind of education they want. Perhaps an MBA from a top business school, or advanced study at a cutting-edge engineering mecca. The strategy is... "get the degree; figure out the career overtime".

James knew that he wanted a career in higher education. He just had to figure out his educational journey as he went along. He earned an English degree in 2006 from U of L, motivated by his strong skills in writing and public speaking. But his early job experiences felt unsatisfying and unlikely to lead to his goal. Graduate school moved him closer. He completed a master's degree in communication at Bellarmine in 2013. Finding the best Ph.D. program was the next logical step. Yet sometimes, signs along the trail point to another approach.

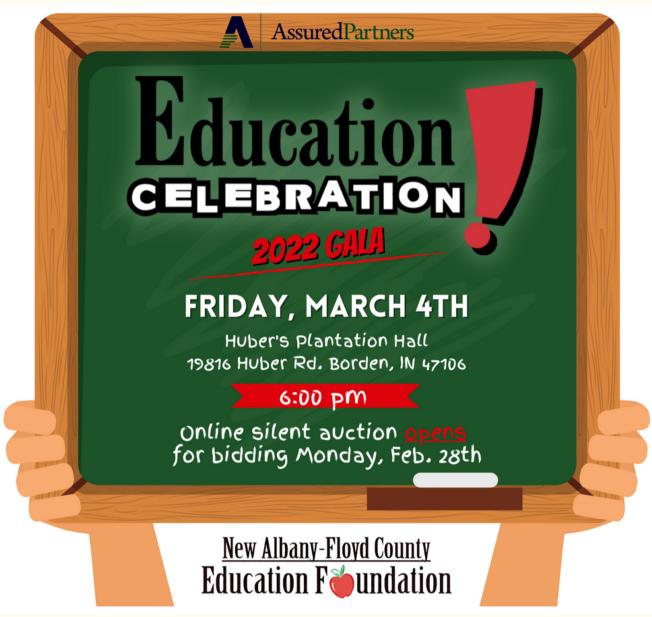
U of L's Brandeis School of Law came as an unexpected path, adding clarity to converging goals: teaching, advocacy, social change, and particularly: policy. College campuses are natural "laboratory environments", nurturing the critical examination of policy. Universities focus on how policies are born, how they're carried out, and how they evolve over time.

James joined IUS in March 2020, where he serves as Director of Staff Equity & Diversity and deputy Title IX Coordinator. You might think (as I did just a month ago)... quite naively... that Title IX is mostly about female athletes. It's about equal treatment and equal impact for everyone in education. That especially means equal protection from harassment and sexual assault. Prevention is often priority one. It's a cornerstone of James' career focus, beginning at least two years before law school with the African American Male Initiative, a program dedicated to staying in school and graduating. He has pursued leadership opportunities repeatedly across Kentuckiana to promote healthy masculinity and accountability. His distinguished abilities in writing and in public speaking have put him in high demand, and there's a lengthy list of college campus guest presenter invitations that he has accepted.

He has a system-wide view of Indiana University broadly, and he has a clear objective to become a national voice in the conversation on diversity and sexual assault prevention. It will be New Albany's good fortune if we can keep him here, as he moves toward that goal.

We asked James to tell us more about the term "the Title IX Guy". He replied: "The Title IX Guy is my answer to the question 'what area of law are you going into." It's my passion, my calling, my brand, and my way to make our colleges a safer place.

# Education Celebration! Gala Friday, March 4th

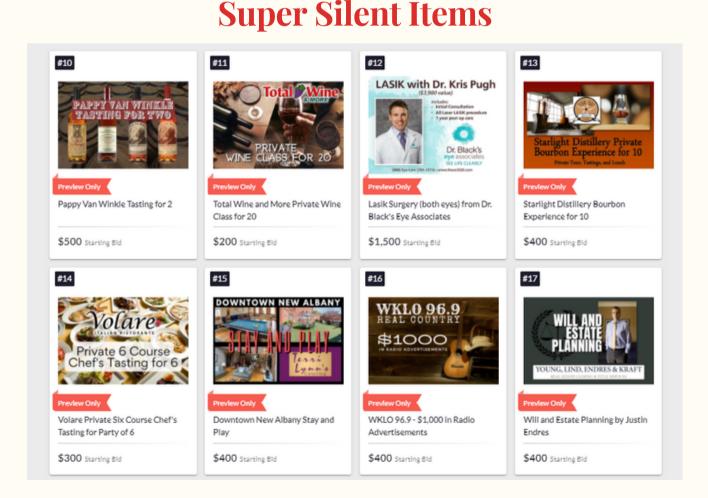


Join us for the annual Education Celebration Gala at Huber's Plantation Hall on Friday, March 4th, 2022. This fun event is for everyone: alumni, parents, teachers, business leaders, and more! The event will feature hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live entertainment, and a silent and live auction. The proceeds will benefit students, teachers, and schools in NAFC through the NAFC Education Foundation. Reservations are \$75 per person and can be made by visiting: <u>www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration</u>

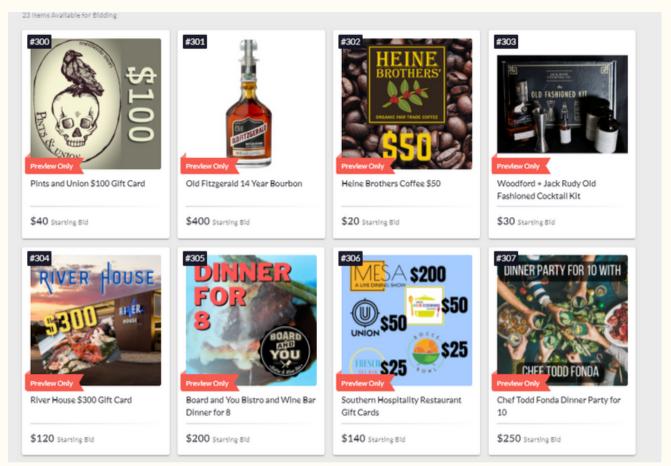
# Bid From Anywhere Register NOW!

Even if you can't join us in person on March 4th, you can still participate in the silent auction from offsite! Register now through our event website to preview our full list of auction items. Items will be released for bidding on the morning of Monday, February 28th. The auction will close at approximately 9:30 on Friday, March 4th.

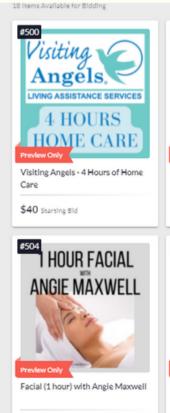
## www.bidpal.net/educationcelebration



### Food and Wine



### Health and Beauty



\$30 Starting Bid



Cabi Necklace, Earrings, \$75 Gift Card, and Styling Consultation

AcAllister Chiropractic, P.S.C.

SS PACKAGE

Full Body Wellness Package -

\$285 Starting Bld

Exam, Treatments, Massage, and ...

\$60 Starting Bld

#505



House of Colour Color Analysis

\$140 Starting Bid



Dress and Dwell Private Shopping Party

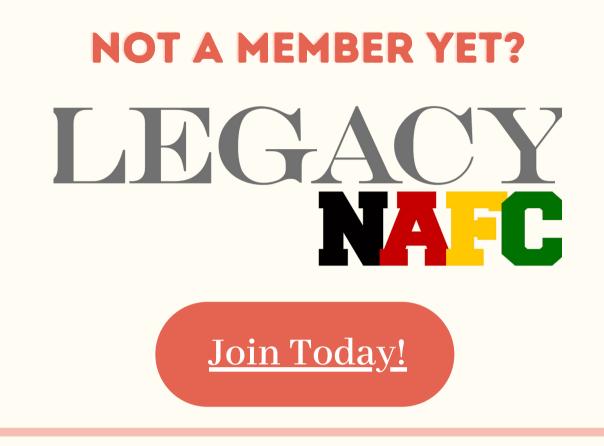
\$140 Starting Bld





Sorg Sport and Wellness Transformation For Life

\$200 Starting Bld





The New Albany Floyd County Education Foundation is a not-forprofit organization that works in conjunction with NAFC Schools to provide privately funded supplemental resources and programs to students, teachers, and schools. NAFC Alumni Nation is an alumni program of the NAFC Education Foundation. Legacy NAFC is the official support group of NAFCS, NAFC Alumni Nation, and the NAFC Education Foundation.



www.NAFCEdFoundation.org

https://nafcalumni.nationbuilder.com/

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