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Gallaudet University

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## Gallaudet Fact—

Q. When was a program for hearing undergraduates formally established at Gallaudet?

- A. 1898
- B. 1988
- C. 2001
- D. 2004

Answer on page 4.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695

## Tributes paid to Sorenson family at SLCC dedication ceremony



James Lee Sorenson expresses his appreciation and admiration of his portrait, painted by deaf artist William Spark, that was unveiled at the dedication ceremony.

Photo: John Consoff

Students were central to the concepts of deaf space when the Sorenson Language and Communication Center (SLCC) was being designed, said Davila. On behalf of the student body, he invited Nicholas Gould, president of the Student Body Government, and Alesia Howard, president of the Graduate Student Association, to share in the recognition of the Sorenson family that evening. Gould unveiled a portrait of Sorenson by deaf artist William Sparks that will be displayed in the SLCC, and Howard read words of appreciation by the

Tributes were paid to James Lee Sorenson and his family at an October 1 ceremony to dedicate the campus' new language and communication center, which bears his name, in recognition of his support in making the building possible.

"This is a wonderful, historic day in the life of Gallaudet University," President Davila proclaimed at the festive event, held for the Sorenson family, friends of the University, and members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Associates. "This building has become a reality due to the generous support of many people, and I would like to thank those individuals today," said Dr. Davila. He said he was particularly pleased to recognize Mr. Sorenson, who recently became a Gallaudet trustee, his family, and Sorenson Communications.

University community to Sorenson Communications from a plaque that will appear below the portrait.

Sorenson then expressed his excitement at being a part of the SLCC, but he added that many people played a role in its success. "While myself and my family may have provided a portion of the financial means to get this building out of the ground, it is truly the work of an inspired administration, faculty, students, and a team of architects and builders who brought this dream to fruition," he said. Sorenson also credited former president I. King Jordan for beginning the project and Davila and his administration for seeing it through to completion. He said that his late father, James Levoy Sorenson, "also had a great respect and love for Gallaudet. He would have been thrilled with this building." ■



Three chiefs from Nigeria's Plateau State visited the University on September 25 during a visit to the United States. The chiefs, shown meeting with President Davila, are (from left): Joshua Dimlong, of the Pankshin region; Nelson Bakfur, of the Mangu region; and Hubert Shaldas, of the Shendam region. The chiefs hope to see collaboration between Gallaudet and Nigeria in areas of educational programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing people in their country. The visit was hosted by the Center for International Programs and Services, a unit of the College of Professional Studies and Outreach.



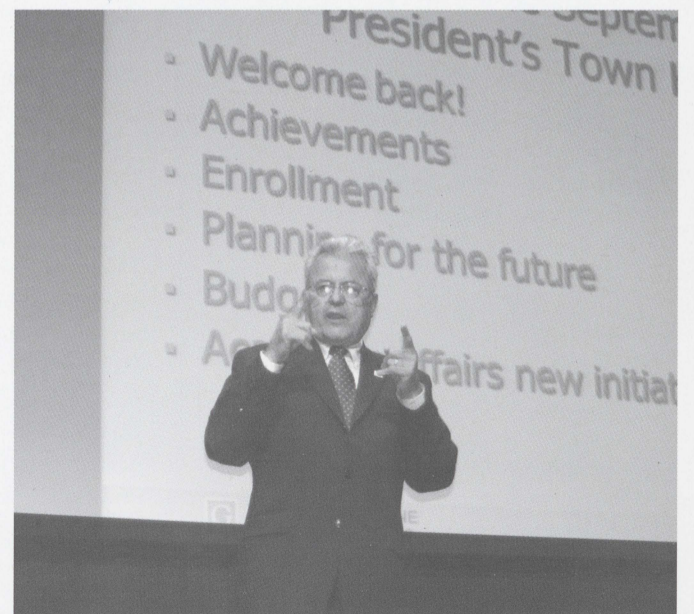
Amy Wilson (left), associate professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, makes a comment at an October 3 gathering of the International Work Group composed of faculty and staff members interested and involved in international efforts. Asiah Mason (right), director of the Center for International Programs and Services (CIPS) within the College of Professional Studies and Outreach, led the discussion among the more than 20 participants and updated the group on the support available from her division. Dr. Jordi Sarat, a professor at the University of Vic in Barcelona, Spain, joined the group.

## President Davila, Provost Weiner address Gallaudet's future at Town Hall meeting

The hard work that the Gallaudet community has undertaken under President Davila's leadership has paid off in a number of notable successes. However, the challenging times that higher education faces calls for carefully planning to meet the needs of the next generation of students.

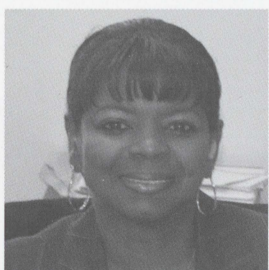
This was the message that Dr. Davila and Provost Stephen Weiner brought to a September 23 Town Hall meeting in Foster Auditorium. It is the first in a series of Town Halls that will be held during the academic year to share important information about the University's current status and future plans, and for administrators to gain valuable feedback from students, faculty, teachers, and staff.

Topics covered at the Town Hall included the budget, enrollment, staffing changes, and long-range planning. Davila opened the meeting by pointing to the many accomplishments that Gallaudet can be proud of—reaffirming its accreditation in the record time of four months, developing a model curriculum for undergraduate students, raising admissions standards to attract the best and brightest students, and guiding the James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center (SLCC) project from the planning phases to completion. Davila remarked that the SLCC has attracted more positive comments than any other building that he has been associated with over the course of his career. He said that when he took Dr. Jerry Lee, chancellor of the National University System and Gallaudet's sixth president, on a tour of the SLCC on September 16 during a day spent discussing potential collaborations between the two



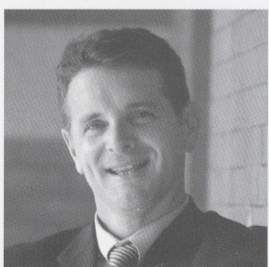
President Davila addresses the crowd at the September 23 Town Hall meeting.

## IN THIS ISSUE

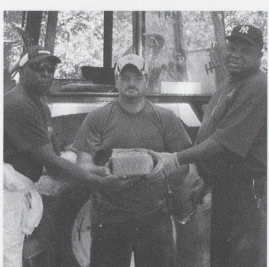


### Roving Reporter

Carolyn McCaskill imagines the features of a deaf-friendly ATM.



Q&A with new Vice President for Institutional Advancement Paul Drehoff.



Grounds Services' John Smith, Jimmy Riley, and Anthony Borges display a piece of Gallaudet history.



## Roving Reporter

### What would a deaf-friendly ATM look like?



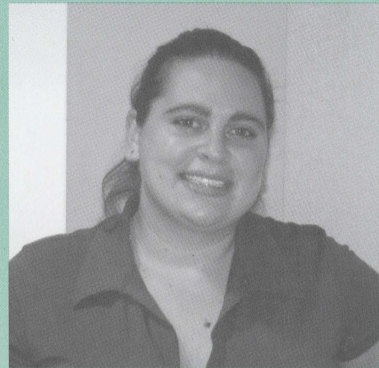
*This would be really neat! A deaf-friendly ATM would have a deaf person signing ASL instructions on how to use the machine and a brief explanation about the different types of services offered by the bank.*

Dr. Carolyn McCaskill,  
associate professor, Department of  
ASL and Deaf Studies



*I think that they are fine right now. I just have to follow the directions and do what I have to do. If I had to wait for someone to sign, it would take too long, and the picture of the signer might not be clear.*

Florence Pratt,  
staff residential assistant, Office of  
Residence Life and Housing



*I have concerns about using ASL/universal sign language on an ATM. An ATM is not a safe environment, and people could rob you if you take the time to watch the ASL message while doing business there. Plus, viewing ASL on an ATM would cause a longer wait for other people in line.*

Danielle Patrucker,  
undergraduate student



*It would have a larger mirror so someone couldn't come up behind you undetected. It would include the card swipe rather than the slot that takes your card so you can swipe the card, put it in your pocket, and have your hands free for the rest of the transaction. A deaf-friendly ATM would be in a kind of booth, like a VP booth, rather than against a wall, so you could chat with a friend or spot people walking by. It would also have walls at a narrow angle so that anyone walking up next to the user is sure to be within the person's peripheral vision.*

Robert Sirvage, graduate student

### Town Hall meeting

*continued from page 1*

universities, Lee commented, "You know, Bob, I've been to Harvard, Stanford, and UCLA, and I've never seen a building as good as that!"

Gallaudet now has "a good sense of direction," said Davila, "but we have miles to go before we sleep." Reversing a downturn in enrollment is a challenge that everyone in the campus community must rise to, he said. Over the past five years, Gallaudet's enrollment has dropped by about 400 students, a loss that has a "critical impact" on the University's financial health, said Davila. In today's economy, a reduction of 400 students translates into an \$8 million shortfall to Gallaudet's budget.

Part of the reduction in the student body stems from Gallaudet's higher admissions requirements; in fact, over 100 potential undergraduate students who applied to the University this fall were turned down because they didn't meet the new standards, said Davila. But the shortage also points to new opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing students. Gone are the days when Gallaudet "could just sit back and wait for them to come to us," he said. Adding to the problem is identifying potential students: With 15,000 school districts across the nation, and most with mainstream programs, it is becoming more and more difficult to find them.

Reversing the downturn in enrollment calls for a strong enrollment management strategy to: 1.) identify deaf and hard of hearing students enrolled in pre-college programs across the country; 2.) help them to see how a Gallaudet education can benefit them; and 3.) once they are enrolled at the University, see that they

have access to the tools they need to graduate. Regarding the latter objective, the sobering fact is that currently only one in four students who enroll at Gallaudet succeeds in earning a diploma, a situation that Davila termed "unacceptable."

To remedy this and to prepare for the success of tomorrow's students in other ways, Davila is proposing a community-wide initiative dubbed "Vision for 2020" to help the University determine where it wants to be 12 years from now. It will be the topic of this year's Enrichment Day, which will be held on October 14. The day will provide an opportunity for campus constituents to come together and learn more about the issues higher education faces.

Fiscal foresight is another priority that will ensure the University's health, said Davila. Fortunately for Gallaudet, "we continue to enjoy a positive working relationship with the Department of Education and Congress," he said. However, the downturn in the economy calls for belt-tightening measures. "We have to plan carefully to protect our resources," he said. One way to do this is to closely scrutinize hiring practices. The University has taken tight control of staffing levels and, largely through attrition, has managed to keep the total number of employees below 1,000 for the first time in years. This doesn't mean that a hiring freeze has been imposed, but great discretion must be exercised in filling positions that have been vacated, or in creating new ones.

Dr. Weiner talked about new initiatives by Academic Affairs, such as the creation of new offices—Diversity and Equity for Students (ODES) and Academic Quality and Planning—that the University has taken to help ensure



Dr. Fred Mangrubang, associate professor in the Department of Education, is congratulated by his peers at a recent department meeting for 25 years of service to Gallaudet.

student success and to plan for the future. Weiner mentioned the Keeping the Promise program, which is housed in ODES, that helps first generation African American and Latino college students succeed by providing them role models. In 2007-2008, the first academic year the program was in place, there was a 96 percent retention rate for students in the program. Weiner said the University has enlisted the services of Hobsons, an education, technology, and recruitment services company, to work with the University to track and recruit potential students, and to identify current students who may be in trouble academically through early warning and intervention.

Other measures Weiner mentioned that Academic Affairs is pursuing include increasing staffing at the Career Center, expanding supplemental instruction and tutorial support, creating new opportunities for scholarships, ongoing training for faculty and professional staff, and the study abroad program for students who complete their first year at Gallaudet with good grades.

The next Town Hall meeting will be held on November 11. ■

## ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green  
Gallaudet University  
800 Florida Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002-3695

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### Acting Director & Publications Manager

Roz Prickett

### Editor & Photo Editor

Todd Byrd

### Writer

Rhea Yablon Kennedy

### Contributors

Darlene Prickett

Sherita Bolden

### Design/Production

Graphic Design & Production

### Printing

BelJean Printing

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## Q & A with Paul Drehoff, vice president for Institutional Advancement



Paul Drehoff joined the Gallaudet team as vice president for Institutional Advancement (IA) in June. He took this position, which oversees Development, Public Relations, and Alumni Relations, at what he calls “an exciting time to be at Gallaudet.” *On the Green* recently caught up with him to ask about his first impressions and first few months on the job.

**On the Green:** What attracted you to Gallaudet?

**Paul Drehoff:** There are a lot of wonderful things happening here at Gallaudet. I see the University charting a positive course for itself and I want to be a part of that momentum. Also, I’ve been associated in small ways with the deaf community over the past several years and this job presented a challenging, professional way to get more involved.

**OTG:** What is your professional and educational background?

**PD:** Most recently, I was vice president for communications at the University of Maryland, Baltimore for seven years. Prior to that, I spent a significant part of my career in healthcare marketing and public relations. I have a bachelor’s of science degree in mass communication from Towson University and a master’s of science in marketing from Johns Hopkins University. I also hold a certificate in management from Harvard University.

**OTG:** What would you say is the most important service that an advancement unit provides to an institution?

**PD:** The role of Institutional Advancement is to generate enthusiasm about the institution in a way that drives fundraising, enrollment, and alumni involvement, and promotes a positive image of the university.

**OTG:** What is one challenge you’ve tackled in your new position?

**PD:** Brushing up on my sign language skills has been a critical part of the job. I first took ASL about 18 years ago so I could communicate with my friend’s daughter. I have a few deaf friends but have not had the occasion to use sign language on a daily basis. Since I started at Gallaudet, I’ve been working with a student tutor twice a week. It’s a huge challenge, and I’d say my receptive skills still need a lot of work. But my coworkers have told me I’m improving!

### On the lighter side...

**On the Green:** And now for a few fun questions. Where did you grow up and where do you live now?

**Paul Drehoff:** I live in Linthicum Heights, Md., near BWI Airport in the same house where I grew up with my five siblings. Renovating the house has been a hobby and a part-time job at times.

**OTG:** What are your hobbies?

**PD:** I really like to be outside. I am a big beach bum in the summer. My favorite is Rehoboth Beach, in Delaware. I also like to ski, and I enjoy watching all kinds of movies.

**OTG:** What’s your favorite gadget?

**PD:** My newest gadget is the 3G iPhone. I have a love/hate relationship with it. It definitely has some great applications, and is easy to use.

**OTG:** What is your favorite kind of food?

**PD:** Anything spicy. Mexican is my favorite. I could eat my weight in chips and salsa.

**OTG:** How would you characterize your management style?

**PD:** I think my approach is marked by an open door policy and a commitment to being collaborative, supportive, and flexible. I take a team approach. As a manager, I think my role is to make sure people have the resources they need to do their job.

**OTG:** What would you like to accomplish in the next six months?

**PD:** Job number one is to build a strong advancement team. This will be a terrific opportunity to enhance the important services that IA provides while placing greater emphasis on marketing. Currently, we are recruiting an executive director of development and a director of marketing and public relations. I also want to continue to get out and meet people on campus and learn more about the exciting things that are happening here.



Paula Tucker, director of Hillel, the organization for Jewish life on campus, leads a September 26 Shabbat (Sabbath) service and dinner. Hosted in the Jordan Student Academic Center, the dinner drew about 40 community members. In honor of the Jewish new year holiday of Rosh Hashana that arrived the following week, the dinner featured apples with honey and round challah breads with sweet raisins—the foods traditionally eaten to bring in a “sweet” new year.

## Campus Calendar

### October

- 16-18**—*Are Your Ears Blind?*, 8 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 17-19**—Homecoming
- 17**—Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212; Department of Business Open House, 3:30-6 p.m., Ely Center, second floor lounge
- 18-19**—*Are Your Ears Blind?*, 2 p.m., Eastman Studio Theatre, Elstad Annex
- 21**—Procrastination workshop, 6-7 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010
- 22**—Internship and Job Fair, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., GUKCH
- 23**—“Thursday Night Live” with Campus Crusade For Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
- 24**—Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212
- 27**—Butoh Workshop, 4:30-6 p.m., Field House Dance Studio
- 28**—Spanish Dance Workshop, 4:30-6 p.m., Field House Dance Studio; Domestic Violence Workshop, 7-8 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1010
- 30**—“Thursday Night Live” with Campus Crusade For Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
- 31**—Undergraduate Open House, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Awareness of Sexual Aggression workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212

### November

- 3**—PFLAG monthly meeting, 7:30-9 p.m., HMB, Rm. S135
- 6**—Green Lecture Series: Presentation by fish and wildlife biologist Ron Popowski, noon-1 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 1011; Breaking the Stigma of Mental Health, 6-7 p.m., JSAC Rm. 1010; “Thursday Night Live” with Campus Crusade For Christ, 7:30 p.m., Library, Rm. B111
- 7**—Workshop Series: Awareness of Sexual Aggression, 2-3:30 p.m., JSAC, Rm. 2212

## Clerc Center Happenings

### MSSD announces 2008-09 season of musicals and dance

By Susan M. Flanigan

**M**SSD Performing Arts is starting off its season with *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. All your favorite Peanuts characters will come to life this November 6 to 8 when MSSD stages performances of this well-loved Broadway musical. Actor/director and MSSD alumnus Greg Anderson is directing the Fall Showcase.

Based on Charles M. Schulz’s

“Peanuts” comic strips, the show is bright, fun, and adorable. In the musical, Charlie Brown interacts with members of the Peanuts gang—Snoopy, Lucy, Sally, Linus, and Schroeder—to try and find out if he is truly a “good man.” A matinee performance will be held on November 6 at 10 a.m., and evening performances will be staged on November 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. in MSSD’s Theatre Malz.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for college students, senior citizens with I.D., and MSSD and KDES teachers and staff. To reserve tickets, email Yola.Rozynek@gallaudet.edu.

Looking ahead, performances of the Winter Dance Concert, *Jive Afrique*, will be held February 12 to 14. This year’s deaf and hearing choreographers, MSSD dancers, and guest companies will showcase a wide variety of African-inspired dances. Audiences of past MSSD winter dance concerts have come to expect an outstanding array of dance styles, top choreography, and amazing costumes.

The season finale will be the Spring Play performances of *Grease* from April 30 to May 2. Who can resist the upbeat energy of the famous rock-and-roll musical about high school life in the 1950s? The show will be directed by MSSD student Ormar Rodriguez.

Come out and enjoy all the shows this season! ■





An exhibit in the Washburn Arts Building's Linda K. Jordan Gallery offers a hint of the creative costumes and concepts created for the performance, *Are Your Ears Blind?* This multimedia show, conceived and directed by Theatre Arts faculty member Monique Holt, is an hour-long peek through the looking glass that follows the spiritual journeys of five modern day Alices. Performances are October 9-12 and 16-19 in the Gilbert C. Eastman Studio Theatre's Elstad Annex.

## USDA collaboration creates food safety videos in ASL

In June, with the help of Gallaudet students, alumni, and members of the faculty and staff, and the Washington D.C.-based interpreting agency Access Interpreting, Inc., the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a series of ASL videocasts. These videos have played a large role in the USDA project SignFSIS, which is named for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the USDA division that coordinates it. Less than four months later, what began with eight videos is set to expand to cover all food safety topics on FSIS' Website, according to FSIS' Public Affairs Specialist Bridgette Keefe.

Keefe, a 2004 graduate who majored in communication studies, noticed that when she talked about foodborne pathogens or recalls with deaf and hard of hearing friends, they were often surprised because they did not have much exposure to such news. At the same time, Keefe noted the popularity of vlogs as a way to share information in the deaf community, and realized that the same form could be applied to food safety information.

So earlier this year, Keefe spearheaded the effort to get ASL versions of important safety messages on the FSIS Website. The videocasts included three- to five-minute messages on foodborne illness and proper food handling, preparation, and storage. Their release was publicized through the deaf media, which brought viewers and positive feedback from the community.

"When it comes to disseminating food safety information, consumers who are deaf and hard of hearing are not afforded full access," said Keefe. "Creating SignFSIS provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to add access and give back to the deaf and hard of hearing community."

When Keefe brought up the idea to her department, she said, the proposal was met with enthusiastic approval, making the process easy.

Support from ASL experts also helped. "Members of the Gallaudet com-

munity and local interpreting agency staff were essential to the process," Keefe said. The written scripts were professionally translated into ASL by deaf ASL models provided by Access Interpreting? USDA edited the videos then added the captions and posted the finished videos on the USDA Web site.

"We have involved qualified deaf linguists, translators, and ASL models every step of the way," said Ryan Leon, who is both a co-owner of Access Interpreting and a Gallaudet alumnus. The three co-owners of Access Interpreting expressed enthusiasm for the project and hope that other government agencies will follow USDA's lead.

Others are, indeed, taking notice. In a government-wide effort following powerful hurricanes, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) noted one of the SignFSIS videos in a multi-agency press release and featured it on its website during September's severe hurricane season. The video explained food safety in the case of a power outage.

FSIS' mission is to ensure that meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome and correctly labeled and packaged. The SignFSIS effort fits with the agency's additional charge of conducting public education programs to educate consumers on how to prevent foodborne illness and keep their families safe.

An FSIS press release pointed out the broad appeal of this resource. "All consumers will benefit from the videocasts that provide food safety education in a visual format with captioning as an alternative to traditional text-based fact sheets," it stated.

Looking ahead, FSIS is set to release two additional videos each month over the next year, in the end covering all food safety topics.

Consumers can access the videos on FSIS' Website and subscribe to receive updates whenever new SignFSIS videocasts become available by visiting [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/SignFSIS](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS). ■



This artistic rendering of the Earth at World Bank headquarters in downtown Washington, D.C. provided a fitting greeting to students in Gallaudet's M.A. in International Development Program during their September 10 visit. The students, who are earning a master's degree through the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, were attending the event "Global Dialogue on Information and Communications Technology and Disability: Empowering Disabled Populations for the Information Age." The event was hosted by the World Bank, the government of Tunisia, and other partners. The students learned from experts in the field who came to the dialogue, as well as several who participated via live video feeds from Tunisia, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia.



Alesia Howard, president of the Graduate Student Association, reads the inscription on a plaque expressing appreciation for Sorenson Communication's support of the new James Lee Sorenson Language and Communication Center. Looking on are (from left) President Davila, Student Body Government President Nicholas Gould, and Board of Trustees chair, Benjamin Soukup.

### Gallaudet Fact—

Answer: C.—the Hearing Undergraduate Student Program was established in the fall of 2001, accepting a limited number of students who are known as "HUGs."



On the way to the DePauw Invitational on September 18, the Gallaudet volleyball team stopped by the Indiana School for the Deaf in Indianapolis to read books to the students. The school is the alma mater for volleyball players Nukeitra Hayes, Amanda Krieger, and Justine Jeter, and for assistant coach Pia Marie Paulone. Head Coach Lynn Ray Boren believes in the importance of student-athletes contributing to society. "I want to develop multitiered athletes who not only excel on the court, but also in other aspects of their lives. This experience shows the players they are role models, and they need to hold themselves to a higher standard." Members of the team were recently honored by the American Volleyball Association Coaches for achieving a cumulative team GPA of above 3.3.

## Among Ourselves

Associate Provost Catherine Andersen was invited to give the keynote address at the Indiana College Access and Success Network Conference on October 17 at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. The topic of her address is the role of non-cognitive variables, especially emotional intelligence (EI), in college success. Dr. Andersen also presented with Dr. William Moses, EQ coordinator for First Year Experience and professor of art, at the first Higher Education Symposium on Emotional Intelligence, held at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. on October 2. Their talk was on the role of EI in college persistence.



Grounds Services groundskeepers (from left) John Smith, Jimmy Riley, and Anthony Borges display a stone slab from the Class of 1923 that they recently unearthed. They happened upon the piece of memorabilia while removing the stump and roots of a dead tree outside of House One. Riley also found another slab, this one from the class of 1953, at the corner of Florida and West Virginia avenues. A ceremony to reinstall the 1953 slab near the 7th Street gate will take place on October 18, during Homecoming. The event will coincide with the 55th reunion of the class, of which President Davila is a member. The Class of 1923 slab will be returned to the ground in the same vicinity, and a new tree will be planted.