

Roundabout ~ January 19, 2021

Next meeting



Join us as we celebrate the success of the Rotary Toast event and learn more about how this event supports our honoree Bob Hammel's selected community organization, Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

This Week's News

Healing thoughts for Del Brinkman

Former Bloomington Rotarian **Del Brinkman** is recovering from a recent surgery. Send a note to Del at:

Del Brinkman
Brandon Woods
1501 Inverness Drive, IL-Apartment 116
Lawrence, KS 66047
del.brinkman@comcast.net

Julia Merkt moves to Thailand

Former Bloomington Rotarian **Julia Merkt** moved back to Chiang Mai, Thailand, at the end of 2020. Julia concluded her required COVID quarantine on December 27 and is applying to rejoin the Chiang Mai International Rotary Club, where she was a member.

Julia, a retired elder law attorney, loves the people and the culture of Thailand ... and the low cost of living. She would welcome notes from her Bloomington Rotary friends.

You can reach her at jemerkt22@gmail.com and follow her adventures on her blog, <http://juliamerkt.wordpress.com>.

Rotarians in the News

Connie Shakalis is taking on a new role as theater columnist at the *Herald-Times*. She formerly served as the publication's theater critic.

Time to Reflect

There still are spaces in February and March for people to sign up to give a two-minute reflection. Here's the link: [Third Quarter Reflection Sign Up](#)

Rotary Service Opportunities

There are many opportunities to serve at My Sister's Closet this month; visit <https://sisterscloset.org/mlk-volunteer/> for more information and to sign up for a shift. Feel free to reach out to **Sandy Keller** at (812) 333-7710 director@sisterscloset.org if you have questions.

The new winter shelter operated by Beacon is seeking people to bring snacks, chili, and soups. There are also openings for volunteers to work shifts from 8:30-11:30 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 a.m. Contact Sue Murphy at sue@beaconinc.org for more information.

Watch for more information about volunteer opportunities at Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

Our Program



Jim Shea introduced Dennis Groth, interim dean at IU's Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering. Dennis, originally from Chicago, received his Ph.D. in computer science at IU in 2002 and was hired by the new School of Informatics. Jim said that Dennis is gifted at working with undergraduates. He was appointed vice provost for undergraduate education at IU Bloomington in 2013. In January 2020, he was appointed interim dean of the Luddy School. Jim said the school couldn't have picked a better person to lead during this challenging time.

Dennis opened with the questions of “Why Luddy?” and “Why Informatics?” Dennis said the answer has to do with what we can solve with the computer. In this way, according to Dennis, informatics and the Luddy School focus on “seeking out ways to maximize our ability to use computation to solve our most pressing problems” and to bring people together.

Dennis said students are interested in their career prospects. At Luddy, 96 percent of students report a successful outcome. Among graduates, 83 percent secured a job, with an average starting salary of \$61,625, while 13 percent continue their education. A little over a third of graduates stay in Indiana. While that is a good number for technology programs, Dennis said there is opportunity for improvement.

One hundred Luddy School students are part of the Living Learning Center, which wants to expand to 150. The Luddy School features 34 student organizations and a variety of unique experiential learning opportunities, including Serve IT.

Students in the Luddy School have their choice of five undergraduate majors: computer science, informatics, intelligent systems engineering, and two new degrees, one in data science and one in cybersecurity and global policy. The informatics degree, launched 20 years ago, is now one of the top five degree programs on campus by enrollment. The cybersecurity and global policy degree is the only one of its kind in the world. Among undergraduates at Luddy, 77 percent receive multiple credentials upon graduation.

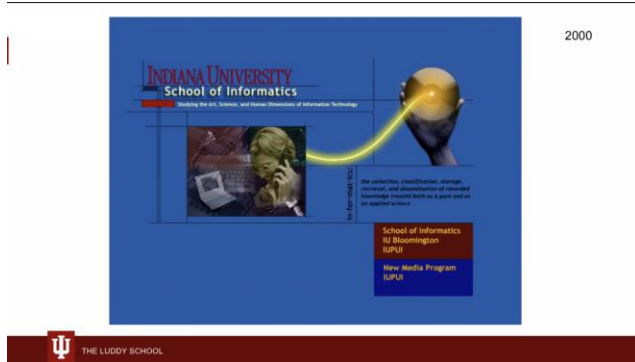
The Luddy School’s faculty are world-renowned experts in their fields. They are engaged inside and outside of the classroom. They are conducting cutting-edge research that will shape tomorrow. The pandemic has both increased and decreased faculty productivity, with publications and grants increasing as young families navigate the disruptions of child care and school closings.

Artificial intelligence is among the newest and most prolific research focus areas at the Luddy School. About three-quarters of faculty at the Luddy School are working in artificial intelligence, in areas that range from algorithms to robotics and social robotics.

Women represent 23 percent of undergraduate enrollment, which Dennis reported is a good number nationally but seems to be missing the mark. Among the faculty, 25 percent are women. At the leadership level, percentages of men and women are equal.

International students comprise 80 percent of the graduate-level enrollment. Undergraduates are about 50 percent Indiana residents and 50 percent nonresidents. Only five percent of undergraduates are international students.

“Computers have won. They are everywhere. Everyone is a computing professional now,” Dennis said. He acknowledged that some people still do not have computer access and some systems are not resilient. Dennis said the Luddy School is obligated to prepare people to be thoughtful about how they go about their work and their contributions to the greater good.



Rotarians took a trip on the virtual Way Back Machine for a look at the earliest School of Informatics website, designed in the year 2000.

Our January 19 Weekly Gathering

President Ashley Wesley presided.

Owen Johnson offered the reflection. In 1977 he interviewed Elio Gabbuggiani, then the Communist mayor of Florence, Italy. The interview was complicated and required two translators, one of whom was University of Michigan political scientist Bob Putnam. Two decades later, Putnam authored *Bowling Alone*, which argued that Americans were falling away from civic, social, and political engagement and toward an atomized individualism. Last fall, a new edition of *Bowling Alone* was published with new materials about social media. In a companion piece, *Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again*, Putnam and co-author Shaylyn Romney Garrett explore the heights of solidarity in the mid-20th century and the events that led to this unification. The authors say these forces “shaped an America that was more equal, less contentious, more connected, and more conscious of shared values.” An examination of the events over the first half of the 20th century could reveal insights into a path back toward the culture of “we.”

Ashley Wesley introduced guests:

- **John Zody**, guest of Trent Deckard
- **Don Harvey**, Columbus Sunrise Rotary Club, guest of Jim Bright
- **Bob Hammel**, guest of Jim Bright
- **Kate Lipa**, guest of Ashley Wesley

Birthdays

- **John Bender**, January 19
- **Sally Gaskill**, January 22

Membership Anniversaries

- **Don Colglazier**, 15 years
- **Judy Witt**, 32 years

Rotarians who missed this week's celebration of service can watch it at <https://youtu.be/4iV5FtB9xyY>

Roundabout Reporter: Kyla Cox Deckard