

THE CARYATID

A Newsletter of the
Colloquium for Women
of Indiana University

July 2002

Bill Blass: A 50-Year Retrospective

car·y·at·id (kar'ē at'id)

In architecture, a sculptured

female figure, fully draped,

which takes the place of

a column or pilaster in

supporting the horizontal

frieze of figures, for example,

at the top of a Greek temple.

For nearly 50 years, the late Bill Blass defined the best of American fashion: elegant, simple, impeccably tailored, and eminently wearable. Now the Elizabeth Sage Historic Costume Collection proudly announces *Bill Blass: An American Designer*, the first retrospective on this enormously influential career.

Blass, who died on June 12, was a native of Fort Wayne. Although he had donated some of his designs to the Sage Collection, he had never been to Bloomington until 1999. When he visited the campus, he spoke with students, toured the IU Art Museum, and agreed that his first retrospective should be organized by Indiana University.

The exhibition features childhood drawings, sketches, and more than 100 ensembles. To accompany it, Harry N. Abrams is publishing a book presenting some 250 of Blass's most important ensembles, beginning with his earliest work in the 1950s and '60s, continuing through the creation of his own label in 1970, and closing with pieces from his final collection for spring 2000.

The list of women who have worn and loved Bill Blass creations reads like a Who's Who of the late 20th century. Blass and his designs won countless fashion awards. The University is proud to honor his memory and celebrate his lifetime of achievements.

As part of the retrospective, Blass had intended to visit IU and address the Colloquium himself. In his place we will hear from fashion consultant and designer Michael Vollbracht, whom Blass selected to be curator of the exhibit. He will tell us about the items on display and the enormous impact Bill Blass had upon international fashion.



SATURDAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Mae Jemison



Dr. Mae Jemison

As a shuttle astronaut in 1992, Dr. Mae Jemison became the first woman of color to orbit the Earth. But before joining NASA she earned a chemical engineering degree from Stanford (while also meeting the requirements for a BA in African-American Studies), an MD from Cornell, served as a Peace Corp doctor in West Africa, and practiced medicine in Los Angeles.

An engineer as well as a doctor, after leaving NASA she founded The Jemison Group, Inc., a private company focusing on the integration of science and technology into everyday life for the benefit of all on this planet.

She also founded an international science camp for students ages 12-16, served as host of the *World of Wonder* series on The Discovery Channel, was the subject of the PBS documentary *The New Explorers*, and speaks fluent Russian, Japanese, and Swahili. And she is a professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College, where she directs the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries.

Dr. Jemison is outspoken about the importance of increased participation of women and minorities in science and technology fields, and investing in the present to secure the future.

ALUMNA SPEAKER:

Jean Ann Ford

The trip from IU to a booming cosmetics business may seem like a long one, but Jean Ann Ford insists it has been fun all the way. And when you hear her talk about it, you'll believe her.

Jean and her twin sister, Jane, co-founded BeneFit Cosmetics in 1976. With IU degrees in finance (Jane) and Fine Arts (Jean), they were a perfect combo, "very right and left brain," says Jean. Their goal was to "make people laugh, have a good time, and see how make-up is not complicated but rather fantasy and drama." With sassy product names like Glamazon (a bronzer), and Touch Me Then Try To Leave (a skin cream), they've converted legions of women.

As Jean says, "This is not about looking gorgeous all the time. This is about looking healthy, happy, alert, and feeling self-confident. Even if it's just the funny name of a lipstick to make you laugh." She'll offer laughs, along with insights into how two hometown Indiana girls made good.



Jean Ann Ford

OUR MISSION

The Colloquium for Women of Indiana University is a unique event which provides an insider's look at Indiana University. It is a means for participants to connect more closely with IU by discovering ideas, programs, and people that interest and engage them.

The Colloquium seeks to honor women who are leaders in philanthropy and volunteer service. The Colloquium limits its attendance to approximately 100 women who have the opportunity to spend time in substantive, thought-provoking sessions with speakers of national renown, accomplished IU faculty, students, and alumnae.

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS

Here's a sneak preview of our faculty presenters this year:

- **CHANCELLOR SHARON BREHM**

Women and Leadership: Past, Present, and Future

Chancellor Brehm will discuss the progress women have made in obtaining leadership roles in American society, the barriers that still exist, and the issues that are emerging as major concerns for the future.

- **DEAN OF STUDENTS DICK MCKAIG,**
WITH STUDENT LEADERS

Beyond Statistics and Stereotypes: What's It Really Like to Be an IU Student?

A panel of IU students coordinated by the Dean of Students will discuss student life, student concerns, and the real problems students cope with on our campus.

- **PRESIDENT MYLES BRAND**

The News Is Good from IU

President Brand will offer an update on university activities, including IU's current emphasis on economic development as a way of addressing the long-term problems that have contributed to the current state budget crisis. He will also discuss how that crisis impacts IU.

- **BUSINESS PROFESSOR IDIE KESNER**

Women in the Board Room: Fact and Fiction

Professor Kesner will discuss the roles of women as directors or board members, both in the culture of the United States and internationally.

- **GEOCHEMIST LISA PRATT**

Probing the Limits of Microbial Life: Field Research in the South African Gold Mines

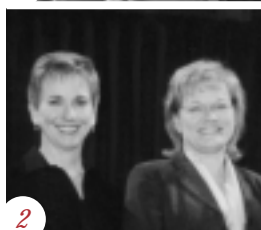
Professor Pratt is participating in an interdisciplinary project to study South African gold mines as a window into extreme environments in the Earth's interior. The team is documenting bacterial life at depths up to 4 km (2.7 miles) below the surface—where air temperatures can approach 120° and water temperatures can exceed 150° F.

Strength Through Girl Power

On April 19, Peg Brand and Debbie Sibbitt hosted more than 100 women to view the 15th running of the Women's Little 500. Colloquium participants had special reason to cheer. Your generous donations raised \$6,955, enough to enable both the Girl Scouts and Girls Inc. to each sponsor a team. The girls and their teams, ConFuoco and Team Athena, shared many activities surrounding the race, from creating t-shirts to making pit signs. Even though the Roadrunners won the race, it was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Along with the sponsorships, the Colloquium gave three scholarships—\$1,500 each—to outstanding women riders. Peg and Debbie attended the Victory Banquet to present the scholarships—the largest awarded that evening. Way to go, CWIU!

1. The Brownie Scouts of Tulip Trace Council sponsored ConFuoco. 2. Debbie Sibbitt (l) and Peg Brand represented us at the Student Foundation's Victory Banquet. 3. Recipients of the Colloquium scholarships were (l-r) Vanessa Higgins, Kimberly Gerbers, and Sarah Jeane Fredrickson. 4. Girls Inc. sponsored Team Athena.



SAVE THE
DATE!

The Colloquium
will be held
October 4-5,
2002.

Invitations will
arrive soon.

The next
Colloquium
won't be until
2004,
so don't miss
this one!

You might say this year's Colloquium for Women of IU takes up a lot of space: outer, inner, and personal.

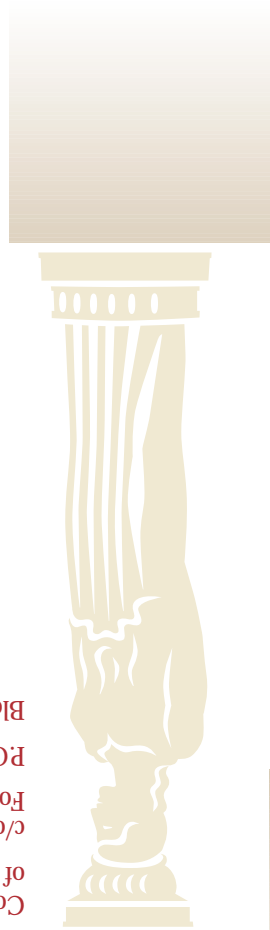
Space Exploration, Colloquium Style

Saturday's keynote speaker, Dr. Mae Jemison, is a physician, engineer, social scientist, and teacher; she is also a former shuttle astronaut, the first woman of color to orbit the Earth. Geology professor Lisa Pratt went the other way, miles deep into the gold mines of South Africa, to see what kinds of bacterial life forms can exist in the harsh conditions there.

On the personal front, our alumnae speaker is Jean Ann Ford, co-founder of BeneFit Cosmetics. And as a special treat, Colloquium attendees will enjoy a private tour of the retrospective exhibit, *Bill Blass: An American Designer*, and talk with a few of Blass's closest associates about his life and influence.

That's just the beginning. We're saving a space for you!

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