

## The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust



Above: Mark Helmus, VP University Advancement; Nancy Russell, NMPCT Trustee; Michael Zimmerman, LAS Dean; Carol Schilling, NMPCT Trustee; and Rebecca Dolan, CUE@B Co-Director at the presentation of the grant award in February 2008.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust (NMPCT) was established in 1997. Its namesake, Nina Mason Pulliam, was an accomplished journalist, business woman, nature lover and humanitarian. The trust has a 50 year life span, and seeks to fund and support causes near and dear to Pulliam's heart. Specifically, it "seeks to help people in need, especially women, children and families; to protect animals and nature; and to enrich community life in the metropolitan areas of Indianapolis and Phoenix".

The CUE@B was awarded a grant from the NMPCT in 2008. The center pursued a grant with the trust based on a mutual interest in nature and animals, and a commitment to community and education.

Upon receiving this grant, the center was able to hire its first full-time staff member, an academic coordinator, in August of 2008. Grant funds have also allowed the center to start additional on-campus research projects, begin outreach efforts, pursue projects for the Shortridge Magnet school, and fund our internship program.

### Bluebird boxes

As of May 2009 we have the following activity:

1 black capped chickadee nest with 5 chicks ( see below)

3 tree swallow nests

1 active, no eggs

2 active, with eggs

We also have one pair of Eastern bluebirds building a nest.



### Farewell Seniors

With the end of another year, we bid farewell and good luck to our graduating seniors. During the spring 2009 semester we had several seniors working with the center.

Joe Wienman was an intern with a local avian and exotic veterinarian.

Joe will be spending his summer working at the Smithsonian National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center. In the Fall he will be taking physics and biochemistry at IU in preparation for vet school. Joe hopes to start vet school in the fall of 2010.

Stacey Summitt is also a graduating senior. She spent the spring semester working with The Nature Conservancy. Stacey's next adventure is to teach at University High

School, a college prep school in Carmel. Stacey will be teaching geometry and designing a new zoology course to be taught to upperclassman at the school. In addition to teaching, she hopes to remain active with The Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations.

Stacey will also be spending time studying for the GRE. Her long term goal is to pursue a PhD in ecology.

### We Have A New Director!

The CUE@B is pleased to announce that we have a new director. Earlier this spring we conducted a national search to fill our new director position. Qualifications included a strong background in urban ecology, teaching experience and fundraising experience. In April we had the pleasure of interviewing three outstanding candidates. After careful consideration, our search committee made a decision and an offer was extended and accepted May 1st.

Tim Carter, Ph.D. will be joining us at the CUE@B in August of this year. Dr. Carter is currently working at the River Basin Center at Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia. His interests lie in analyzing and understanding the relationships between the form and function of urban ecosystems. Dr. Carter will bring with him his expertise in urban ecology and a fresh approach to the 'Ecology of Cities'.

Center for  
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"CUE@B"

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#### Staff:

Co-Directors:  
Dr. Rebecca Dolan  
Dr. Carmen Salsbury

Program Coordinator:  
Marjorie Hennessy, MLA

Advisory Faculty:  
Dr. Chris Hess  
Dr. Travis Ryan

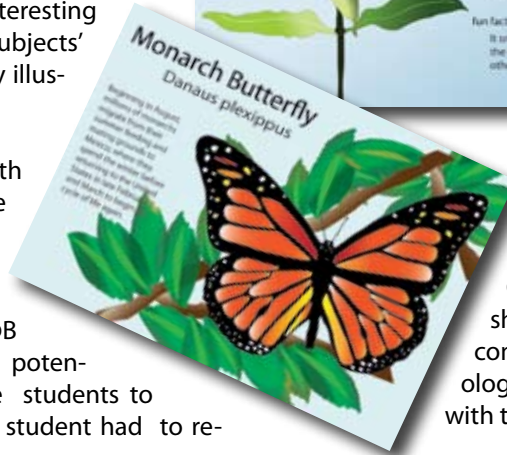
Student Assistants:  
Monica Karnatz  
Amy Record

CUE@B sponsored interns:  
Mary Gryzbek  
Kari Maxwell  
Ty Hoskins

# Butler Field Guide

During the spring 2009 semester, the CUE@B collaborated with students in the media arts major. Professor Gautam Rao was looking for an interesting project and art 'subjects' for his introductory illustrator students.

After meeting with us at the center, we set out to develop a field guide for the Butler campus. The CUE@B provided a list of potential species for the students to choose from. Each student had to re-



search their assigned species, including the scientific name, basic natural history and, of course, what it looked like. The class spent approximately four weeks working on the project. Each student prepared a full color layout of their species, a poster, and a black and

white drawing. The color layouts will be used to generate a field guide and the black and white drawings will be used to generate a coloring book. The CUE@B hopes to continue this partnership and add to the field guide until it is complete. The project also provided non-biology majors the opportunity to get involved with the center.

## Student Update

This summer we have five students working through the CUE@B. Monica Karnatz and Amy Record will be working on campus at the center. Their projects include the bluebird nest boxes, monarch watch, and working with a local kindergarten through sixth grade summer enrichment program. Kari Maxwell will be working at Hoosier Riverwatch performing field work and office assistance. Ty Hoskins is joining the Central Indiana Land Trust team and will be working part time at the end of the summer.

## Other Notes

The spring semester kept us busy here at the CUE@B with the reinstatement of our networking lunches. We sponsored approximately eight networking lunches. These lunches bring in professionals from the community for an informal lunch meeting. We have had guests from the DNR, JF New, Shrewsbury and Green Broad Ripple to name a few. The professionals bring with them tales from the field and a look at what their day to day work load is like. They also provide insight into their educational background and experiences that led them to their positions. This relaxed setting provides the students an avenue to meet local professionals and 'interview' them.

This spring the CUE@B has also created a new partnership with the Rocky Ripple Community. The center will be working with the community on the restoration of Fountain Park. We will be conducting plant inventories, coordinating invasive plant species removal, and advising them on design, improvements and maintenance options.

## Mark Your Calendar!

The CUE@B will be organizing a White River clean-up for Saturday, September 12th. This event is held every fall and participants pitch in to clean up Butler's adopted stretch of the White River running from Rocky Ripple to the Michigan Street bridge. Check back with us for details!

The CUE@B is sponsoring a guest lecture in the fall. Dr. Doug Tallamy, professor of entomology at the University of Delaware, will be giving a presentation on backyard habitat. Tallamy is the author of *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* and will be speaking about the important role native plants play in maintaining biodiversity.

## Student Employee of the Year

On April 15, 2009 Butler held its fifteenth annual student employee of the year luncheon. The program was sponsored by the Internship and Career Services and the Department of Academic Affairs. Student employees and assistants from across the campus are nominated and recognized by their faculty and staff mentors. This year, Colleen Heath, the CUE@B's first student intern was selected as the Butler student employee of the year!

