

news and notes

Buddhist monk teaching IU Southeast students about eastern religions



Rev. Thich Hang Dat

The IU Southeast philosophy department welcomed a fresh faculty face this spring, but he's not your everyday professor.

Thich Hang Dat, a Buddhist monk, is teaching Religions of Asia (R-153), and his students are getting the unique experience of having a firsthand, close-up look when they cover the teachings of the Buddhist religion.

"He came to me in search of a teaching opportunity," Leigh Viner, philosophy department coordinator said. "We always make an effort to bring diversity into our department. He's

a very dynamic and energetic person who is more than qualified to teach, and there's been a strong interest in Eastern culture among the students."

For Dat, a native of Vietnam, the new position is the ideal way to blend his passions of Buddhism and teaching. Dat is an abbot – or leader – of Buddhist centers in Louisville; Corydon, Ind.; Egg Harbor Township, N.J.; and St. Louis, Mo., where he counsels and instructs novices in the religion.

On the academic side, Dat has a Bachelor's in electrical engineering from Penn State University, and he earned a Master's and is a Ph.D. candidate in religious studies at the University of the West in Rosemead, Calif. Dat previously taught non-credit courses at Bellarmine University and the University of Southern Indiana, but IU Southeast will be his first experience teaching for credit.

IU Southeast professor receives national academic advising award

IU Southeast Assistant Professor of Informatics Sridhar Ramachandran might be considered new to the advising game, but he's already receiving accolades for his work.

Ramachandran was one of two faculty advisors across the country to win the 2012 Outstanding New Advisor Award from NACADA.

NACADA is the National Academic Advising Association and its goal is to

support and promote advising at higher education institutions.

According to NACADA, the Outstanding New Advisor Awards are presented to individuals who have demonstrated qualities associated with outstanding academic advising of students and who have served as an advisor for less than three years.

Ramachandran was named the Faculty

Advisor of the Year by the IU Southeast Advisors Council in 2011. The council then submitted his nomination to NACADA.

Ramachandran has been at IU Southeast since 2007. In addition to teaching and advising, he is the director of the Bioinformatics Research Group which provides IU Southeast undergraduates with research opportunities.

Board of Advisors begins 41st year of service



Pat More



Sally Newkirk



Norman Stiefler

The IU Southeast Board of Advisors celebrated its 41st anniversary in January. Begun in 1972 to help support and guide the University, the Board of Advisors typically consists of between 15 and 20 members, which include an IU Trustee Liaison and a representative from the IU Southeast Alumni Association. Terms for the advisors last three years, and advisors are appointed on a rotating basis.

The members of the 2012-13 Board of Advisors are Lana Aebersold, Doug England, Crystal Gunther, Ed Jerdonek,

Bob Kleehamer, Renato LaRocca, Jack Mahuron, Eileen Moore, Pat More, Sally Newkirk, Pat Shoulders (IU Trustee Liaison), Mark Shugarman, Sherry Oakes Stem, Norman Stiefler, John Walczak, Rose Wathen, John Watkins (IU Southeast Alumni Assoc.), and Rosita Young.

More, Newkirk, and Stiefler were new members who joined the Board in August 2012. The Board also welcomed back Aebersold and Wathen, who had previously served.

