Report on the Status of Just Be  
June 2006

2005-06 was a productive year for Just Be. We presented at four Indiana high schools to nearly 350 HS students, including about 250 girls.

※ Edgewood HS in Ellettsville (~100 students, half girls)  
※ Bloomington HS North (~20 freshman -- 5 girls -- at Career Day)  
※ Bloomington HS South (~25 boys)  
※ Pike HS in Indianapolis (~200 girls)

This summer we have visits at two summer camps and one science fair:

※ Intel Science Fair in Indianapolis  
※ Informatics Summer Camp (~35 girls and minorities)  
※ Girls Incorporated in Indianapolis (~40 girls)

We have also presented Just Be at four Indiana conferences and at one national conference (Munger).

※ Java Engagement for Teacher Training (JETT)  
※ Indiana Computer Educators (ICE)  
※ Indiana Women in Computing (InWIC)  
※ Computing Outreach in INdiana (COIN)  
※ Paul Munger Conference for Youth-Serving Professionals

Our paper on “Breaking the Geek Myth” was published in Learning & Leading with Technology in April 2006.

Current Presenters
Samantha Foley, Computer Science, will be taking over from Katie Siek as the Just Be chair for 2006-07.

Graduate students:  
Joseph Cottam, Computer Science*  
Jennifer Franko, Mathematics  
Tonya Stroman, Informatics*  
Tammy Toscos, Informatics*

Undergraduate students:  
Diane Cessna, Computer Science  
Acacia Davis, Computer Science

* indicates new presenter

Five experienced presenters have graduated: Katie Siek, Amanda Stephano, Jacki Bauer,
Tiffanie Shakespeare, Kristy Streefkerk. This leaves a huge hole in our lineup and we will have to work hard to get more student volunteers interested in becoming *Just Be* presenters.

**Fall Plans**

We are in contact with teachers at BHSN, Aurora HS, Batchelor Middle School and East Columbus HS about scheduling *Just Be* presentations in the fall.

We are working with Jasmine Pagel to create a brochure for teachers that describes *Just Be* and invites them to contact us to schedule a visit. The brochure should be printed by the beginning of the Fall semester and we plan on mailing the brochure to teachers on our contact list.

*Just Be* will be an integral part of the diversity workshop - Bring IT On! - for students from HBCUs. Presenters will also lead a Teach the Teachers session at the Midwest Celebration of Women in Computing (MidWIC) conference. One of the things that separates *Just Be* from other outreach programs is that we are interested in teaching others how to start outreach programs to increase diversity in computing.

**Equipment**

This has been an excellent year in terms of equipment donations. We have been fortunate to receive a used PoweBook G4 from David Wise, which means we now have a dedicated laptop that runs our presentation. Dennis Groth donated a brand new Dell portable projector, which will give us much greater flexibility in scheduling our practice sessions and going on day-long trips. Microsoft donated three Pocket PCs, which we will use as props during the presentation, and eInstruction donated the CPS response system that we’ve had on loan for the past two years.

Note: this equipment may require service and maintenance in the future and we should include a line item in the WIC budget to cover such costs.

**Challenges for 2006-07**

We need to greatly expand our pool of presenters and develop more and better tools for training the new presenters.

We need to encourage students to develop new slides for the presentation to keep it fresh and up to date.

We need dedicated faculty advisors to be proactive in arranging school visits, organizing the trips, (occasionally) accompanying the students on the visits, and following up with the teachers.

We need to devise a mechanism for evaluating the impact of *Just Be*. 