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Grants and scholarships for Illinois and Kentucky students

USI is making academic programs more affordable for new freshmen and new transfers who reside in Illinois or Kentucky. The University is offering regional academic scholarships, non-resident grants, and non-resident top scholar awards.

The **Regional Academic Scholarship (RAS)** provides a savings of \$175.95 per credit hour from the current out-of-state rate. Fees for qualified students from Illinois and Kentucky will only be approximately \$30 more per credit hour than in-state students.

Eric Otto, director of Admission at USI, said, "Eligible Illinois and Kentucky students who take 15 hours each semester will save more than \$5,000 a year."

New freshman RAS recipients will have a 2.75 or higher (on 4.0 scale) cumulative high school grade point average and new transfer students will have a 2.75 or higher (on 4.0 scale) cumulative college grade point average. Recipients of this award will reside in University housing. These scholarships are limited to the first bachelor's degree or 155 earned hours.

Otto said, "If the USI tuition rate increases, the value of the RAS increases proportionately."

Non-Resident Grants (NRG) will be offered to new freshmen who have a 2.5 or higher (on 4.0 scale) cumulative high school grade point average and to new transfer students who have a 2.0 or higher (on 4.0 scale) cumulative college grade point average. The NRG will be awarded to eligible students in Illinois and Kentucky who pursue an undergraduate degree or certificate. The grant provides a tuition reduction of \$131.35 per credit hour, a savings of more than \$4,000 a year for a full-time student.

The **Non-Resident Top Scholar Award** will recognize new freshmen from out of state. Recipients will rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class or have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) and SAT of 1700+ or ACT of 25+. The Non-Resident Top Scholar Award allows students to attend USI at the Indiana resident rate. The award provides a tuition reduction of \$205 per credit hour, a savings of more than \$6,000 a year for a full-time student. Degree-seeking students must apply for admission by March 1, 2007 to be considered for this award.

These options take effect for new students who begin their USI enrollment in summer 2007 or later.

Schibik advises graduates to follow bliss

The first fall USI Commencement, held December 9 in the Physical Activities Center, allowed for an intimate setting in familiar surroundings.

The enthusiasm for the accomplishments of the graduates started backstage. Dressed in traditional caps and gowns, graduates walked in single file through two lines of faculty members. Between cheers and applause, some shook hands, some hugged, and others offered broad smiles of endorsement for the work of

the past semesters.

A full house of family members, friends, and faculty applauded as graduates entered the hall and at intervals throughout the ceremony. Graduates received master, baccalaureate, and associate degrees.

Dr. Tim Schibik, professor of economics and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, gave the Commencement address, "What I Have Learned about Loving Your Job." In his remarks, Schibik offered hints to help graduates along their chosen paths.

Among them were to remember who they are and where they came from, to learn from successes and mistakes, and to take responsibility for their own actions and situation. He urged graduates to be open to new opportunities, look to the future, and invest in themselves daily.

"Read, travel, talk to new people, try new things. Be adventurous. Never be afraid to fail. Human capital needs constant infusion of investment." He also recommended that they avoid complicating their lives at work and at home by keeping it simple and following their bliss.

He ended his comments with advice he gained from his mother. When she visited him in his apartment after he graduated from college, she inquired about why his diploma was not framed on the wall. He replied that it was no big deal; that it was just a piece of paper.

He suggested graduates follow her admonition, "There are very few things in your life that no one can take from you and one of those things is your education. Be proud of your education, your diploma, and your university. You earned the right. Do not put either your diploma or your education in a box. Proudly display them both every chance you get."

Schibik's Commencement address established a new University tradition in which a previous Integra Bank Distinguished Professor gives the fall address. Schibik was the 2005 recipient of the award, chosen by colleagues and given in recognition of significant achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service.

Notice of 2007 spring faculty and administrative staff meeting

The spring semester general meeting of faculty and administrative personnel is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, in Carter Hall in the University Center. All new faculty/administrators should sit in the special section reserved for them in the front section of Carter Hall. If professional responsibilities keep you from attending the meeting, your absence must be approved by your dean.

Eight workshops will be offered during two sessions. View workshop descriptions and register online at www.usi.edu/extserv/springtraining. You also can register for workshops by calling Extended Services at ext. 1989.

Register soon. Online registration will end at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20; phone registration ends at noon on Thursday, December 21.

The schedule is as follows:

- Coffee and rolls, concourse outside Carter Hall: 8-8:30 a.m.
- Welcome, introductions, and announcements: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- Recognition of USI Foundation Awards for Outstanding Teaching: 9:30-9:45 a.m.
- Spring training sessions: 9:45 a.m.-noon
- Luncheon, The Loft and The Eagles Nest: noon

For more information, contact the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at 812/465-1617.

Connect with Southern Indiana 2007 participants chosen

Twenty-five people from eight counties in southern Indiana have been chosen to participate in Historic Southern Indiana's second annual Connect with Southern Indiana (CSI) program.

Funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment and sponsored by USI, the program is intended to boost Indiana's retention of intellectual capital by helping participants learn about and strengthen their skills, options, and opportunities for involvement in regional and community projects. The core of the program is to help participants to strengthen their skills, options, and opportunities for involvement in community and regional projects; meet business and civic leaders; and gain greater awareness of community and regional needs.

Residents of nine counties (Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties) are eligible to participate in the nine-session program that starts in January and ends in August.

"The ultimate goal of the project is the enhancement of the quality of citizenship in southwestern Indiana," said Dr. Darrel Bigham, director of Historic Southern Indiana and USI professor of history. "Strengthening participants' critical thinking is the chief means whereby that goal will be pursued. Developed after almost a year's discussion and review by an advisory committee of area business, civic, and professional leaders, CSI offers a distinctive collaborative effort between the University and the people of the region."

The 2007 participants are:

Dubois County

John Collins, associate attorney, Bingham McHale, LLP.

Theresa Criss-Hartwig, project administrator specialist, grant writer, and administrator of community and economic development grants, Indiana 15 Reg. Planning Commission.

Sue Habig, human resources manager, Kimball International.

Lisa Kieffner, marketing director, Jasper Seating Company, Inc.

Terry Seitz, president, InterComm Group LLC.

Gibson County

Margo English, CT-MRI technologist, Good Samaritan Hospital.

Knox County

Sheri Phillips, director of healthy aging programs, Generations, Area Agency on Aging.

Perry County

Debra Beavin, executive director of the Business Enterprise Center, Inc.

Pike County

Stan Keeps, director, Pike County Area Rehabilitation Center.

Maria Restrepo, agriculture and natural resources extension educator, Purdue University Cooperative Extension Services.

Posey County

Mark Funkhouser, chief probation officer, Posey Superior Court Probation.

Vanderburgh County

Glenna Bower, USI assistant professor of physical education.

Barbara Dicken, foundation coordinator, Vanderburgh Community Foundation.

Dan Gardner, president/CEO, Solutions Unlimited.

Deborah Grace, family childcare provider, Happy House Learning Center.

Tara Grace-Ruiz, co-owner/publisher, La Palabra Latina.

Rachel Greene, publications assistant, University of Evansville.

David Hitchcock, USI assistant professor of Spanish.

Vicki Nelson, development director, Lampion Center.

Kim Otilie, office manager, David J. Otilie, DDS, PC.

Steve Schaefer, vice president public policy, Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce.

Stephanie Terry, deputy director, Carver Community Organization, Inc.

Warrick County

Rosanna Clayton, owner/operator, Client's Choice, Ltd. Advertising and Marketing.

Linda Negro, managing editor, Evansville Courier and Press.

Susan Sublett, Foundation Coordinator, Warrick County Foundation.

They will participate in nine meetings, as well as some collaborative research between meetings. Topics include an overview of program goals and structure; thinking critically and creatively; community overview; interpersonal influence; leading organizational development; project management in community organizations; skills practice and application planning; public skills; and program outcomes.

Each meeting will be coordinated by an instructional team comprised of facilitators, USI and other faculty, and community leaders. Locations of the programs will be spread throughout the region. The first and last meetings will be held in Evansville.

The program is sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana, an outreach program through USI Extended Services. For more information, call HSI at 812/465-7014.

Holiday card project

A longtime tradition for USI's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) continues with the mailing of a holiday card that accomplishes two purposes.

The card provides a means to exchange holiday greetings and benefits a scholarship fund for USI students at the same time.

An international honor society in education, KDP promotes service to the University and the community. USI's Xi Mu chapter, which has approximately 40 members, solicits donations from University employees and others related to the University for the holiday card/scholarship project each fall. Emeritus faculty and KDP alumni also participate. All donor names appear on the

cards. **Dr. Charles L. Price**, professor of science education and KDP faculty advisor, said each participant in the greeting exchange/fundraiser receives the card in the mail during the second week of December.

The first Kappa Delta Pi scholarship was a \$400 award presented in 1985. Presently, the organization provides two \$1,000 scholarships each year. Current recipients are Amber Wischmeier of Seymour, Indiana, and Ashleigh D. Beltz of Marion, Illinois. Both are majoring in elementary education.

Since 1985, the USI chapter of Kappa Delta Pi has presented scholarships valued at approximately \$29,000. The project was begun when **Dr. Aldo Cardarelli**, professor emeritus in education, was faculty advisor for KDP. He served as counselor from the chapter's origination in 1978 until his retirement in 1995. He died in 2001.

One KDP scholarship is awarded each year to a student planning a career in education. The recipient is chosen by representatives of the teacher education program. The other scholarship is available to students University-wide regardless of major. The recipient is chosen by the student affairs committee of the Faculty Senate. Recipients are selected on the basis of overall academic performance, service contributions, and an essay on career goals.

The holiday card project was featured in a national KDP publication about 10 years ago. Since that time, chapters at other universities have developed similar programs that support scholarships on their campuses.

Price said, "Service projects are important to student organizations because they provide concrete examples of helping others. Young adults form habits that carry throughout their lives. This type of project may compel KDP members to be involved in philanthropy throughout their lives."

For the past 10 years, the holiday cards have featured photographs of wildlife and nature taken on the USI campus and surrounding land owned by Southern Indiana Higher Education. Price photographed the scenes when he received faculty creative work awards in the early 90s. The 2006 card features an image of a water lily in bloom on Reflection Lake.

Kappa Delta Pi also completes a spring service project that promotes reading in the elementary schools.

Donate - or the shirt off your back will do

Residence Life is starting a new Homecoming tradition in which you can literally give the shirt off your back in support of USI. During Homecoming Week, their will be stations set up all around campus at which you can drop off old T-shirts from other institutions in exchange for a USI T-shirt emblazoned with the legend: "I'd give my shirt off my back for USI."

The T-shirts from other institutions would first be collected and pinned together to make a "blanket" that could be spread out to show the amount of participation in the program and pride in USI, and later donated to charity.

Residence Life is asking other USI departments to make monetary donations to the project to help purchase the T-shirts. In exchange, departmental logos will be printed on the back of the shirts. Area Coordinator **Kates DeShaney** said any amount would be helpful.

If your department would like to donate, contact DeShaney at deshaney@usi.edu or 812/492-7743 by Thursday, December 21.

Shop for gifts at USI Bookstore

Rather than fight holiday traffic, stroll over to the USI Bookstore to shop for gifts this season. **Michael Goelzhauser**,

manager of the USI Bookstore, said that customers are purchasing USI ornaments, watches, clothing, and books by faculty authors.

"Sweatshirts and T-shirts have been selling well," Goelzhauser said. "USI chocolate sets make a nice stocking stuffer."

All USI clothes are currently 20 percent off the sticker price (in store only) and books by faculty are 20 percent off (online only). For more information, go to the USI Bookstore Web site at www.usi.edu/book/index.asp.

USI's resident Maya expert gives "Apocalypto" thumbs down for accuracy

Michael Aakhus, USI's resident Maya expert, had low expectations for the authenticity of Mel Gibson's latest film, "Apocalypto." After seeing the film, he said his expectations were met.

"If you like action films, you should enjoy it - but if you are going to learn history, stick to your books," he said.

"Apocalypto," filmed on site in the Yucatec dialect, which Aakhus said is used in the northern section of the Maya region, concerns the fate of a young man chosen for sacrifice during the decline of the Maya civilization.

Aakhus, associate dean of the USI College of Liberal Arts and professor of art, has traveled throughout Mesoamerica since the 70s and has led an annual spring break Maya Art and Culture tour since 1996. He teaches a course on the Ancient Art of Mexico and has lectured on the subject in the United States and Mexico.

"The setting in the rain forest was wonderful, and reminded me of the time I stayed with the Lacandon people in Chiapas. This group remained quite isolated into the 20th century and there is a great book about them, *The Last Lords of Palenque*, which I would recommend. The indigenous hunter groups in the film may have been based on the Lacandon."

Aakhus was less impressed with Gibson's portrayal of city culture.

"I had hoped to see some great images of the Maya buildings and wonderful costumes, but I have to admit that I saw neither. The fabulous aspects of material culture that we see in the reliefs, paintings, and burial remains imitated for the film looked poorly conceived. The textiles which the Maya to this day pride themselves on looked more like rags, and the body ornament may have been jade, but looked like plastic."

He continued, "The sets and buildings showed that plaster was an important finish to the buildings but many of them were left unplastered and not properly painted. The high culture was portrayed as brutal and decadent which did not provide insight into the remarkable art, architecture, books, literature and advanced science of the Maya."

The film has received a lot of attention for its violence. Aakhus said Gibson exaggerated that aspect of Maya culture.

"Human sacrifice did occur, but not to the extent that is shown in the film. Ritualized killing is not unknown to us. Our own practice of capital punishment, when looked back on in 500 years, I am sure will appear brutal and senseless."

Journalism students honored at Hoosier State Press Association

Two editors of the *Shield* took home three awards from the Hoosier State Press Association Foundation's Better Newspaper Contest on December 2. **Jondi Schmitt**, who graduates this month with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism, and **Julia**

Hunter, a senior print journalism major, each served as editor-in-chief of the *Shield* this semester, and each was honored at the conference.

Hunter won a third-place award for "Wrestler defies disability," a sports feature about USI freshman **Mohammed Stahly**, a member of the Eagles Wrestling Club who lost a leg in a bombing as a child in Somalia. He wrestles for the club without his prosthetic leg.

Schmitt won an honorable mention for an interview with Ryan Lenz, an Associated Press reporter who was embedded with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. Lenz is the Evansville Bureau reporter for the AP and broke the story of the rape and murder of an Iraqi girl and the murder of her parents and siblings by American soldiers.

Schmitt also won first place in the HSPA's professional division for news reporting under deadline pressure for a story she wrote as an intern at the *Ferdinand News*. She is the first intern ever to have won first place in the professional division.

"When the award was announced, the audience was reminded that it was an intern – not a former intern – but an intern who beat out all of the professional entries in that category," said **Patricia Ferrier**, *Shield* advisor, in an email to colleagues.

The story was about a car accident that killed three teenage girls, and Schmitt conducted multiple interviews in a short period of time.

Names in the news

Welcome

Travis Ennis has accepted a position as Web application programmer in computer services. He holds a Master of Information Science degree from Indiana University. Ennis was formerly a Web developer at Indiana University.

Timothy Jones has accepted a position as manager of foundation accounting in Business Affairs. He holds a Master of Science Management degree from Oakland City University. Jones was formerly a senior account analyst at Vectren.

Deborah Kinney has accepted a position as nurse practitioner case manager in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree from USI. Kinney was formerly a family nurse practitioner at ECHO Community Healthcare and a project coordinator at USI.

Michelle White has accepted a position as research assistant in Institutional Research. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and International Studies from USI.

In appreciation

"My family and I would like to convey our gratitude for all of the lovely plants, visitations, thoughts and prayers that we received upon my father's passing. The kind words of sympathy were so very much appreciated at such a difficult time. It is wonderful to have so many friends." - **Cheril Griswold**, administrative assistant, College of Liberal Arts.

Accomplishments

Susan Fetscher, assistant director of Development, and **Andrea Gentry**, assistant director for annual giving, have both been named to the Young Evansville Professionals (YEP) board for 2007. Fetscher is social committee chair and Gentry, membership committee chair. For more information, visit www.evansvilleyep.com.

The Philosophy Department's Ethics Bowl team finished 8th out of 15 teams in a statewide competition at Marian College in Indianapolis in November. Team members **Diann Garret**, **Kali Schetzscle**, **Jessica Jones**, **David Brown** (captain), and **Megan Wallace** achieved USI's highest final rank yet in the Ethics Bowl. The team's advisor is **Dr. Mary Lyn Stoll**, assistant professor of philosophy.

FYI

No more Notes until spring

This is the last issue of *University Notes* until spring 2007. A new issue will be published on Friday, January 5, 2007. Send information and news tips for *University Notes* to **Wendy Knipe Bredhold**, editor, at 812/461-5259.

University to be closed for Winter Recess

The University will be closed for Winter Recess Saturday, December 23, through Monday, January 1, 2007. The University opens on Tuesday, January 2, and spring 2007 classes begin Monday, January 8. For more information, contact the Office of the Registrar at 812/464-1762.

Free emergency preparedness kit offered

For a limited time, Southwest Indiana Disaster Resistant Community (DRC) is offering qualified seniors free carbon monoxide and smoke detectors and an emergency preparedness kit including a flashlight with batteries, AM/FM radio with batteries, and whistle with wrist band. For more information, call 812/425-8401. Recipients will be contacted by phone to arrange an installation date and time.

Humanities faculty hit the road

Humanities faculty traveled to Chicago, Illinois and Nashville, Tennessee in fall 2006. In spring 2007, they plan a trip to Memphis, Tennessee.

In Chicago, Humanities faculty **Richard Mussard**, **Patty Aakhus**, **Michael Aakhus**, **Bill Graves**, **Paul Plath**, **Allen Helmstetter**, **Leisa Belleau**, **James W. Stone**, **Lisa Nicholas**, **Eric von Fuhrmann**, **Paula von Loewenfeldt**, and **Sherry B. Darrell**, director of Humanities, viewed the Tutankhamen exhibit at the Field Museum and went to the Oriental Institute, an archaeological museum on the University of Chicago campus with hundreds of ancient Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, and Egyptian artifacts dating from the Paleolithic period forward to about 400 BCE.

Another group of Humanities faculty visited Nashville to see the Parthenon and President Andrew Jackson's plantation, The Hermitage. Eric von Fuhrmann, Bill Graves, Allen Helmstetter, Gregory Leach, Seth Davidson, LaNell Lucius, Lisa Nicholas, Emily Wilson, and Sherry B. Darrell attended.

In March 2007, a Humanities faculty development trip is scheduled for Memphis to see Mud Island, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Brooks Art Museum, the Pink Palace, and the Peabody Museum.