



# University Notes

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## Long-time supporter Eckels receives Nicholson Award

**Rolland M. Eckels**, a 25-year member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, received the Suzanne A. Nicholson Leadership Award at the May 2008 meeting of the USI Foundation Board of Directors. The award, presented annually, recognizes strong leadership by a board member. The award honors Eckels for his zeal for expanding public higher education opportunities in southwestern Indiana and his volunteerism for USI over four decades.

It is intentional to honor a veteran director during the 40th anniversary year of the establishment of the USI Foundation. Eckels' efforts in support of the University continue today.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), Eckels assisted with the first fund-raising effort to purchase land for public higher education needs in 1966. Close to \$1 million was raised by SIHE in that effort and provided land for the construction of buildings that would become the University of Southern Indiana.

Appointed by Governor Robert D. Orr, Eckels served in 1984 on the Board of Incorporators for a Separate State University, giving leadership to studying issues for separation. He, along with USI alumni, students, faculty and other USI supporters, had the satisfaction of seeing legislation to create the University of Southern Indiana pass and be signed by Orr on April 16, 1985.

The award is named for **Suzanne A. Nicholson**, who retired as president of the USI Foundation, and is given to a person who embodies her dedication and spirit in meeting the needs of the University of Southern Indiana.

## B/MD scholar Funke garners NASA internship

As a Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine scholar and engineering major, **Katie Funke** already has a lot of opportunities before her, but an internship she received this summer may allow her future to take flight.

At the suggestion of **Dr. Shadow J. Q. Robinson**, assistant professor of physics, Funke applied to NASA's Undergraduate Student Research Program and was offered one of only a dozen spots at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

During the 10-week internship, which begins in June, Funke will analyze data and interpret the effects of radiation on human cells, comparing the amounts of radiation in samples from the organs of astronauts. "They have a system to calculate the amount of radiation different organs should absorb," she said. "I will verify those calculations and see if what they expect is there."

She will return to Evansville in August and a month later leave for Ireland, where she will spend the first semester of her junior year studying abroad at University College Cork.

"I didn't expect to win the NASA internship, so it's all coming at me kind of fast," she said. "I haven't had a lot of engineering experience per se. I don't tinker around with electrical circuitry in my free time, so I didn't have any kind of impressive engineering background on my application. I thought that would be a setback,

but it happened that they were looking for someone with more of a medical background."

Funke has job-shadowed doctors and witnessed heart surgeries. She attended the Molecular Medicine in Action symposium, the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine, and the Deaconess Health Science Institute, where she learned about all aspects of a hospital setting, from nursing and administration to janitorial.

She chose an engineering major at the suggestion of her uncle, a doctor. "He said engineering helps out in surgery, with logical reasoning, thinking on your feet, and working with your hands. I love math and science so engineering seemed to be a good fit."

An engineering background also helps out in research and applications for prosthetics, one of her specialization interests, along with cardiology and oncology.

"Katie stood out in my mind as being a great candidate, in part because she is pre-med majoring in engineering," Robinson said. "Someone with interests in both the engineering and biological sides seemed tailor made for NASA. A growing number of the challenges we face as a species are only going to be met when our best and brightest face them in an interdisciplinary manner, bringing multiple fields of expertise to bear on the problem. Any small way in which I can promote this is a worthwhile endeavor."

Funke said, "I definitely want to go to med school, and before this NASA internship it had never occurred to me to do anything involving space. Space has always fascinated me, but I didn't know I could combine a love of medicine with a love of astronomy. Since then, I've talked to professors who have told me that flight surgeons go into space. A flight license and a medical degree can really take you places. That's always an option now."

Funke is the daughter of **J. Chris** and **Patty Funke** of Evansville and a 2006 graduate of Mater Dei High School. Her aunt **Kathy Funke** is director of News and Information Services.

## WSWI airs radio dramas by USI alumnus/playwright

USI's radio station WSWI AM 820 "The Edge" aired radio dramas based on one-act plays written by a USI alumnus over the Memorial Day weekend. The radio dramas are currently available online on the AM 820 Web site.

Playwright **Kevin Löttes**, a 2000 USI graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre arts, rewrote two of his one-act plays, "The Callback" and "Missing You," for the radio presentation. The third, "Voicebox," was specifically written for radio.

USI students in an Advanced Audio Production course acted in and produced the dramas. The class, taught by John Morris, instructor in radio and television and general manager of WSWI, instructs upper level students in advanced techniques of audio production, including drama production. The students were: Brittany Bayley, Erik Bergman, Ryan Nash, Tyrone Valliant, Ben Weber, and Mitch Wolf.

"The Callback" is about an out-of-work actor meeting with an artistic director about a part in a play the actor hopes to get. "Missing You" tells the tale of a grandfather trying to convince his

grandson that his wife had communicated with him through a radio. "Voicebox" features the voice of a person trapped in a radio.

Löttes is the author of First Person Last: short stories, poems, monologues published by his own company, barehanded books. He was awarded first place in the 2008 Dylan Days Writing Contest for his short story "Glued Sawdust," which will appear in the festival's literary journal Talkin' Blues.

Several of his plays have been produced, including "The Leash of the Rainbow's Meow," "The Line Shack," "Passing Red Dodges," and "Paralyzed July." Löttes is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America. A native of English, Indiana, he currently resides in Columbus, Ohio.

## Buddhist monk Bhante G to offer free program

Buddhist monk Bhante Henepola Gunaratana will offer a free public presentation on Sunday, June 8 at USI.

Sponsored by the USI Office of Religious Life, the event will be held at 2 p.m. in Mitchell Auditorium, located in the Health Professions Center.

Also known as "Bhante G," Gunaratana will be in the area to conduct a retreat sponsored by Mindful Heart Buddha Sangha of Evansville June 9-13 at the Kordes Center in Ferdinand, Indiana.

Bhante G is founding abbot of the Bhavana Society, located in Highview, West Virginia. He was named Chief Sangha Nayaka Thera for North America in recognition of his status as the highest-ranking monk of his sect in the United States and Canada. He is the author of *Mindfulness in Plain English, Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness*, and an autobiography, *Journey to Mindfulness*.

Christine Hoehn, director of Religious Life, said that Bhante G will lead his audience in meditation as part of the USI program. She said presentations such as these open USI students to a greater understanding of cultures, religions, and worship.

"Part of the office of Religious Life is educating our students about what various religions of the world we have been gifted with," she said. "We do have Buddhist students on this campus and it will bring greater understanding of other religious traditions. A big part of owning your own faith is knowing about other religions, too."

For more information, contact Religious Life at 812/464-1871.

## Ceramics Center construction underway

Wondering about that big pile of dirt near the Art Studio on University Boulevard? That's the site of a new Ceramics Center to replace the current building, which sits on the future site of the Business and Engineering Center, for which ground will be broken in July.

Lenny Dowhie, professor of art, said that the ceramics program outgrew the current space years ago. "The old building was built around 1981 for 15 or 16 students," he said. "Now we regularly have more than 50 students in ceramics classes."

The new Ceramic Center will be about 300 square feet larger, with room for 20 pottery wheels. The current building has 12. In addition to the glazing room and a clay mixing room, the new facility will include men's and women's restrooms.

"It's a great development," Dowhie said. "It will enable the students to do things they can't do now and it will give them a bit more space to accommodate them, more shelving space, and prepare them to do the things they need to know how to do, like kiln-building."

Dowhie instructs the students in kiln-building every five years, and the current kilns are ready to be replaced. He will offer the course, Kiln Design and Construction, within the next academic year.

Empire Contractors, Inc. is the general contractor for the Ceramics Center. It was designed by Sarah Schuler of VPS, Inc. Schuler also designed the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/ Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Art Galleries, which opens in September.

Mike Jones, staff engineer, said the Ceramics Center is expected to be complete in December.

## "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull": A Review by Michael Aakhus

**Editor's note:** The following is a review of the new Harrison Ford movie, "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull" by **Michael Aakhus**, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and an expert on Maya culture. If you would like to submit a comment, review, or story to University Notes, email it to **Wendy Knipe Bredhold** at [wkbredhold@usi.edu](mailto:wkbredhold@usi.edu).

I had the opportunity to view "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and have not ventured out to comment on a film since I reviewed Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto." I commented on the appropriation of Maya culture and was not so favorably inclined to embrace Gibson's vision.

I have to say that Dr. Jones is another story. The eclectic transplantation of Mesoamerican iconography into the heart of the Amazonian rainforest is completely forgivable in light of Steven Spielberg's hilarious and often gothic view of his subject. It was a kaleidoscope of beautifully painted frescos from Teotihuacan, sculptures of Aztec origin, beautiful tints and shades of the Maya pallet, and he ventured into the debate on the authenticity of the so called Mixtec crystal skulls that once attracted viewers to the British Museum and the Museum of Man in Paris. Spielberg's assertion that the authentic crystal skull is that of an alien mimicking cranial deformation practiced by the seminal culture of Mesoamerica the Olmec is to his credit.

As an academic and artist who has observed the dissemination of faculty research on popular culture through the format of numerous scholarly conferences I must say that the adventures of Dr. Jones are rich with possibility. The levels of symbolism and possibilities for commentaries will be endless throughout all four films.

I would not even venture to begin but I will cite my favorite two scenes of Dr. Jones teaching in the classroom, one young and one obviously approaching the end of an illustrious career, still sighting Michelson. Old academics die hard and like Marley's Ghost chained to their aging sources continue to sight them beyond any rational point of relevance. This is a delightful film on endless levels and I believe I will be back for another viewing.

## Teacher Workshops in STEM

Workshops in June and July for middle and high school teachers will be offered by the Pott College of Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Indiana. The workshops will center on STEM disciplines. STEM is a recognizable identifier for courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Chemistry workshop participants will share current teaching practices and those practices will be evaluated and refined to generate lesson plans. Lab safety, chemical use and storage, and waste disposal will also be discussed. The workshop will be held June 9 to June 13.

Middle and high school teachers will learn about incorporating science fair projects into the curriculum. Participating teachers will be given a new Lego Mindstorms NXT kit with software and a Vernier GoTemp® sensor. The sensor and data acquisition software will be used to teach physical concepts. Mathematics and geometry will be covered through drawing, constructing, and testing using AutoCAD, solid modeling, and Lego Mindstorms soft-

ware. Participants can earn Continuing Education units (CEUs). The workshop will be offered starting July 21.

Other workshops to be offered are Manipulations an Analysis, starting June 9; Genetics at the Forefront, starting June 23, and Earth History Rocks, starting July 21. A mathematics course to begin June 9 is already filled.

Details about the courses can be found online at [www.usi.edu/science/STEM.asp](http://www.usi.edu/science/STEM.asp). A registration form is included on the site.

## Carter Graduate Studies Scholarship recipients announced

USI has announced the recipients of the Carter Graduate Studies Scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. **Kristie Friedrich**, Murray, Kentucky, Master of Social Work; **Briget Hargus (Nelson)**, Winslow, Indiana, Master of Science in Nursing; **Timothy Hart**, Boonville, Indiana, Master of Public Administration; **Ann Held**, Oaktown, Indiana, Master of Science in Nursing; and **Susan Hunt**, Evansville, Indiana, Master in Social Work, will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship because of the generosity of the late Jennings D. and Josephine K. Carter. These scholarships, funded by the USI Foundation, are the first graduate scholarships awarded by Graduate Studies.

To be considered for the scholarship, applicants must have been accepted to a graduate degree program for the next academic year with a minimum GPA of 3.5 in all graduate course work completed by May 2008. Newly accepted students must have had an undergraduate GPA of 3.25 from a degree-granting institution and a graduate GPA of 3.5 in any graduate course work completed. Applicants were required to write a two-page essay on the topic, "How will receiving this scholarship make a difference?"

## Names in the News

### Passings

**John H. Busch**, father of **John C. Busch**, lead mechanic for Historic New Harmony, died on May 16. Services were held May 20 at Stodghill Funeral Home.

**Aurelia Frances (Goebel) Mohr**, mother of **Michael Mohr**, staff architect in the Physical Plant, died on May 17. Services were held May 20 at Saint Matthew Catholic Church in Mount Vernon, Indiana. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Matthew Catholic Church or the American Diabetes Association.

USI student **Alexis Moore** died on May 14 from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Moore was a business administration major, student ambassador, and a student worker in the Office of Admission. Services were held May 16 at Roselawn Funeral Home in Terre Haute, Indiana.

### Accomplishments

**Dr. Mary Hallock Morris**, assistant professor of political science, is the recipient of the Alumni Citation for Academic Excellence Award from Defiance College, in Defiance, Ohio. Hallock Morris earned a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from Defiance in 1991. She also holds a Master of Arts in Community and Environmental Education from The McGregor School of Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio, and a Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University, Bloomington. The award honors outstanding alumni who have contributed in significant ways to the world of academia and/or teaching through service or scholarship. Hallock Morris will speak at an alumni leadership symposium during Defiance College's Homecoming in October.

The poem "Goose Blind" by **Dave Smith**, from the spring 2008

issue of *Southern Indiana Review*, was chosen to be the featured poem in the Poetry Daily Newsletter on March 29 and also appeared on the Poetry Daily Web site, poems.com.

### In Appreciation

"Thank you to the many members of the USI community who have made dealing with the death of my father easier. The many expressions of sympathy and help during the past several weeks of his recent illness have been overwhelming. Thank you." - **Bill Henderson**, professor of computer information services.

"Thank you for your kind expression of condolences in the recent loss of my mother. The planter basket of flowers and plants from Zeidler's is beautiful and will always remind me of my wonderful mother. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness. It also reminds me of just how special and wonderful it is to be a part of the USI family. This truly is a wonderful place to work and go to school. Best regards." - **John Hunt**, associate director of risk management and safety.

"I want to express my appreciation to the people from both the College of Liberal Arts and the Art Department for the beautiful flowers and messages of encouragement that I received in the hospital after my hand surgery. They brightened both my room and my spirits. Thank you." - **Carolyn Roth**, instructor in art.

## FYI

### Children's Center has an opening

The USI Children's Center has an opening for a two-year-old child. If interested, contact **Pam Bushkill**, Children's Center coordinator, at 812/464-1869.

### Alumni Association picnic is June 8

The USI Alumni Association annual Alumni Picnic will offer food and fun for the whole family from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, June 8, on the University Center Mall. There will be clowns, a magician, children's games, and a playhouse for the kids, plus a feast of barbecue chicken, Italian sausages, hot dogs, salad, and build-your-own ice cream sundaes. Picnic admission is \$5; children 12 and under will be admitted for free. For more information, contact Alumni & Volunteer Services.

### New Harmony is "Best of the Midwest"

Historic New Harmony is highlighted in *Best of the Midwest 2008*, an annual guide from *Midwest Living* magazine. *Best of the Midwest* explores the diversity of the Heartland region, including great food, scenic drives, breathtaking vistas, unexpected treasures, favorite weekend getaways are more. The special issue is the "must do, must see, must eat" guide to the Midwest. *Midwest Living's Best of the Midwest 2008* special issue is available on newsstands now.

### From the Development Office

If your department has received a gift-in-kind this year, a form must be processed by the end of June so the donor's gift can be properly recognized and claimed as a 2008 tax deduction. Gifts-in-kind, or charitable gifts of non-cash property, include such things as library books, oriental rugs, paintings, and other fine art gifts, computer software, laboratory equipment, and real estate. There are substantial tax benefits to be derived from such gifts. The form, Foundation Gift-in-Kind Request, may be found among the listing of Outlook forms on your computer. Call the Development Office at 812/464-1918 if you have any questions.

## School Social Work Institute held for 10th time

USI will host its 10th annual School Social Work Institute (SSWI) June 10-13 in New Harmony, Indiana. School social work is a specialized area of practice within the broad field of the social work profession. School social workers are employed by school systems or agencies that go into the schools full time. They supplement the work of the school psychologist and counselor and are a link between the school, home, and the community. The SSWI attracts school social workers from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa, and Missouri, and Master of Social Work students with a school social work specialization. It includes presentations by nationally-known experts, USI faculty, and experienced practitioners. Topics this year include "Avenger Violence in School and Work Places," "Cyber Bullying: What it is, Who it Targets, How to Detect and Control It," and others. For more information, contact **Sharon Simmons**, assistant professor of social work and director of the institute, at 812/461-5243.

## 2007-2008 fiscal year end information

It's hard to believe, but the end of another fiscal year lies just around the corner. In order to meet the needs of our departments and vendors, we need your cooperation so that the 2007-2008 payments may be issued on time before this fiscal year concludes.

To allow us the time necessary to achieve that goal, please review the following:

### Purchase Orders

Invoices should be sent directly from the vendor to Accounts Payable. If your department receives an invoice, forward it to Accounts Payable as soon as possible.

Accounts Payable is currently notifying vendors of the impending closure of all 2007-2008 purchase orders. Specifically, we will ask them to submit their 2007-2008 invoices to our office by June 16.

### Payment Requests

Payment Requests should be completed for products or services when purchase orders are not required. To be considered for payment within this fiscal year, Payment Requests must be received in the Accounts Payable office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23.

Payment Requests received from June 24 through June 30 may be delayed until Thursday, July 3 and will be charged against the new fiscal year.

### New Harmony Theatre season tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale now for New Harmony Theatre's 2008 season, which includes "Othello," "Crimes of the Heart," and "My Fair Lady." Shakespeare's "Othello" opens June 13 and runs through June 29. Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Crimes of the Heart" runs July 11-27, and the musical "My Fair Lady" caps the season, August 1-17. To purchase tickets, call 877/NHTSHOW.

### Summer group exercise classes begin

The Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Department's group exercise program for employees and students offers a variety of classes this summer. The free classes, offered at all times of the day Monday through Friday, are held regularly throughout the fall, spring, and summer. This summer's program includes classes in pilates, yoga, tai chi, and more. For more information, call the Recreation and Fitness Center at 812/461-5268.

## 2008 fiscal year requisitions

Banner purchase requisitions for the 08 fiscal year budget will be accepted by Procurement Services through Friday, June 6, 2008. This deadline is necessary to allow Procurement Services ample time to complete the processing of your Banner requisitions and issue the purchase orders prior to the end of the fiscal year, Monday, June 30, 2008. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this deadline, please call 812/464-1982.

All Banner requisitions entered after June 6, 2008, must be entered as fiscal year 09 requests by entering the Order Date and Transaction Date as 01-Jul-2008.

Our staff is ready and willing to help you with your Banner requisition questions. If necessary, a Procurement Services staff member will visit your department for one-on-one training.

## 2009 fiscal year banner requisitions

Banner purchase requisitions for the 09 fiscal year will be accepted by Procurement after Friday, June 6, 2008. These requisitions must be entered into Banner as Fiscal Year 09 using the Order Date and Transaction Date of 01-Jul-2008. Requisitions entered not using the date above for the 09 Fiscal Year will be deleted. The requisition will need to be re-entered into the correct fiscal year using the proper date.

Procurement Services will begin processing these requisitions in an effort to issue the purchase orders on or as soon after Wednesday, July 2, 2008, as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the Banner processing of your requisitions, please call 812/464-1982.

### USI Day at Churchill Downs is June 21

The Greater Louisville USI Alumni Chapter invites you and your family and friends to join them for a perfect view of the finish line at USI Day at Churchill Downs on Saturday, June 21 in Louisville. Gates open for the Stephen Foster Stakes at 11:30 a.m.; post time is 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$31 for adults, \$22 for children ages 12 to 4, and children ages 3 and under are free. Price includes admission, reserved seating in Millionaires Row-Level 4, lunch buffet, USI souvenir, race program, and tax and gratuity. A round-trip motor coach from USI will be offered for an additional \$20 per person. For more information, call Alumni and Volunteer Services at 812/464-1928.