



# University Notes

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## USI Foundation day trip

The USI Foundation and the USI/New Harmony Foundation will host a day trip to the 2006 Antiques and Garden Show of Nashville at the Nashville Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, on Thursday, February 2.

The cost for the trip is \$30 per person, including transportation and a ticket to the Antiques and Garden Show. Refreshments will be provided on the bus, including donuts, muffins, and coffee for breakfast; and soft drinks, bottled water, and fruit in the morning and on the return trip.

Here is the itinerary:

- 7:30 a.m. – Depart from the Evansville Museum back visitor's parking lot. Drive to Nashville; breakfast snacks on bus, rest stop.
- 10 a.m. – Arrive at the Convention Center in Nashville for the Antiques and Garden Show.
- 4 p.m. – Depart from Nashville; Drive to Evansville; Refreshments on bus; rest stop.
- 6:30 p.m. – Arrive at the Evansville Museum.

Make reservations by calling the USI Foundation at 812/464-1918 by Wednesday, January 25.

## Students thanked for volunteer efforts

USI students have been recognized for local and global volunteer efforts.

Occupational Therapy students assisted a family in cleaning up after the November 6, 2005 tornado, and aided the Salvation Army with relief efforts relating to case management and the disbursement of assistance.

**Barbara J. Williams**, acting director of the Occupational Therapy program, received a letter from the Dorchholz family of Warrick County expressing their "sincere appreciation for all you did cleaning the debris from our fields in Warrick County on Monday."

"Your thoughtfulness, camaraderie, and willingness to give of yourselves and your time is truly a credit to your individual character and the effectiveness of your civic responsibility. You are all a credit to your families and the USI institution."

Participating students (along with students from an Iowa fraternity) were **Katie Adams, Johna Asbridge, Aimee Byrley, Abbey Deeg, Kyle Duffee, Travis Farhar, Michelle Goelzhauser, Miranda Graham, Joy Haas, Abby Herd, Kelly Hibbard, Amanda Iliff, Sarah Jankowski, Brandi Jones, Erin Jones, Amy King-Seidl, Katie Kline, Zachary Lawrence, Katie Lodge, Tim Martin, Deana Mattox, Belinda Meyers, Krista Nicolet, Jennifer Payne, Ashley Porter, Ashley Quinn, Sarah Rains, Jeff Reeder, Deidre Riley, Jackie Rutledge, Karen Scheller, Ashley Taber, Jenna Thomas, Jessica Utley, Jason Vought, Krystal Walls, Gretchen Willis, Kaci Wilson, and Stephanie Wolf.**

Students in a course on economic development in developing countries have received a note of thanks from the top official of Africare, a nonprofit organization which provides emergency food relief to Niger.

In fall 2005, students of **Peter Cashel-Cordo**, associate professor of economics, learned about the drought and locust infestation that led to a food shortage in Niger. On their own initiative, they decided to do something to improve the lives of the people in Niger.

The students developed a project called "Rake Out Hunger in Niger." On weekends, they raked leaves in Evansville neighborhoods, explaining their purpose to homeowners and collecting donations to send to Africare. The project raised \$365, which will feed about 40 children in Niger for almost two months.

In a letter to Cashel-Cordo and students, **John D. Campbell**, acting president of Africare, said, "Funds received from generous donors such as you have made expansion of Africare's work in Niger possible. So on behalf of the people of Niger, especially the children, I want to thank you for your kindness, your compassion, and your support of Africare."

**Andrew Schultz**, a senior economics and mathematics major, said 3.6 million people, including 800,000 children, are affected by the famine.

"We decided we could play a small part," he said. "We thought we could raise money and raise awareness of the problem."

In addition to Schultz, students who participated were **Nathan Atkinson, Jean Bernavil, Lora Defries, William Krowl, Sean Martin, Shawn Scott, Shawn Storkman, and Charity Strange**.

Cashel-Cordo said that "Rake Out Hunger in Niger" was student-motivated and designed. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger from 1978-81.

## Wasserman to receive ACTF Award

**Elliot Wasserman**, associate professor of theatre and director of USI Theatre, will receive the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's Gold Medallion Award for Excellence in Theatre Education at the KC/ACTF Region III Festival held at Illinois State University and hosted by ISU and Eureka College.

The award will be presented on January 14, during the five-day festival which begins January 10.

The award, given since 1972, is presented to those in the KC/ACTF regions who have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theater and to the development and quality of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival.

KC/ACTF is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States. Region III includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Wasserman was the festival host when the Region III festival was held in Evansville in 2002 and 2003. The Evansville festivals

established national attendance records and became the largest festivals in the 30-year history of the Kennedy Center project. He has served as Region III playwriting chair and state chair for Indiana.

He joined the USI faculty in 1991, and he teaches courses in acting, directing, and playwriting. He also directs classic and contemporary drama and comedy for USI Theatre.

## Help improve the service culture on campus

Extended Services is offering an Employee Development opportunity to improve the quality of the service culture on campus.

"Advanced Connections USI: Your Role in Building a Quality Service Culture" will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. in University Center Room 201 on three Mondays: January 23, February 13, and March 20.

"The course brings to the surface a number of good things to do in terms of helping not only students, but also visitors and vendors, feel comfortable at USI," said instructor **Larry Bohleber**, manager of the Center for Human Resources Development.

"It focuses on trying to create a mindset where we can get everyone thinking about treating customers as they would a guest in their home, but they are a guest on campus. That includes coworkers as well."

There are five points Bohleber emphasizes in the course:

- Welcome the guest to your area or department
- Use the guest's name
- Take care of the guest's needs
- Thank the guest for being here
- Invite the guest back, if appropriate

"We want to give all of our visitors, students, and stakeholders a good experience so they'll come back, tell others and spread the good word about the great service culture here at USI," Bohleber said.

Call Extended Services at extension 1989 to enroll.

## Bigham contributes to redesign of penny

**Darrel Bigham**, professor of history and director of Historic Southern Indiana, has had a hand in the redesign of the penny to mark Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.

Bigham was appointed to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (ALBC) by President Bill Clinton in 2000 and serves as chair of its Education Committee. The commission is charged with planning the 2009 celebration of Lincoln's bicentennial.

Lincoln's boyhood home, Lincoln City, Indiana, is in Historic Southern Indiana's 26-county area. Bigham also coordinates the bicentennial task forces in "the Lincoln states" of Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.

"One of the duties of the ALBC mandated by Congress was to plan a redesign of the Lincoln penny, which was introduced for the centennial in 1909," Bigham said. "In 1959, the sesquicentennial year, the reverse side was changed, as the Lincoln Memorial replaced the wheat image."

"The ALBC agreed that, following the model of the redesigned quarter, the obverse side would be enhanced, and the reverse side would commemorate places - in this case, his birthplace in Kentucky, his boyhood home in Indiana, his Springfield home, and Civil War Washington."

The present image of Lincoln will remain on the front of the

penny. The redesigned pennies will be issued in 2009 as part of the bicentennial festivities.

"The ALBC will be working with the Bureau of the Mint on designs of the four coins," Bigham said. "The two of us from Indiana on the ALBC hope that the Indiana penny will stress Lincoln's self-education - his focus on reading during his formative years, ages 7 to 21. That will also, I hope, promote literacy as well as self-improvement."

## Student wins award

The work of **Adrian Stoica**, a junior journalism and French major, was recognized at the 39th Annual Hoosier State Press Association Foundation Newsroom Seminar and Better Newspaper Contest Awards Luncheon in December 2005.

The son of Dr. John Stoica of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and Sonja Williams of Evansville, Stoica is a correspondent for the *Mount Vernon Democrat*. He won the award, along with editor Beth Foster, for best news coverage with no deadline pressure in the non-daily two division.

The award-winning story, "Winter Blast," concerned the record snowfall in December 2004.

"We talked to kids out playing in the snow, and after the state of emergency was declared, we interviewed people on the roads and city officials, to find out how they were dealing with it," Stoica said. "It was well-rounded coverage."

HSPA judges wrote, "This entry best exemplifies the "Team" facet of this category, with this pair of reporters mining multiple sources and stepping well out into the community to cover this story of triumph and challenge during what was certainly a Christmas. Using humor to launch their story set the tone of rising to the challenge that these stories conveyed."

The *Mount Vernon Democrat* was the Blue Ribbon non-daily winner, and Foster also won first place for best feature section or page(s), and third for best newspaper design.

Stoica spent spring 2005 studying abroad at the University of Caen in Normandy, France, and went back to work at the *Democrat* when he returned.

He will serve as news editor for *The Shield* this semester.

## Distinguished Scholars Program

**Candice Thomas**, a junior English major, has been chosen for the 2006 Distinguished Scholars Program by The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS). She received a partial scholarship for the program, which includes an unpaid internship.

In June and July 2006, Thomas will work full time as an editor at a Chicago publishing company and live on the campus of Loyola University, where she will take a course in urban living.

USI's chapter of the NSCS honor society was founded in 2005.

"The program allows you to submit a resume and an application, and you describe what you want your internship to be like," Thomas said. "No two people will have the same internship."

The daughter of Michael and Deborah Thomas of Evansville, Thomas is the University's first participant in the NSCS Distinguished Scholars Program.

She is an Honors Program student and serves as an intern for the RopeWalk Winter Retreat and Southern Indiana Review, and as editor for *The Aerie* student literary magazine.

Thomas is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a creative writing emphasis, and a minor in journalism.

For more information about the NSCS or the Distinguished Scholars Program go to [www.nscs.org](http://www.nscs.org).

## Phenomenal Women

USI's Multicultural Center, the American Association of University Women, and Old National Bank are seeking nominations of USI and community women who are helping to advance diversity at USI and in the community for recognition at the fifth annual Phenomenal Women of USI and the Community through February 2, 2006.

Nominations are being sought from USI students, faculty, staff, and community members who wish to recognize outstanding women they know and respect. For this recognition, diversity is defined as the differences and similarities among groups of people and individuals based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, language, abilities, religion, and sexual orientation.

Women will be recognized at the Phenomenal Women event at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 23 in Carter Hall of the University Center in six categories: graduate student, undergraduate student, faculty member, one member of the administrative staff and one member of the support staff, plus a woman from the community.

Student nominees must have a 2.25 cumulative grade point average, be currently enrolled at USI, serve as a role model for other USI students, and be a champion for diversity.

Employees and the woman in the community must show a demonstrated impact on the lives of others at USI or in the community, serve as a role model for others at USI or in the community, and be a champion for diversity.

An online nomination form can be found on the Web at [www.usi.edu/phenomenalwomen/nominationform.asp](http://www.usi.edu/phenomenalwomen/nominationform.asp).

The form asks for information about the nominee plus 500 words or less about the contributions of the nominee whose service helps development of a more culturally diverse campus community and community-at-large.

Those nominating a person will explain how the nominee has excelled, what group(s) has been impacted by the nominee's work, and what other recognition the nominee has received for her work.

More details are available on the form. Deadline to enter nominations is February 2, 2006.

For more information, contact **Pamela Hopson**, director of the Multicultural Center, at 812/465-7188.

## "Getting to the Core" - again

Through the support of a grant from the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, the University Core Council will offer a second summer workshop entitled "Getting to the Core: Teaching and Learning Enhancement in the University Core Curriculum," May 10-12, 2006.

Twelve faculty members will come together with three Teaching Leaders to talk about best practices for teaching non-majors in Core courses and to observe first-hand what goes on in other commonly taken Core courses, thus allowing sounder advising and teaching connections among courses.

Participants will be paid \$300 each (plus lunch each day), and will be asked to produce written responses to each day's sessions plus a short report on how the workshop impacted their teaching of at least one course during 2006-07.

Teaching Leaders, each of whom will demonstrate three hours of class presentations from their Core course, are: **Charles Petranek**, professor of sociology, **Judith Wells**, instructor of mathematics, and **Maurice Hamington**, assistant professor of

philosophy. **John Gottcent**, University Core director, will serve as the project director.

Applications will be solicited soon, with a deadline of March 15. Although preference will be given to those who will teach at least one Core course during 2006-07, any faculty member (including adjunct faculty) may apply.

Participants in last year's workshop are also welcome to apply again. Watch for further information in the near future, and contact Gottcent at 1750 for more information.

## Names in the News

### **In sympathy**

The University community extends sympathy to **Steven Baker**, telecommunications technician, whose father **Frank Baker**, died on Thursday, January 5. Services were held on Sunday, January 8, at the Koehler Funeral Home.

The University community extends sympathy to **Janet Johnson**, career coordinator, whose mother-in-law **Hazel V. Johnson**, died on Wednesday, January 4. Services were held on Saturday, January 7, at Schneider Funeral Home, 512 Main Street, Mount Vernon IN.

## Welcome

**Margie Ruppel** has accepted a position as reference librarian in Library Services. She was formerly an education reference librarian at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and has a Master's in Library Science from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in elementary education from USI.

**Lisa J. Schaefer** has accepted the position of assistant director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. She was formerly director of marketing and development for the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and director of marketing for the Evansville Chamber of Commerce. She is a USI graduate with a degree in communications and art. She is a member of the Junior League of Evansville and Young Evansville Professionals, and is on the board of Mater Dei Friends and Alumni. She was the recipient of the YEP Volunteer of the Year Award in 2004.

A third USI graduate, **Kimberly A. Shelton**, has accepted a position as administrative assistant in Nursing. She was formerly employed as recreational director at MEGA Gym and was an administrative assistant with Steenberg Family Ltd. Partnership. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with an emphasis in creative writing, and won a creative writing award at USI.

## Promotions/Transfers

**Carol Evans**, from alumni/development information systems representative to administrative assistant in the Health Professions Center.

## Accomplishments

assistant professor of philosophy, attended the FEAST (Feminist Ethics And Social Theory) biannual meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida January 5-8, where he presented a paper titled, "Socializing Care at Hull-House." The paper argued that the women of the Chicago settlement Hull-House demonstrated how care ethics, a relational approach to morality rather than a rule oriented or consequence oriented morality, can effectively be used in the public sphere.

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