

University Notes

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Cooper award winner makes physics fun

Dr. Kent Scheller, associate professor of physics, is the 2007-2008 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award winner. Scheller received ringing endorsements from faculty and students alike who cite his dynamic demonstrations that engage students' imaginations and encourage them to apply physics to their daily lives.

Scheller teaches the core classes Introduction to the Physical Sciences, General Physics I and II, and Intermediate Physics I and II. His demonstrations, from blowing up a trash can to holding a concrete block on his chest while someone breaks it with a hammer, have become student favorites.

Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering, said, "While students across the country may see physics as a difficult course and one to avoid, Dr. Scheller's Physics 101 class typically has well over 100 students enrolled for each offering. He has developed a reputation for providing students with a solid course by providing a hands-on and fun approach to teaching and learning."

In anonymous course evaluations, Scheller's students write glowing reviews. For example:

"I just want to tell you that I think you're a great professor. I catch myself applying physics to everyday life now."

"I have never been good at science and never liked it. Thanks for making it so fun and enjoyable, but at the same time helping us learn."

"Great job of applying physics to our everyday lives. I've learned more this way than memorizing formulas and equations."

His colleagues estimate that Scheller spends several additional office hours per week going over lectures and homework with students. His concern for the promotion of science and scientific thought extends throughout the University. He produced a video entitled "A History of Scientific Thought," available in Rice Library and used in Humanities courses.

Dr. Thomas Pickett, professor of physics, said, "Kent understands the importance of scientific literacy in the modern world, whether the student is destined for a career in science/technology or otherwise, and works hard to create some scientific competence as well as scientific appreciation in his students."

Scheller holds a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame. He joined USI in 1999.

The award will be officially presented at the Fall Faculty and Administrative Staff Meeting August 20. It includes a generous stipend, a plaque, and additional monies for travel and related faculty development.

Focusing exclusively on teaching, the Cooper award honors a USI faculty member whose work in University Core courses has been especially creative and successful in furthering UCC goals.

As this year's winner, Scheller will deliver a presentation to

the University community during the 2007-08 academic year. Details will be released at a later date.

The Cooper award is named in honor of H. Lee Cooper, long-time friend and supporter of USI.

Remembering Dr. James R. Blevins, dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts

Dr. James R. Blevins, dean emeritus of the College of Liberal Arts and professor emeritus of English, died Monday, August 6. He is survived by his wife Barbara; brothers Roger and Terry of Statesville, North Carolina; brother Philip of Memphis, Tennessee; sister Annis Womack of Centerville, Tennessee; nephews, nieces, and a host of friends and admirers.

USI President H. Ray Hoops said, "Jim Blevins played a significant role in the founding and growth of the University of Southern Indiana. His contributions to the University and its students will be remembered."

When Blevins joined what was then Indiana State University-Evansville in 1966 as assistant professor of English, the University had 893 students and 17 full-time staff members (including faculty and administration), and was housed in the old Centennial School building.

When he retired 34 years later, USI had almost 8,700 students and 420 full-time faculty and administrative staff members as well as many part-time faculty members, and had recently opened the \$15.2 million Liberal Arts Center.

Blevins taught literature, film, and composition. He was chair of the University's Division of Humanities from 1969 until 1988, when the divisions were organized into schools, and he was appointed the first dean of the School of Liberal Arts. (The designation was changed from "School" to "College" in 2005.)

Blevins virtually created the USI Theatre program from the ground up. Under his leadership, the College of Liberal Arts acquired the playhouse on Igleheart Avenue, assumed management of The New Harmony Theatre, and joined the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in producing Lincoln Amphitheatre.

During his tenure, USI developed the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, the Center for Communal Studies, Historic Southern Indiana, Historic New Harmony, and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.

Blevins was instrumental in the cultural development of the region, served on the boards of several arts organizations, and co-founded the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. In 1995, he received the Mayor's Art Award, the city's most prestigious award for contributions to the arts.

This year, the Blevins were honored as the Arts Council's 2007 Arts Advocates of the Year, and The New Harmony Theatre's 20th anniversary season was dedicated to the couple.

At a dinner in their honor in June, Blevins said he had spent all of his professional life at USI and had enjoyed a remarkably rich career. He expressed a similar sentiment in 2000, saying,

"All of us who were here in the early days got caught up in the growth and the possibilities." He said he never had "the same experience two years in a row" because of the dynamic change at USI.

When Blevins retired in 2000, **Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus**, professor of English, said, "Like David Rice, Jim Blevins laid the groundwork for things at USI that will be around as long as the University itself exists. Not only was he one of 'the Founders' of USI - someone who helped determine the culture of its largest academic unit during a period of unparalleled growth and development - he did this work with intelligence, judgment, good taste, and a remarkable eye to the future. He is what one journalist some years ago called him, a visionary worthy of our gratitude and respect."

A memorial celebration will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 25 at the Rapp-Owen Granary. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jim and Barbara Blevins Student Development Fund in the USI Foundation.

Alumna's documentary to air locally

Internationally Born, Indiana Raised," a radio documentary produced by **Erin Gibson '92** will air on WNIN 88.3 FM at 6 p.m. Sunday, August 19. Gibson will join the University as an instructor in journalism and adviser to the Shield in the fall.

The one-hour program, narrated by Gibson and hosted by her husband John, explores international adoption through the personal stories of families in southern Indiana; examines why some adoptive parents choose foreign adoption over domestic adoption; traces the history of international adoption in the region; and discusses how parents who adopt internationally honor their child's birth culture.

Each year more than 20,000 children are adopted from abroad by parents in the United States. Gibson's documentary seeks to discover why international adoption has gained such popularity in recent years.

"I was noticing a lot of people in Evansville were adopting and didn't even consider domestic adoption, they were immediately going to the international adoption agency, and that had me intrigued," Gibson said.

Gibson said she always has been interested in adoption. "As my husband and I have been considering this, I decided to delve into the one question I have personally: Would I adopt domestically or internationally? I wanted to ask families that same question."

The documentary is her thesis project for a Master of Arts in Mass Communication and Media Arts from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She presented it to her graduate school research committee in May. One of the requirements of the project is that it have a public exhibition.

Gibson said, "I wanted to do a radio documentary. I'd never had the opportunity to do a long-form piece and was excited to tackle an hour-long project. It's such a vast subject I thought it was deserving of an hour, especially in Evansville, which is the world headquarters for Families Thru International Adoption."

The first segment of the program explores the differences between international and domestic adoption. It features a local couple who adopted both domestically and internationally and explains the process of adopting internationally.

The second segment focuses on the history of international adoption in the Evansville area, with stories of an Evansville woman adopted from Korea in 1958, an Evansville attorney who helped arrange dozens of adoptions from Brazil in the 1980s, and of families united through the Evansville-based agency,

Families Thru International Adoption. Listeners will hear an emotional airport reunion for families arriving home from China with their new babies.

The final segment addresses the cultural issues of international adoption. How do families honor the birth culture of their adopted children? The program attempts to answer the question by introducing the audience to different family traditions, visiting a weekly school for children adopted from China, and attending an annual picnic for international adoptees.

Gibson produced the documentary in conjunction with WSIU-FM in Carbondale, Illinois. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from USI and will receive her master's from SIUC this month.

More USI students studying abroad

More USI students are studying abroad in more diverse countries. Last academic year, USI students studied in 17 countries, including Spain, Uruguay, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Switzerland.

This fall, USI student **Robert Hipple** will study in China and Hong Kong. Hipple, an English major from Corydon, Indiana, is USI's first recipient of a prestigious Gilman International Scholarship, established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000.

The scholarship provides awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving federal Pell Grant funding at a two- or four-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. It is meant to broaden the student population that studies abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints.

According to **Heidi Gregori-Gahan**, director of International Programs and Services, USI has seen a 75 percent increase in the number of students studying abroad in the last four years.

"I think there are several factors which have contributed to the steady growth in study abroad at USI," she said. "The word is definitely getting out to our students even before they matriculate, due to improved marketing materials and new outreach initiatives. In addition to being able to apply their financial aid toward program fees, many students have received additional funding through the new Honors study abroad scholarship program. We also have seen an increasing number of faculty members in a variety of disciplines who are interested in sponsoring short-term programs."

The Association of International Educators (NAFSA) maintains that Americans who study abroad are far better prepared for the demands of the twenty-first century. A lack of language and cultural skills adversely affect national security, economic security, and foreign policy.

NAFSA's Strategic Task Force on Study Abroad concluded, "If American students are to be able to function effectively in the world into which they will graduate, it must become the routine - not the exception - for them to study abroad in high-quality programs. For that to happen, the United States requires a policy to promote global learning which recognizes that providing Americans with opportunities to acquire the skills, attitudes, and perceptions that allow them to be globally and cross-culturally competent is central to U.S. security and economic interests in the twenty-first century."

NAFSA is supporting the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007, which would provide opportunities for at least one million students to study overseas annually. Introduced by Senators Richard Durbin and Norm Coleman in March 2007, the legislation specifically cites the foreign policy

and national security challenges facing the United States as central reasons for the need to increase Americans' knowledge of other cultures and languages.

International study is receiving attention on the state level as well. Lobbied by Indiana NAFSA members including USI, Indiana Representatives Dennis Avery and David Orentlicher and Senator Glenn Howard introduced a resolution recognizing the importance of international education. It was adopted by the House and Senate in April 2007.

Similar to the international education resolutions passed in other states, Indiana's resolution recognizes the cultural and economic benefits of retaining globally competent college graduates and of attracting talented international students. Indiana ranks eleventh in the nation for the number of students studying abroad.

For more information about study abroad opportunities at USI, go to the International Programs and Services Web site at www.usi.edu/ips/intlstud.asp.

Women's soccer to play in England

The USI women's soccer team is making its first trip to England to play three exhibition matches.

The Screaming Eagles will kick off the trip with a match against the Millwall Lionesses in New Eltham London on August 10. It will conclude with a match against Enfield in Enfield, Middlesex on August 12, and Cambridge United in Cambridge, England on August 14.

"The trip will give us an advantage of playing together for three games," USI Head Coach **Krissy Englebrecht** said. "They're basically going to spend 10 days with just each other."

Former Gibson Southern Lady Titan soccer standout **Kaycie Hibdon**, of Haubstadt, is a freshman forward on the 2007 USI team.

After the USI team returns to the United States, the Eagles will start the season on August 23 at Saginaw Valley State University. USI's home opener is September 14 versus Saint Joseph's College.

A four year starter for Gibson Southern, Hibdon set a school record with 65 goals, including 14 goals, along with seven assists, her senior year.

Hibdon's 2006 season honors her senior year included Lady Titan MVP, along with all-conference honors and all-conference academic teams in the Pocket Athletic Conference.

Honorees have provided decades of support

Four support staff employees who have served the University for more than 20 years are among those to be honored during the 37th Annual Employee Recognition Program on August 12.

Thirty years

Courtney S. Klingelhoef, administrative associate, Pott College of Science and Engineering

"Courtney has seen a lot of change in her years at USI. She has seen, and adapted to, a tremendously changing campus landscape. From the modest campus footprint to the current, Courtney has transitioned from a paper and pencil, computerless, and hand cranked mimeograph world to a modern and technologically sophisticated campus environment. Her experience in so many facets of how the University works makes her a valuable resource for our college." - **Dr. Scott Gordon**, dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering

Carol A. Mann, senior accounting supervisor, Business

Affairs

"Ms. Mann initially was employed in the bursar's area as a cashier, left the University to care for her children and subsequently reentered employment as an account clerk in general accounting. Since her return to USI, Ms. Mann has been promoted numerous times to more responsible positions within accounting services. In her current supervisory role, she continues to be a role model for new employees and someone we can depend upon to follow the business office motto of 'find a way that we can.' More important than her business achievements is her personal achievement in raising her family. Carol Mann is an employee who deserves to be honored by all of us. She raised four outstanding children, three of which are USI graduates, by herself. No wonder we call her 'Ms. Sunbeam.'" - **Michael Whipple**, assistant treasurer and director of Business Affairs

Twenty-five years

Pamela L. Wade, accounting associate, Business Affairs

"Pam's dedicated service to Business Affairs and the University is a treasured asset. She has worked diligently and effectively to aid the University's evolution. She has seen and been part of much change at the University. She possesses a wealth of knowledge not only of her job but of the history of the University. She is a hard-working, effective, dedicated employee who always reflects a positive image of the University through her professionalism." - **Mary Hupfer**, assistant vice president for Business Affairs and fiscal officer for the Foundation

Twenty years

Karen L. Anderson, lead custodial worker, Physical Plant

"Karen came to us from the University of Evansville where she was employed as a custodial worker. Her first assignments were primarily in the Physical Activities Center and she maintains an 'office' in the PAC to this time. She has led the day shift custodial staff on campus since she was promoted quite a few years ago and continued to have assigned work in addition to leadership responsibilities. Early in her career at USI, Karen was instrumental in organizing and supervising the summer Private Industry Council programs for the disadvantaged youth who were hired to perform work on campus and for helping set up and supervise the Summer Rehab Program that cleans, paints, and repairs campus housing. Karen is a valued employee who is an expert in her areas of work responsibilities and well respected by all of her fellow employees." - **Stephen Helfrich**, director of Facility Operations and Planning

Support staff retirees to be honored are **Sandra A. Hatfield**, Varsity Club secretary; **Yvonne T. Floyd**, senior administrative assistant, Athletics; **Lois L. Stevens**, supervisor and athletic equipment manager, Physical Activities Center; **Patsy A. Hape**, custodial worker, Physical Plant; **E. Patricia Jordon**, administrative assistant in Residence Life; **Linda S. Harmon**, senior administrative assistant, Dean of Students office; and **Linda S. Culver**, cashier in the Bursar Office.

The luncheon will be held Tuesday, August 14, in Carter Hall.

Names in the news

In sympathy

The University extends sympathy to **Susan Haywood Gooden**, associate professor of education, whose mother **Jackie Oates** died on Wednesday, July 25. Services were held on Sunday, July 29 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home.

Welcome

Danielle Dencklau has accepted a position as program advisor in Student Development. She holds a Master of Science degree in education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale where she was formerly employed as a graduate assistant.

Amy Kling has accepted a position as administrative associate in the Office of Special Events. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business education from USI. Kling was formerly a math and business teacher at F.J. Reitz High School.

Sherri Mathis has accepted a position as instructor in occupational therapy in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy from USI. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in occupational therapy at USI. Mathis was formerly an occupational therapist at Wabash and Ohio Valley Special Education District in Norris City, IL.

Amy Price has accepted a position as associate director in Residence Life. She holds a Master of Science degree in education from Eastern Illinois University where she was formerly employed as area director for housing and dining services. Price is the district facilitator of Alpha Sigma Alpha National Sorority and is a member of the GLACUHO board of directors.

Donna Thompson has accepted a position as administrative assistant in Residence Life. She is a certified municipal clerk/treasurer. Thompson was formerly employed as a quality assurance manager for business environments.

Accomplishments

George Rehnquist of Princeton, Indiana, has been named to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by Governor Mitch Daniels. An attorney, Rehnquist is president of the Gibson County Tourism and Visitors Bureau. He also is a member of USI's Community Advisory Board for the 2007 President's Task Force on Workforce and Economic Development. Rehnquist will serve a four-year term on the commission as the board member from Indiana's 8th congressional district.

In appreciation

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the University family for their support following the death of my father. The cards, flowers, food and many condolences were very much appreciated." - **Cathy Coomes**, administrative assistant, Department of Social Work

FYI

Need help with Word 2007?

Tearing your hair out trying to cope with the changes from Word 2003 to Word 2007? **Julie Brauser**, training consultant, and **Ginger Ramsden**, manager of school, family, and children's programs in Extended Services have developed four one-hour modules to help with some of the differences that seem to give people the most trouble: "What's New with Microsoft Word," "Word 2007 Options and Defaults," "Formatting in Word 2007," and "Mail, Merge, Envelopes, and Labels." The schedule for August sessions is posted on the Extended Services Web pages at www.usi.edu/extserv/training/schedule.asp. Use the registration link to enroll, or call 812/464-1989. If there is enough interest, the sessions will be repeated in September and/or October.

"Relive America's Greatest Hour"

Eric vonFuhrmann, associate professor of English, along with **Mike Whicker '98**, executive director of the USS LST Ship Memorial and author of *Invitation to Valhalla*, will lead a private tour of famous World War II sites in Europe July 24-August 6, 2008. VonFuhrmann expects many World War II veterans to sign up for the tour, which also is open to USI faculty, staff, alumni, and anyone interested in World War II. The tour will include famous sites in England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria. For the full itinerary, go to www.mikewhicker.com/2007/06/journey-to-valhalla.html. Cost for the trip is \$3,750 per person, double occupancy. A deposit of \$500 must be made by November 1, 2007. For more information, call 812/464-1747.

USI Day at Holiday World and Splashin' Safari

On Saturday, August 25, head to Santa Claus, Indiana, for USI Day at Holiday World and Splashin' Safari with the USI Alumni Association. Tickets are \$33 for adults; \$28 for children 3-6; and free for children age 2 and under. Cost includes admission to the park; Grand Buffet (Moonlight BBQ, hot dogs, hamburgers and fixings); and free unlimited soft drinks, parking, sunscreen, and inner tubes at the water park. For more information or reservations, call Alumni & Volunteer Services at 812/464-1928 or email alumni@usi.edu.

Multicultural Center hosts Cultural Diversity Welcome Reception

The USI Multicultural Center will host a Cultural Diversity Welcome Reception from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, August 23, in the University Center Room 201. Students of color and their families are invited to enjoy a variety of appetizers and connect with the USI community. RSVP to **Kacheyta McClellan**, senior administrative assistant in the Multicultural Center, at kkmccllella@usi.edu. For more information, check out the USI Multicultural Center online.

Do I smell espresso?

Faculty, staff, and students who were disappointed to find the Starbucks in Rice Library closed for the summer will be pleased to learn that they can once again get their caffeine fix. Starbucks is open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Retail manager **Rebecca Robb** said, "We've had a lot of requests to get it open," in the form of emails and comments from faculty and staff. Welcome Week hours are to be determined, but Starbucks will return to normal hours when fall classes commence on Monday, August 27. Those hours are: 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday; and 4 to 11 p.m. Sunday (closed Saturday).