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Jim Werner hopping on retirement train

Jim Werner, courier distribution services clerk, is riding the rails to retirement after 14 years at USI. Effective October 8, he will no longer pilot the "Jim-Ex mobile" around campus and instead will devote more time to his favorite hobby: model trains.

"It just kind of crept into my blood," Werner said. "I never get tired of seeing them."

His fascination with model trains and train watching began when he was a small child. "Back when steam engines still ruled."

Now Werner has an entire room in his Westside home devoted to an H/O layout that includes about 40 engines and 400 freight cars as well as subdivisions, an industrial area, a passenger station, farm, mountain, restaurants, businesses, train yards, tiny people, and all sorts of intricate detail.

In addition to running the trains and switching cars – which is his favorite activity – Werner builds the buildings, completes maintenance, and fixes just about anything that breaks. His wife Carolyn frequently helps out and is responsible for the farm's tiny corn stalks crafted out of toothpicks and crepe paper.

Werner has Athearn, Atlas, Walthers, and model die cast cars. The oldest date to the 1960s. He also has a building that resembles where he worked changing the wheels on trains when he was a car man for the Illinois Central Railroad.

"It's a heavy job. Real heavy," he commented, "And I've got the scars to prove it."

Werner believes the power of the engines is at the heart of a train's appeal.

"You see a semi struggling to get up a hill," he explained. "When a train can pull 100 freight cars."

On his layout, an engine pulling roughly 40 cars can navigate the track in about three minutes.

"It's been a good hobby. I really have a lot of fun with them," he added. "I've got a lot of work to finish, too."

When he retires, Werner plans to finish another building before tackling completion of the mountain that fills one corner of the track and includes a train tunnel.

The fan of USI Athletics joined the University in 1990 as a custodial worker. In 1998 he became a courier and started making express deliveries.

"I was glad to get to be a courier. It's been a tough job, but it keeps you going. The best part is getting to meet the people," he said. "It's going to seem kind of funny not doing it after doing it so long."

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Exhibit features works by Michael Aakhus

Paintings by Michael Aakhus, professor of art, will be on display October 9-November 14 at the New Harmony Gallery of

Contemporary Art, where a free public reception for the artist will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. October 9.

"Michael Aakhus: Sabbatical Exhibition" will feature works Aakhus created during the 2004 spring semester while on sabbatical in Mexico. His paintings are based on images from his travels in Latin America and touch on themes related to the indigenous cultures he has encountered.

Many of the paintings combine elements of magical realism and indigenous symbols in bold large-scale canvases. During the sabbatical, his work was displayed at Tecnológico Autonomo de Studios Superiores de Monterrey Campus Mexico City.

He also created bronze sculptures with Miguel Peraza, a sculptor, professor, and author, who is academic director at two campuses of the Tecnológico.

Aakhus first traveled to Mexico in 1977 and has returned many times since. In 1996 he began leading an annual spring break student tour to different areas of the country.

The Evansville resident joined the University in 1977. He has exhibited widely across the United States and Mexico, and holds an M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and a B.A. from Bemidji State University.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. For additional information, call 812/682-3156.

The exhibit was made possible through the generous support of USI and the Indiana Arts Commission.

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Theatre presents *The Laramie Project*

The Laramie Project, the first production of the USI Theatre season, opens Wednesday, October 6, and will continue through October 17. Performances will be staged in the Helen Mallette Studio Theatre in the Liberal Arts Center.

The play, written by Moisés Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theater Project, examines the circumstances surrounding the October 12, 1998, death of Matthew Shepard, a gay student at University of Wyoming, who was fatally beaten because of his sexual orientation.

Shepard's death became a national symbol of intolerance, but for the people of Laramie, Wyo., it was a deeply personal event. Using a documentary approach, *The Laramie Project's* writers conducted hundreds of interviews in the year after his murder.

From these interviews and their own experiences, the writers developed a script that creates a snapshot of a quiet town suddenly thrust into the media spotlight as it tries to come to terms with the crime. *The New York Times* called *The Laramie Project* "deeply moving.... This play is *Our Town* with a question mark, as in 'Could this be our town?'"

John Berst, USI assistant professor of theatre, said directing the production is an honor.

"I've been asked why I am directing a 'gay play,' but I don't believe that's what *The Laramie Project* is. It's a play about hate. The beauty of the play, however, is that it is also about community. It doesn't merely expose this brutal act, which has come to define the town of Laramie, Wyo.," he said.

"It looks beyond, into the hearts and minds of the people of that community who experienced a wide range of conflicting emotions. Their stories raise critical questions about our ability to tolerate difference. The production will confront our Evansville audience with the same difficult issues confronted by the Laramie community in the aftermath of this crime."

One of the challenges of mounting *The Laramie Project* is casting. The script calls for a small group of actors to play more than 60 roles, from rural ranchers to university professors, from religious leaders to medical staff at the hospital where Shepard died, from friends and family of the accused to friends and family of the victim. Berst's cast includes USI students Kensington Blaylock, Josh Buente, Nathan Burgdorf, Austin Lipking, Sean McCambridge, Erin Monahan, Camille Ruckriegel, Greg Schafer, Stephen Sievers, Natalie Singer, and Lauren Tait.

The design team for *The Laramie Project* includes USI theatre faculty Doug Hubbell as scenic designer and Heather Mabley as lighting designer. USI students holding key design and production positions include Rai Acker as costume designer, Charles Walther as sound designer, Amanda Grubb as production stage manager, Sean Nicholl as assistant stage manager, and Beth Wicker as technical director.

The Laramie Project runs October 6-9 and October 13-17. A post-show discussion with the director and members of the cast will follow the opening night performance.

Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. There is no Sunday performance October 10.

Single ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors 60 and over, and \$4 for USI students. Season tickets also are available. Tickets may be purchased by calling the USI Theatre box office, 812/422-3970. Tickets also may be purchased at the door.



Regency execs discussing teamwork

The Regency Commercial Associates executive team will present the School of Business Executive-in-Residence Program Wednesday, October 6, in the University Center.

Five speakers will deliver "The Practical Applications of a Team Environment at Regency Commercial Associates" in two free public forums in Carter Hall. The first forum will begin at 9 a.m., and the second will start at 11 a.m.

Regency is a commercial real estate company. Its primary business is development, management, and ownership of shopping centers and office buildings in Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky.

The company is the primary developer of Cross Pointe Commerce Center, a 142-acre premier business park in Evansville. Regency also manages shopping centers for other owners in Indiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Presenters at the USI forums will include:

- ▶▶ Jim McKinney, president and CEO - McKinney oversees all aspects of the various Regency enterprises comprising its commercial operations. He earned an M.B.A. in real estate and finance from Indiana University.
- ▶▶ Marian Blackford '80, vice president and CFO - Blackford oversees, directs, and leads the company's financial and

accounting functions for the managing entity as well as several partnerships. She holds a B.S. in accounting from USI.

- ▶▶ Julie Clayton, director of Administration and Project Management - Clayton is responsible for overseeing all new construction projects and directs human resource administration.
- ▶▶ Jeff Howell, director of Property Management - Howell is responsible for the company's property management functions, including all day-to-day activities of the properties owned or managed by Regency and long-term planning for the department. He holds a B.S. in industrial supervision from Purdue University and a B.S. in physics from University of Evansville.
- ▶▶ Joseph Kiefer '97, director of Sales and Leasing - Kiefer is responsible for all sales and leasing of RCA projects. His responsibilities also include the marketing of Cross Pointe Commerce Center. Kiefer holds a B.S. in construction management and technology from Indiana State University, an M.A.L.S. from USI, and an M.P.A. from Indiana State. He also serves as city councilman-at-large for Evansville.

Each forum will be followed by time for questions. For more information, call 812/464-1718.



THREADS celebrating heritage month

Guest speakers, films, a theatrical production, talent show, and many other activities fill University of Southern Indiana's THREADS Heritage Month. Events begin Monday, October 4, and will continue throughout October.

The THREADS Heritage Month calendar follows. Events are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

October 4 - Chastity Bono, 7:30 p.m., University Center Carter Hall. The author and gay rights activist will present the lecture, "Discrimination Against GLBTs in the Media." Sponsor: University Core Curriculum Speaker Series. Information: 812/464-1855.

October 6 - Global Community Program: Andorran Night, 7:30 p.m., Ruston Hall, lounge. A USI international student from Andorra will share information about his country, culture, and cuisine. Sponsor: International Programs and Services. Information: 812/464-1248.

October 6-9 and 13-17 - USI Theatre presents *The Laramie Project*, Liberal Arts Center, Helen Mallette Studio Theatre. A play based on the story of Matthew Shepard, a young man beaten and left to die because he was gay. Curtain: Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday, October 17, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10, adult; \$8, students/seniors; \$4, USI students. Information: 812/465-1668.

October 9 - USI Live at the Apollo, 6 p.m., University Center, Carter Hall. A campus-wide talent show. Sponsors: the Black Student Union and Multicultural Center. Information: 812/465-7188.

October 14 - *Fahrenheit 9/11*, 7 p.m., Forum I. Michael Moore's controversial film examining the tragedy of 9/11. Sponsor: the Activities Programming Board. Information: 812/464-1872.

October 16 - Southwestern Indiana AIDS Walk 2004, 2 p.m., Old Courthouse, downtown Evansville. Registration begins noon. Proceeds will be utilized locally. Sponsor: AIDS Resource Group of Evansville. Spectrum USI participating. Information: 812/461-5206.

October 20 - Global Community Program: America's Role in the World, 7:30 p.m., Ruston Hall, lounge. An interactive program examining U.S. foreign policy. Sponsors: International Programs and Services, and the Honors Program. Information: 812/465-1248.

October 27 - Marc Adams, 8 p.m., Kleymeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center. Adams is the author of the autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*, a Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver Pen Award winner. He also is a cofounder of HeartStrong Inc., a non-profit organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered students of religious schools, colleges, and universities. Sponsor: Spectrum USI and members of the Tri-state community. Information: 812/461-5206.

October 28 - Brent Scarpo's *Journey to a Hate Free Millennium*, 7 p.m., University Center, Carter Hall. An award-winning documentary focusing on the student shootings at Columbine, the dragging death of James Byrd Jr., and the beating death of Matthew Shepard. Sponsors: USI Foundation and Student Development Programs. Reception will follow. Information: 812/465-7167.

October 28 - "Significant Others in Greek Art," 7:30-8:30 p.m., Liberal Arts Center, Kleymeyer Hall. A lecture by Dr. Timothy McNiven on gender issues in ancient Greece. Sponsor: USI Society for Arts & Humanities. Information: 812/465-1074.

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Names in the news

Achievements

Dr. Julia Galbus, associate professor of English, published "Fathering Words of Loss and Love: An Interview with E. Ethelbert Miller" in *Obsidian III* 5.1 (2004): 9-24.

Julie Payne, director of Residence Life, is reprising the role of Sister Mary Robert in the Evansville Civic Theatre production of Dan Goggin's musical comedy *Meshuggah-Nuns! The Ecumenical Nonsense*. Performances will continue through October 10: 8 p.m. October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9; and 2 p.m. Oct. 3 and 10. For ticket information, call 812/425-2800.

Dr. Dan Scavone, professor emeritus of history, will present a seminar on *The Da Vinci Code* at 2 p.m. November 6 at Barnes & Noble in Evansville. He has presented several seminars on the novel in Chicago and Evansville.

Katie Waters, professor of art and chair of the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre, will be recognized as the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana's 2004 Artist of the Year at a banquet Thursday, October 7, at The Centre. The council announced the winners of its 2004 awards in August. Tickets for the banquet, \$50, are available by calling 812/422-2111.

Congratulations

Bridget Greer, administrative assistant in the President's Office, and **Ryan Greer** are the parents of a daughter, **Abigail Renee Greer**, born at 3 p.m. September 27. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 20-inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Welcome

Dr. Kenneth L. Carter, Evansville, has accepted the position of assistant professor of psychology. He lived in Lawrence,

Kan., before spending two years in Emory, Va., where he worked as a visiting assistant professor at Emory and Henry College. He also previously worked as Instructional Technology coordinator at Rockhurst University, where he earned a B.A. Carter earned a Ph.D. in 2003 and an M.A. in 1997, both at University of Kansas. He is a member of the Southeastern Psychological Association.

Dr. Manfen W. Chen, Newburgh, has accepted the position of assistant professor of economics and finance. Formerly of Ruston, La., she previously worked as a visiting assistant professor at Louisiana Tech University and an instructor at Grambling State University. She earned a D.B.A. with a concentration in finance at Louisiana Tech in 2003.

Wesley T. Durham, who is in the process of relocating to the area, has accepted the position of instructor in communications. A resident of Beaver Dam, Ky., he previously worked as a graduate teaching assistant and basic course director at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned an M.A. in communication in 2001 and a B.A. in communication in 1999, both from Western Kentucky University. Durham is the recipient of the International Communication Association's 2004 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, the Central States Communication Association's 2003 and 2004 Top Student Paper, and the Western States Communication Association's 2004 Top Paper. He is a member of the National Communication Association and the Central States Communication Association.

Dr. Jason Hardgrave, Newburgh, has accepted the position of assistant professor of history. Formerly of Lawrence, Kan., he previously worked as an assistant instructor at University of Kansas, where he earned a Ph.D. He holds both a B.A. and an M.A. in history from University of Wyoming and received a 2001 Fulbright Scholarship to Italy. Hardgrave is a member of the Medieval Academy, MidAmerica Medieval Association, Southeast Medieval Association, Rocky Mountain Medieval Association, American Historical Association, Phi Alpha Theta, and Boy Scouts of America.

Amber Jolly, Evansville, has accepted the position of instructor in mathematics. Formerly of Moscow, Idaho, she previously worked as a teaching assistant at University of Idaho, where she received the 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award. She earned an M.A.T. in 2004 at University of Idaho, where she earned a B.S. in education in 2002.

Dr. Paul Parkison, Evansville, has accepted the position of assistant professor of education. Formerly of Paris, Tenn., he previously worked as a teacher at Inman Middle School. He earned an Ed.D. from University of Memphis in 2004 and holds an M.A. in political science from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. from Wabash College. Parkison is a member of the National Middle School Association and the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

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FYI

Basketball volunteers

The Athletic Department is seeking volunteers to help take tickets at home men's and women's basketball games. Volunteers play an important part in the success of USI's basketball season as well as the University's entire sports program.

Volunteers also receive two bench-seat tickets to home games.

To volunteer, contact Ross Brown, men's tennis coach, 812/464-1814.

Every G.I.

"A CD for Every G.I.," an outgrowth of the successful "A Book for Every G.I." campaign, will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. October 16 at Borders in Evansville. The goal is to collect 1,000 or more CDs to send to the troops in Iraq. To participate, bring appropriate quality CDs to the event or buy some at Borders, which will be providing discounted shipping for the delivery.

"A Book for Every G.I." has sent \$16,000 in books to military personnel in Iraq. Eric von Fuhrmann, associate professor of English, is involved in the campaign. For more information, contact him, 812/464-1749.

Wellness fair

USI's annual Student/Employee Wellness Fair will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. October 13 in the University Center's Carter Hall, where a variety of free health screenings will be available, including health risk appraisals, cholesterol, body composition (body fat), vision, blood pressure, blood sugar, and pulmonary function.

Employees interested in having cholesterol tests prior to the health fair may schedule an appointment for October 11 or 12 by calling the Day Learning Resource Center, 812/465-1153.

Exhibition tickets

Tickets for the University of Southern Indiana-University of Cincinnati men's basketball exhibition game November 13 may be reserved at the USI Ticket Office for \$22 each.

A fan bus to the game also is scheduled to leave and return November 13. The price, for the bus trip and a game ticket, is \$50. For more information, call the USI Special Events Office, 812/464-1930.

Sam's passes

One-day guest passes to Sam's Club are available in Human Resources, Room 12 in the Orr Center. The passes are valid through December 31, 2004. For information, call 812/464-1815.

Newsletter deadline

Friday, October 1, is the deadline for submitting information for the next online issue of *University Notes*. Submissions received after the deadline will be published at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Submissions to "Marketplace" may be made via e-mail to Brandi Schwartz, editorial associate in News and Information Services, or by calling 812/465-1192. Other submissions to *University Notes* may be made by contacting Libby L. Keeling, editor, 812/461-5259.



Fulbright applications

Just a reminder that the deadline for completion of applications for Student Fulbright Awards for the academic year 2004-05 is October 12.

The U.S. Student Program awards approximately 1,000 grants annually to more than 140 countries worldwide. Fulbright full grants generally provide the funding for round-trip travel, maintenance for one academic year, health and accident insurance,

and full or partial tuition.

The Fulbright Program provides recipients with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic, and cultural institutions; exchange ideas; and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.

In addition to graduate study and research grants around the world, there also are approximately 250 English teaching opportunities in Argentina, Belgium/Luxembourg, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Korea, Romania, Taiwan, and Turkey.

Applicants to the Fulbright U.S. Student Program must be U.S. citizens at the time of application and hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent by the beginning of the grant (Fall 2005).

Is a Fulbright in your students' future? It was for these recent USI Fulbright grantees: Walter Jermakowicz, chemistry/biology/German, for study at University of Munich, Germany; Kirt Page, chemistry, for study at University of Mainz, Germany; and Tracy Bee, English/sociology, for an English Teaching Assistantship to Korea.

For more information, applicants should visit the Fulbright U.S. Student Web at www.iie.org/fulbright. For information about grants to specific countries and for assistance with the application process, contact Dr. Suzi Wolfe, USI Student Fulbright Advisor, 812/465-7026 or Room 3067 in the Liberal Arts Center.



Marketplace

For sale

Solid brick home - two bedroom, full basement, floored attic, fruit cellar, built around 1926. Excellent condition. Call Travis Flener, 812/985-3939.

Home for sale - adjacent to Price Park/Soccer Field (Eastside). Three bedroom, two bath, dining room, and eat-in kitchen. Landscaped, privacy fence, ceramic/Pergo/carpet, professionally painted. Owners had no pets, no kids, and were non-smokers. \$118,500. Call Ms. Wiltsie, Ext. 5249 or 477-8237.

House for sale - westside. Four-bedroom, two-bath, brick home with extra lot in desirable Western Terrace Subdivision. Remodeled full-finished walkout basement, over 1800 sq. ft. total living space. Formal living room, huge family room with fireplace, fenced backyard with storage shed. New roof, furnace and A/C, and replacement windows. 3909 W. Maryland St. (off Upper Mt. Vernon Rd.) Relocating - must sell. \$115,000. Call 812/402-1909.

Community

Community Sale - St. Paul United Methodist Church, St. Phillips Road, October 2, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Refreshments, bake sale items, miscellaneous, antiques, tools. Take Hwy. 62-West to St. Phillips Road, turn right, proceed north, look for little white church on left.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Marketplace," a free service available to University employees and retirees, publishes information of a non-commercial nature that may include items for sale or rent, desired items or services, available services, free items, and fund raisers. The editorial staff reserves the right to decline any submission and to enforce the column deadline.

Friday, October 1, is the deadline for submitting information for the next "Marketplace." Submissions may be made via e-mail or by calling 812/465-1192.