



University of Southern Indiana

University Notes

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Vol. 41, No. 39 ▶ December 1, 2006

Help USI cheer team

USI's cheer team is ranked in the top five in its division going into the 2007 College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship in Orlando, Florida, January 12-14, but our cheerleaders need your help to get there.

"We are trying to raise money through donations and sponsorships," said senior cheerleader **Julie Hubert**. "We're getting T-shirts to go to the competition, and sponsors will have their names on the back."

Hubert, a health services major with a minor in health promotion and work site wellness, transferred to USI from Indiana University, where she cheered during her freshman year. She has cheered at USI since her sophomore year, and this year she serves as captain of the team.

She cheered through all four years at Perry Central High School in Leopold, Indiana, and was on the Evansville-based all-star team, the Cheer Zone Tigers. She said the level of competition has increased since she graduated from high school.

"The difficulty of tumbling has increased dramatically," she said. "Cheerleaders today truly are athletes, even though cheerleading isn't considered a sport. You almost have to have some type of gymnastic background."

The USI team was ranked fifth of 13 small coed Division II teams based on an entry tape submitted for judging in November. The tape showed their tumbling skills, stunting ability, and pyramids.

"We had to submit a video of all of our skills, and they rank you by that videotape, so currently we are in fifth place."

The USI cheer teams are supported through donations and fundraisers. Competitions are expensive, and what money isn't raised the cheerleaders have to come up with themselves.

To help, donate through a form on the USI Cheer Team Web site: www.usi.edu/stl/cheer/support.asp or send a check payable to the USI Foundation with "Cheer Team" in the memo area to: USI Foundation, Attn: Cheer Team, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47714.

You also can call the Development office at 812/464-1918.

Parker's pup is a Death Row Dog no more

Dutch ain't nothing but a hound dog, but since being let off doggy death row, he's dancing to the jailhouse rock.

Leslie Parker's basset hound was one of many dogs on the fast-track to euthanasia at the Muhlenberg County Humane Society shelter before he was taken into the Death Row Dogs program.

In the program, dogs are trained by prisoners incarcerated at the Green River Correctional Complex. The dogs live with inmates in their cells for an intensive eight to 10 weeks of obedience training.

"The inmates have to earn the right to become trainers," said Parker, director of Printing Services. "They get to go through a program where they learn to train and groom the dogs, and that's a huge privilege for them. This gives them a skill they can use when they come out."

Death Row Dogs are house and leash trained and taught basic commands. Trainers focus on the dogs' worst behavioral issues. It was known in advance that Dutch would go into a home where he would be alone a lot during the day, so he was trained to hold his bladder for 12 hours.

"They find the biggest area of concern, such as house training or biting, and that will be their main focus," Parker said. "If you sent a dog off for that kind of training, it would be prohibitively expensive, and if you tried to do it yourself, it would be another full-time job."

She added, "The dogs are fabulous when they come out."

Before Dutch's graduation ceremony, the Parkers met with his trainer. "We learned all about the dog, how to handle it, and what it knew. It was nice to have that one-on-one because these guys learn to love these dogs, and they want to make sure they are going to a good home because they've invested so much in them."

During the ceremony, each inmate received a gift from the prison system. The trainers ceremonially handed over the dogs to their new owners, and there was a reception with cake and soft drinks.

"It allows for more one-on-one time. It's very emotional for the guys there because they're so tuned in with the dogs."

Parker encourages anyone who is considering getting a dog to look into the program.

"Every dog I observed when we were there for the ceremony that day was as good as Dutch is. They were all well behaved. It's an impressive program in what it does for inmates, dogs, and families, because you get a fabulous dog out of it and save a life."

"It was a really moving experience."

For more information about the program, go to www.petfinder.com/shelters/KY77.html.

"Sweat equity" needed:

Hurricane Katrina survivor **Samoa** Hempfling and her family will be residents of New Haven, a Habitat for Humanity subdivision that will house many victims of the November 6, 2005 tornado. It will be located near the junction of I-64 and Green River Road, not far from Eastbrook Mobile Home Park.

Hempfling, fee waiver clerk in Student Financial Assistance, and her husband, Matthew, have almost completed their first 50 hours of "sweat equity" toward their home. The first 50 hours have to be performed by household members. After that, volunteers may help them earn the remaining 250 for a total of 300 hours.

"We are at 48 hours, and on December 2 we will surpass our 50, so after that day, people can help," she said.

The sooner the Hempflings complete their first 200 hours, the sooner their names will go down on a list for their home to be built. They are seeking volunteers to help them on Saturdays. The only requirement for volunteering is that you are 16 or older and you sign a liability waiver. No special skills are required.

"If we get three people to work with us every Saturday we could be done in early February. From what we've been told, once we reach our 200 hours, our name is put on a list and is next in line for our home to be built." It is hoped that the land for New Haven will be cleared in April 2007.

The Hempflings met some of the Eastbrook families for the first time at a Habitat orientation.

"It's almost a blessing in itself to get to meet your neighbors. We're getting to meet and bond with our neighbors before we even think about moving things into a house and that in itself is amazing."

She views the tornado victims as kindred spirits.

"Not a whole lot of people understand the impact this may have on you psychologically and emotionally, in terms of having to rebuild your life from scratch. I feel a definite kinship with a lot of the people we're going to be living around and next to. I don't think we could be any luckier than being in this subdivision."

If you'd like to volunteer, contact Hempfling by the Tuesday before the Saturday you can work.

"We have to call the site supervisor at least three days ahead of time to see where he will need the most help, and to notify him of how many people we will bring with us that day," Hempfling said.

To volunteer, contact Hempfling via email at Schempfli@usi.edu.

What can communal societies teach us about peace?

Dr. Donald Pitzer, professor of history and director of the Center for Communal Studies, will speak at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 13, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New Harmony about what lessons we can learn from communal societies about how to live together in peace. The event, including a reception to follow, is free and open to the public.

The lecture and reception are part of the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church religious education program for 2006-2007. St. Stephen's invited Pitzer to speak from his vast knowledge and experience about how members of communal societies (also known as intentional communities) have dealt with conflict. The title of his lecture is "Community, Conflict, and Control: What Intentional Communities Teach about Peace." Pitzer will draw examples from the Harmonists, Owenites, and Shakers as well as other historic and contemporary groups. He will set all this in the larger context of human nature, the threat or use of violence as a means of social control, and the resort to war.

Pitzer earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from The Ohio State University. He joined the faculty of USI in 1967. Since that time, Pitzer has traveled extensively, visiting communal societies around the world. He is the author of numerous articles and texts about the Harmonists, Robert Owen, William Maclure and other Utopian leaders.

Pitzer was instrumental in establishing the Center for Communal Studies at USI. The Center for Communal Studies has an international reputation as a clearinghouse for information, a research facility, and a sponsor of activities related to historic and contemporary intentional communities. The center archives contain primary and secondary materials on more than

100 historic communes and several hundred collective, cooperative, and co-housing communities founded since 1965. Noted communal scholars have donated their private collections and their extensive research notes and papers to the Center archives. Newspapers and publishers consult the center and its collections when preparing stories and books. Center photographs and information have been used for films and documentaries.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is located at the corner of Main and Granary Streets. The public is invited. A reception in the church's Parish Hall will follow the lecture. For more information call the church office at 812/682-4604.

University's first fall Commencement

Approximately 465 students are eligible to graduate in the University's first fall Commencement, to be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, December 9, in the Physical Activities Center.

Dr. Tim Schibik, professor of economics and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, will deliver the Commencement address, establishing 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.

USI President H. Ray Hoops will preside over the ceremony, and **Christy Baker**, chair of the Faculty Senate and associate professor of social work, will give the Reflection.

Around 220 students have signed up to walk at the December 9 ceremony. Sixty-four are graduating with honors (two summa cum laude, 27 magna cum laude and 35 cum laude). Three students are graduating with the distinction of University Honors Scholar.

Two factors influenced the addition of a fall Commencement ceremony: the increasing number of degree candidates and the distance from which they must travel.

At spring 2006 Commencement, 1,675 degree candidates were eligible to graduate. In recent years, USI has enrolled students from throughout the state of Indiana, more than 30 other states, and 29 nations. Some students who complete their studies in the fall are not able to return to campus for spring Commencement. The December ceremony will allow them to celebrate their achievement with friends and family as soon as they complete their studies and before they settle into a schedule with a new career or graduate school.

Students who complete degree requirements at the end of spring semester or any of the three 2007 summer sessions are eligible to participate in the May Commencement at Roberts Stadium. December graduates who wish to wait until spring Commencement may do so.

Print Invitational 2006

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art's annual fundraiser, the highly anticipated "Print Invitational," opens Saturday, December 2, and runs through Sunday, December 24 at the gallery in New Harmony, Indiana. An opening night reception will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. December 2 and is free and open to the public. Firefly Southern Grill will cater the event.

"Print Invitational 2006: Prints, Pots and Platters" will consist of 26 local artists who each donated an original edition of 20 prints or a three-dimensional work for sale during the exhibition. All prints will be sold for the same price of \$20. One-of-a-kind pots and platters will be auctioned off as well.

Proceeds benefit the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The Print Invitational is the only fundraiser that directly

benefits the gallery.

College of Liberal Arts faculty **Michael Aakhus, Jason Baldwin, Eric Braysmith, Doyle Dean, Lennie Dowhie, Carolyn Roth,** and **Erich Shelton** have donated artwork to the event, as have USI alumni **Jonathan Walker** and **Laura Walker**.

The following artists also donated original artwork for the fundraiser: Curt Uebelhor, Annie Dowhie, Ann Lannert, Janet Lorence, John Begley, Janice Greene, Cedric Hustace, Charlie Spear, Jon Siau, Les Miley, Herb Talley, Tom Williams, Claire Helfrich, Beth Stoffleth, Mark Fowler, Tom Wintczak, and Keith Armstrong.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 812/682-3156 or visit www.nhgallery.com.

The exhibition is made possible through the support of the University and the Indiana Arts Commission.

Staff Council's Giving Trees

If you would like to brighten someone else's holiday, pick up an ornament from one of the USI Staff Council's Giving Trees on campus.

The Giving Trees are set up in various locations on campus and decorated with ornaments listing the age, gender, and gift request of someone who could use a little joy this season. Recipients are USI families, employees, or students. All names are kept confidential.

Choose an ornament, purchase a gift, wrap it, and return the gift to the Giving Tree from which you chose an ornament by Friday, December 8. Be sure to attach the ornament to the gift so it is delivered to the correct recipient.

Giving Trees can be found in the following locations:

- Office of Academic Affairs, Wright Administration Building Room 104
- Education and Human Services, Education Center Room 1104
- Liberal Arts Center, Liberal Arts Center Room 3001
- Health Professions Center, Room 2145
- Office of Admission, Orr Center Room 1096
- Rice Library

For more information, contact **Sara Kay Rhoades**, administrative associate in Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research, at 812/465-7015.

Names in the news

Accomplishments

The David L Rice Library project was selected for Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association's Outstanding Achievement Award for outstanding achievement in the use of concrete. Deig Brothers Construction, the University's general contractor on the project, will receive the award at a luncheon at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown on December 5. **Gary Burgdorf**, construction administrator, said, "The award is for the mix design and placement methods that allowed us to continue to pour concrete through the winter months and freezing temperatures. This innovation allowed us to stay on time and on budget for the project." He and **Stephen Helfrich**, director of the Physical Plant, will represent the University at the luncheon.

The Westside Improvement Association held its annual

meeting and awards banquet on November 16. **Esther Uduehi**, a senior at Reitz High School, was the winner of the \$1,000 Farmer Family Scholarship. Esther is the daughter of **Joy and Dr. Joseph Uduehi**, associate professor of education.

Conferences

Dr. Gael Cooper, professor of public relations, and students **David Baker, Barrett Barlow, Stephanie Eidson, Rachel Gries, Lucas Meyer, Kendall Miller, Cory Mullen, Elyse Rench,** and **Kellee Slygh** attended the Public Relations Student Society of America convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, November 9-14.

Ron Mitchell, managing editor of *Southern Indiana Review* and instructor in English, served on "The Art of Publishing" panel at the 2006 Devil's Kitchen Literary Festival November 9-11 at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Mitchell served on the panel with the editors of *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Story Quarterly*, and *River Styx*. USI students in attendance were *Southern Indiana Review* interns **Brittney Scott** and **Chris Dickens** and USI Student Writers' Union member **Jordan Cory**.

FYI

Register gifts-in-kind ASAP

If your department has received a gift-in-kind in 2006, notify the USI Foundation to obtain a form so the donor's gift can be properly recognized and claimed as a 2006 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. Call the Development office at 812/464-1918 for a gift-in-kind form.

Concert features premiere of original work

St. Mary Catholic Church will present "Lessons and Carols 2006: An Advent Celebration" including selections from Handel's "Messiah," gospel and African American spirituals, chants, hymns, and the premiere of original works from "On That Night," a Christmas cantata by Paul J. Schulz, conductor. The concert is free and open to the public, and will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, at the church, 613 Cherry Street. A reception will follow. For more information, call 812/425-1577.

New Harmony Wine Society goes Down Under

The New Harmony Wine Society will host a tasting of Australian wines from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, December 8, in the Great Room of the Entry House at the New Harmony Inn. Participants will enjoy hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Red Geranium Restaurant; live piano music; and tastes of five different wines, two white and three red: Glen Eldon '05 Dry Riesling; Woop Woop '05 Chardonnay; Langmeil '04 Three Garden Grenache-Shiraz-Mourvedre; Black Chook '05 Shiraz-Viognier; and Mr. Riggs '05 "The Gaffer" Shiraz. Sampled wines will be offered for sale in the \$12 to \$22 range. Dress is casual for this event, and the price is \$10 per person. For reservations or further information call 800/782-8605, extension 2, by December 4.