



University of Southern Indiana

University Notes

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P Martin Luther King Day Luncheon

The University will honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with its annual Martin Luther King Day Luncheon on Monday, January 15, 2007. The theme this year is "Listening, Learning, and Living the Legacy."

The luncheon, sponsored by the Multicultural Center and the USI Foundation, includes performances by Designed by Grace, the University's gospel choir; Steven Fletcher, one of the winners of the 2006 USI Live at the Apollo talent show; the Thump Squad, a drum line comprised of students from Culver, Glenwood and other local schools; and Blessed Movez, a dance troupe of young people age 5 to 17 from Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

The keynote speaker is **George E. Curry**, a journalist and affirmative action expert. Since 2001, Curry has served as editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) News Service in Washington D.C., a 65-year-old federation of black community newspapers across the United States. He writes a weekly column syndicated by the NNPA and also is serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Mississippi Valley State University during the 2006-07 school year.

Curry's work at the NNPA has ranged from covering the Supreme Court's oral arguments in the University of Michigan affirmative action cases to traveling to Qatar to report on the Iraq War. He obtained the first interview with Brigadier General Vincent Brooks after the fall of Baghdad.

Before joining the NNPA, Curry was editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine, which won more than 40 national journalism awards under his leadership. He was the first African American president of the American Society of Magazine Editors. Prior to taking over as editor of *Emerge*, Curry served as New York bureau chief and Washington correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune* and as a reporter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *Sports Illustrated*.

He is the author of *Jake Gaither: America's Most Famous Black Coach* (Dodd, Mead & Co., 1977) and editor of *The Affirmative Action Debate* (Perseus Books, 1996) and *The Best of Emerge Magazine*, (Ballantine Books, 2003). In 1986, he wrote and served as chief correspondent for the widely praised television documentary, "Assault on Affirmative Action," which aired as part of the Frontline series on PBS.

He has appeared on the CBS Evening News, ABC's World News Tonight, The Today Show, 20/20, Good Morning America, Nightline, CNN, C-SPAN, BET, Fox Network News, MSNBC, and ESPN.

The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) named Curry its 2003 "Journalist of the Year," and he is on the NABJ's list of Most Influential Black Journalists of the 20th Century.

USI's Martin Luther King Luncheon begins at 11 a.m. Monday, January 15, 2007, in Carter Hall in the University Center at USI. Tickets are \$7 for the general public and USI employees and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased from the USI Multicultural Center. For more information, call 812/465-7188.

New Harmony Theatre holds local auditions

The New Harmony Theatre will hold local auditions January 13 and 21 on the USI campus. Under the artistic direction of **Lenny Leibowitz**, the theatre's 2007 season will include *Amadeus*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *I Do! I Do!*

Auditions are open to experienced adult actors, who are asked to prepare one classical and one contemporary monologue. To be considered for *I Do! I Do!*, auditioners should prepare one monologue (either classical or contemporary) and a short song. Singers must bring sheet music written in their key. Monologues from this season's productions are acceptable audition pieces.

According to Leibowitz, all roles for the 2007 season are available. "No roles have been pre-cast," he said. Rehearsals for *Amadeus* will begin May 22; the production will run June 8 - 24. Rehearsals for *The Importance of Being Earnest* will begin June 19; it will run July 6 - 22. Rehearsals for *I Do! I Do!* will begin July 10; it will run July 27 - August 12. The New Harmony Theatre rehearses full-time Tuesday through Sunday. Understudies may be assigned to some roles.

The New Harmony Theatre operates on a contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States. Members of Actors' Equity Association as well as non-members are eligible to audition.

To schedule an audition, call The New Harmony Theatre at 465-1635 or toll free at 877/NHT-SHOW (877/648-7469). For more information on The New Harmony Theatre visit www.newharmonytheatre.com.

USI in the News: USI players visit pediatric unit at St. Mary's Medical Center

By Kate Braser
Evansville Courier & Press

How many members of the University of Southern Indiana men's basketball team can you cram into an elevator before it gets stuck?

The answer on the morning of December 18 at St. Mary's hospital appeared to be at least seven as members of the team ascended to the hospital's pediatric unit, where they visited a few children.

The team has made a hospital visit just after their fall finals but before the holidays for several years, said **Ray Simmons**, sports information director.

Last year, they got stuck in an elevator on the way up, so as the team waited to enter the elevators from the hospital's main floor on Monday, a few seasoned players were apprehensive.

"You can tell which one is a freshman," joked USI Coach **Rick Herdes** as freshman player **Brandon Hopf** remarked how "cool" the bright murals and cheerful play area were at the floor's entrance.

Hospital staff said in the past, USI players have had plenty of young patients to visit, but this year there were just two.

Their visit rendered 11-year-old Tiffany McClain blushing and bashful.

As the towering Screaming Eagles shuffled around her hospital bed and signed a basketball, McClain remarked cheerfully that her older brother would be jealous.

Her mother, Lori McClain, said the team's visit came at a good time.

"She's a singer and she has to miss her concert today so she's a little bummed," McClain said. "So this is a nice surprise."

Then, McClain craned her neck to look up at her daughter's tall visitors.

"This is like a girl's dream come true," she said as a player tossed Tiffany a small T shirt.

Lori McClain said her daughter had only been in the hospital for a day, after a three-week battle with pneumonia left her short of breath.

After briefly conversing with Tiffany about the Cheetah Girls, her Christmas wish list and her future plans to attend an Eagles game, the basketball players began to file out of her room.

Except five of them.

"Pick the cutest one and we'll get your picture with him," Lori McClain teased her daughter.

Tiffany started down at her toes, then pointed at all five of the warm-up clad players.

"All of you guys," she said, smiling as they gathered around for a picture.

As the players trickled out, Tiffany put the basketball they'd signed beside her pink teddy bear at the foot of the bed.

The players had a few hours before practice began, then a trip to Detroit, Mich. for a two-day tournament.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the *Evansville Courier & Press* on December 19, 2006.

USI in the News: Herdes is a small-town boy at heart

By Julie Rosenbaum-Engelhardt
Olney Daily Mail

Rick Herdes, University of Southern Indiana men's basketball coach and a Noble native, will always remember his roots.

"I never forget where I come from and that I am a small-town Southern Illinois boy," Herdes said. "That is where my family is and although I don't get to see them as much as I'd like to, they are never far from my mind."

Herdes was assistant coach under Ron Felling at Lawrenceville High School when Marty Simmons led the Indians to back-to-back Class A state championships in the early 1980s.

"He was one of the greatest high-school players I've ever seen," Herdes said of Simmons, who was named Illinois' Mr. Basketball. "He had tremendous hands and a truly great work ethic."

Although Herdes does not yet consider Southern Illinois University Edwardsville a rival now, it could soon become one because both teams are in the West Division of the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Simmons guided the Cougars to victory over USI in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional championship game and their first NCAA Elite Eight berth last season.

When asked how he takes each season and makes it new and great,

Herdes said, "Recruiting is a lifeline. I not only want good players, but I want good people. The bar here has become incredibly high. We've built a tradition here of winning 26 games a year (since the early 1990s).

"Teams like Kentucky Wesleyan also have very high standards. Right now, the USI basketball team is the hunted, not the hunter."

When coming to play, they know they have to be ready for their opponent's best shot each time out.

At first, USI's success built a lot of excitement in the Evansville area. Herdes said now it is expected. He realizes the media looks for underdogs such as George Mason advancing to the Division I Final Four last season.

"George Mason was the media darling and the top story because it was new and that's always great for media," said Herdes, who guided USI to the Elite Eight championship game in 2004.

He entered this season with the second-best winning percentage among Division II coaches with a five-year record of 129-34 (79.1 percent).

What Herdes tells his team and what is good advice for anybody is if you don't work hard, you won't succeed. And even if you do work hard, it doesn't guarantee success, but you position yourself for a much better chance.

Marriage is a difficult institution for everybody, especially a basketball coach who has to travel thousands of miles for games and during the recruiting process.

"It takes a special person and I am lucky enough to have one," referring to his wife, Sarah. "She knows sometimes she is second in line. She takes losses as hard as I do and is always there for me."

The other loves of Herdes' life are daughter Taylor and son Connor, who attend school in Newburgh, Ind. Taylor's favorite sport is golf and Herdes is overjoyed that he can play that sport with her. Conner likes basketball, but his first love is soccer.

Never one to be outworked, Herdes always has his players' academic and athletic well-being and personal lives close to his heart.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the *Olney Daily Mail* on December 21, 2006.

USI to host Westside Five Church Fellowship's MLK service

The Westside Five Church Fellowship will hold its annual Martin Luther King Jr. service at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 14, in Carter Hall in the University Center at USI.

The Fellowship includes Dove Chapel Full Gospel Baptist Church, St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, Howell United Methodist Church, West Side Christian Church Disciples of Christ, and St. Mark United Church of Christ, and gathers for fellowship and worship several times per year. The MLK service has been held since 1999.

The Rev. Kim Reising, pastor of St. Mark UCC, said organizers want to expand and include others in the service, so USI's Office of Religious Life was asked to co-sponsor the event.

This year's keynote speaker will be the Rev. Adrian Brooks Sr., pastor of Memorial Baptist Church. Other featured guests include the Browne Sisters, the Thump Squad, saxophonist Monte Skelton, and the United Voices Choir of Dove Chapel Full Gospel Baptist Church.

The theme is "Strength to Love." Community "Strength to Love" awards will be presented to two community leaders during the service.

USI Foundation Outstanding Teaching Awards presented at spring meeting

The new USI Foundation Outstanding Teaching Awards were presented Monday, January 2, at the Spring Faculty and Administrative Staff Meeting.

David Bower, director of Development, presented the Outstanding Teaching by Adjunct Faculty Award to **Christine Payne**, lecturer in Physical Education, and the Outstanding Teaching by New Faculty Award to **Dr. Shannon Wooden**, assistant professor of English.

In nominating Payne, University community members wrote comments such as, "Chris Payne personifies the image of 'teacher.' She has thorough command of her subject matter. She is committed to expanding her knowledge base, keeping herself fresh, renewed and up-to-date. She is constantly changing, designing, creating new materials for her students. She is able to challenge her students."

Payne teaches classes in aerobics and yoga. She is seeking an advanced certification in yoga and has been teaching at USI since 2002. Her award includes a \$500 one-time stipend, and a \$500 professional development grant.

Wooden came to USI in 2003. In nominating her for the award, a student wrote, "Dr. Wooden brings to the classroom an exceptional enthusiasm for and sound understanding of the subject at hand. [Her] classes are not routine or predictable." A faculty member wrote, "Shannon Wooden exemplifies the best qualities of the scholarly teacher. At all levels her teaching draws on a deep knowledge of best practices, especially in the teaching of writing and critical thinking. She both broadens and deepens the students' sense of the complexity of each literary period and its repercussions in contemporary critical and primary literature."

The new faculty award includes a \$1,000 cash stipend and a faculty development grant of \$1,000.

Because of generous donations to the USI Annual Fund, the USI Foundation was able to establish new awards that demonstrate support for outstanding teaching and learning. Two students from each of the University's five colleges and two faculty members (one new and one adjunct) will receive the award each academic year.

USI senior art majors show off the best of their work throughout January

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will present "USI Senior Seminar Exhibitions I and II," a showcase of work created by senior art majors while enrolled at USI, throughout the month of January.

Exhibition I runs January 6-17 and Exhibition II runs January 20-31. The reception for the artists in Exhibition I will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, January 13 and the reception for the artists in Exhibition II will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, January 27. Both receptions are free and open to the public.

"USI Senior Seminar Exhibitions I and II" features the best work of three classes of graduating seniors from the USI art department. The seniors were enrolled in Senior Seminars taught by **Kathryn Waters**, **Erich Shelton**, and **Joan Kempf**.

"These exhibitions promise to be lively and diverse mixes of artistic approaches and philosophies," said **April Vasher-Dean**, director of the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.

Exhibition I will highlight graphic art while Exhibition II will showcase studio art. Each senior has contributed at least one piece of art in their area of concentration. All media will be represented.

The following senior artists will take part in the exhibitions:

Gregory Bader, Zachary Bell, Gena Bradley, Leslie Curtis, Andrew Delano, Christian Ethridge, Brock Flamion, David Heim, Sunny Hipple, Belinda Holsing, Katie Hubbell, Meagan Joyce, Amanda Kipp, Jonathan Kissel, Cassandra Maiden, Patrick Morgan, Megan Neeley, Sarah Nellis, Gregory Nixon, Janelle Persohn, Tara Pfister, Joshua Reid, Jamie Denise Sabol, Rosalind Salinas, Jo Sharp, Casey Shepard, Andrew Smith, Holly Smith, Kevin Smith, Monica Trapp, Benjamin Tremont, Jaquelyn Utley, Joseph Vessell, Katie Watts, Raymond Wheeler, and Daniel Woolsey.

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

The exhibition was made possible through the support of the University.

Names in the News

In sympathy

The University community extends sympathy to **Ziena Clarkson**, program advisor in student development programs, whose father **Harry Beecher Clarkson**, died December 22. Services were held at NeSmith Funeral Home in Claxton, GA.

The University community extends sympathy to **Cindy Miller**, associate bursar in the business office, whose father **William "Bill" Schisler**, died January 2. Services were held January 5 at Schneider Funeral Home.

Promotions/Transfers

Rita Brunner from operations supervisor to operations manager and program coordinator in Extended Services.

Tracy Sinn from DARS specialist to assistant registrar in the Registrar's Office.

Announcements

It was announced at the Spring Faculty and Administrative Staff Meeting that eight faculty members are recipients of Lilly Endowment Summer 2007 Research Fellowships: **Patricia Aakhus**, director of International Studies and assistant professor of English; **Dr. Kenneth Carter**, assistant professor of psychology; **Dr. Khaled Elkhail**, assistant professor of finance; **Dr. Jason Hardgrave**, assistant professor of history; **Dr. M. Mamunur Rashid**, assistant professor of engineering; **Dr. Yalcin Sarol**, assistant professor in mathematics; **Dr. Katherine Sauer**, assistant professor of economics; and **Dr. Kenneth Walsh**, assistant professor of chemistry.

It also was announced at the meeting that **Dr. Jane Davis-Brezette** is acting chair of the Bower Suhrheinrich College of Health and Human Services. An associate professor of physical education, Davis-Brezette also serves as chair of the Physical Education Department. **Laurie Berry**, assistant director of Residence Life, is acting director of Residence Life.

FYI

WNIN airs Pott College promotional DVD

A promotional DVD about USI's Pott College of Science and Engineering was broadcast on WNIN public television in December and will air again from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 5 on WNIN Cable Channel 12.

Produced by **Andrew Black**, producer/director with

Instructional Technology Services, "Learning Science by Doing Science" offers an overview of what is offered by the Pott College.

Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the college said the DVD "highlights the outstanding facilities and opportunities that are available to students here, and also gives examples of our learning science by doing science approach to education.

"It shows how the students and faculty interact. Viewers see that USI faculty members, not graduate students, teach the classes. It gives real-life examples of the things that occur here on a daily basis."

USI-Drury doubleheader will be Webcast

The USI-Drury University GLVC doubleheader scheduled for Saturday, January 6, will be broadcast over the Internet and can be viewed at www.cstv.com/ncaa/diviii/.

The Webcast is part of the partnership between the NCAA and CSTV that provides an amplified platform to highlight the Division II's contests and student-athlete accomplishments, while promoting the intercollegiate athletics philosophy for the division's member institutions.

The USI-Drury women's game is scheduled for a 1 p.m. (CST) tip-off, while the men's game is scheduled to begin at 3:15 p.m.

Employee Bible Study resumes

An employee Bible Study group will meet from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 17 in University Center Room 215. The group will be reading the book, "If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat" by John Ortberg. Anyone is welcome to bring their own lunch and attend. For more information, contact **Susie Kemp** at 812/464-1793.

Enjoy a Chili Supper after the game

Alumni and fans will be treated to a Chili Supper after the basketball games against Drury University on Saturday, January 6. The women play Drury at 1 p.m. and the men play at 3:15 p.m. in the Physical Activities Center.

The Varsity Club and Alumni Chili Supper will be held at approximately 5:30 p.m. in Room 200 in the PAC. There will be complimentary Chili, vegetable soup, and grilled hotdogs. Donations will be accepted.

The event is sponsored by the USI Varsity Club and USI Alumni Association. For more information, call Alumni and Volunteer Services at 812/464-1928.

Alumni Alaskan Cruise planned

An Alaskan cruise named "Voyage of the Glaciers" is planned July 7-14, 2007 for USI alumni and friends. The cruise aboard the Diamond Princess also includes an optional land tour, "Heart of Alaska," July 14-17 to Mount McKinley, Denali National Park, and Fairbanks.

In addition to the many amenities offered aboard the Diamond Princess, "Voyage of the Glaciers" will take the USI group through the Inside Passage to rivers of ice in Glacier Bay National Park, across the Gulf of Alaska past waterfalls and wildlife to 16 glaciers in College Fjord, and the picturesque city of Whittier on Prince William Sound. Also available: Shore trips to Juneau for glaciers, dog sledding, kayaking, hiking, or whale watching; Ketchikan for totems, floatplane excursions, and snorkeling; and Skagway for rail trips, biking, panning for gold, rafting, horseback riding, Alaskan artisans, and more.

The three-night land package includes an overnight stay at the Mount McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge; a natural history tour of Denali National Park; a stay at the Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge; and a stay in Fairbanks, including a riverboat cruise on the Chena and Tanana Rivers.

For more information, visit www.beckscruises.com and click on USI Alaskan Cruise or contact **Nancy L. Johnson**, director of Alumni and Volunteer Services, at njohnson@usi.edu.

Art faculty work on display at Evansville Museum

The Evansville Museum's 20th annual college faculty show, "East/West/North/South: a Collaboration," opened December 3 and continues through January 21, 2007, in the museum's Old Gallery. The exhibition includes the work of USI art faculty, as well as University of Evansville, Ivy Tech's Evansville campus, and Henderson Community College faculty artists. Representing USI are **Michael Aakhus, Jason Baldwin, Eric Braysmith, Elicia Burnett, Lennie Dowhie, Linda Goodridge, Ann Marie Hanat, Stephen Herron, Andrea Hoelscher, David Huebner, Xinran Hu, Joan Dewig Kempf, Ella Combs-Larmann, Janet Lindholm, Robert Millard-Mendez, James Parrent, Carolyn Roth, Joseph Uduehi, Kathryn Waters** and **Julie Rathgeber Hope**.