

University Notes

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Five receive 2007-2008 Outstanding Advisor Awards

The 2007-2008 USI Outstanding Advisor Award winners are **Dr. Shelly B. Blunt**, associate professor of chemistry; **Margaret M. Felton**, instructor in psychology; **Robert W. Jeffers**, instructor in advertising; **Renee M. Rowland**, lead advisor in the University Division; and **Linda M. Tribble**, academic coordinator in the Pott College of Science and Engineering.

Winners were selected by the Faculty Senate's Faculty Awards for Service, Teaching, and Research Committee. **Dr. Brian Posler**, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, said the selection committee had a difficult time choosing among the high number of strong nominees.

"These five winners are indicative of the very best academic advisors on campus," he said. "Drawn from the faculty, administrators, and our corps of professional advisors, they show how committed we are to our students here at USI."

The winners were selected based on outstanding performance in these areas:

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Availability to advisees, faculty, or staff
- Frequency of contact with advisees
- Appropriate referral activity
- Use and dissemination of appropriate information sources
- Caring, helpful attitude toward advisees, faculty, and staff
- Monitoring of student progress toward academic and career goals
- Mastery of institutional regulations, policies, and procedures

The award comes with a \$1,000 prize. Winners may elect to receive the money as supplementary pay or as funds available to reimburse professional development.

Derry and Leibowitz recital to feature classical, musical theatre songs

The College of Liberal Arts will present a free recital featuring **Susan Derry** and **Lenny Leibowitz** at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 27 in Forum I in the Wright Administration Building.

An accomplished Broadway actor and singer, Derry will be familiar to New Harmony Theatre patrons. She portrayed Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Agnes in *I do I do* in New Harmony Theatre's 2007 season. During the recital, she will perform songs from *My Fair Lady* as a "teaser" for this summer's New Harmony Theatre production of the musical, in which she plays the starring role.

Leibowitz, director of the New Harmony Theatre, said Derry is One of New York City's finest sopranos. She is a versatile singer and actress, just as at home on the classical stage as the Broadway stage."

He will accompany her on a Steinway piano and also will perform solo pieces. "The concert will be devoted primarily to classical

and musical theatre work, which will encompass some operetta, tunes both familiar and undersung, as well as some art songs by Schubert and Brahms," he said.

Leibowitz joined USI in 2006. A Philadelphia native, he made his professional debut as a piano soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. As a musical director, he conducted the first European tours of *On the Town* and *Grease*. He received his B.A. from Columbia University and his M.F.A. from Boston University, where he was a member of the conservatory faculty.

Provost Bennett will moderate Super Thursday at USI

A teacher at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, instilled **Dr. Linda Bennett**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, with a love for political science. Bennett was a senior, the class was "Sino-Soviet Totalitarianism," and the teacher, Harriett Russell, "was one of those outstanding high school teachers," Bennett said. "I have a picture in my office of the class picture we took from that class."

Bennett graduated from high school in 1970. In the fall she entered the University of Cincinnati, which had been shut down that spring because of anti-war riots. "It was a very political time," she said. Her passion for politics emerged at a time when it spoke to youth. "I don't think our national political system has addressed the needs of young people in a long time. I think that's part of the excitement around the Obama candidacy," she said.

She went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees and the Ph.D. in political science at Cincinnati and has made a career in academia as a faculty member and administrator at Wittenberg University, Northern Kentucky University, and Appalachian State University before joining USI.

While with Wittenberg, she was called upon by WHIO TV in Dayton to provide political analysis during the 1992 presidential race. She offered regular commentary on the air through the 1994 mid-term election.

"I learned a lot," she said. "Everyone should have the experience - especially in academe - of communicating through the mass media. It helped me with public presentation to be more concise and clear, and connect with the audience."

Those skills will be on display on Thursday, February 28, when Bennett moderates "Super Thursday Presidential Election Commentary with Mark Shields and William Kristol" as part of the University Core Curriculum Lecture Series.

Shields is a syndicated columnist and political analyst on PBS' "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." He moderated CNN's "The Capital Gang" for 17 years. He was named the "wittiest political journalist in America" by *The Wall Street Journal* and deemed "a walking almanac of American politics" by *The Washington Post*.

Kristol is editor of *The Weekly Standard*, a columnist for *The New York Times*, and a regular panelist on "FOX News Sunday." He served for seven years inside the Reagan and Bush White House.

Dr. Mark Krahling, director of the University Core, said this is a particularly good time to bring two such experienced political analysts to campus. "We're in a unique, almost unprecedented, elec-

tion cycle and both of these individuals have the insight to help students from Indiana better understand the dynamics of this national election year," he said.

Bennett said, "I was thrilled when Mark said that he was bringing these two speakers to campus," Bennett said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to have a good discussion as we move ahead with the most important position in this country."

Bennett teaches a course in American Politics at USI. "I go into these classes with a strong sense of mission," she said. "We must pay attention to what's going on with our political system. We must get our students interested and involved. What's great about this race is that when it's competitive, it raises interest."

Super Thursday with Shields and Kristol will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Carter Hall in the University Center. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Krahling at 812/464-1712.

USI's International Week 2008 offers the sights, scents, and flavors of the world

USI's International Week festivities kick off with a performance by the Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe, a traditional Japanese puppetry group, and culminate with the International Club Food Expo, an event that attracts food-lovers from throughout the community.

Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe is the only troupe in the United States performing traditional Japanese puppetry, known as "ningyo joruri" or Bunraku. The troupe's performers were trained in Japan by artists from the 170-year-old Tonda Puppet Troupe and the 300-year-old Imada and Kuroda puppet troupes. From 2004 to 2007, Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe participated in the Iida Puppetry Festival, the largest puppet drama festival in Japan.

Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe has performed at many venues in the U.S., including the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Florida; the Japan Society in New York, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and the Smithsonian Institution. They will perform at 6 p.m. Monday, February 18, in Carter Hall in the University Center at USI. The event is free and open to the public. A reception to kick off International Week will be held immediately following the performance.

On Tuesday, February 19, "Enemies of Happiness" will be shown at 7 p.m. in Klemeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center at USI. The film follows the campaign of Malalai Joya, a 28 year-old Afghan woman running in the country's first democratic parliamentary elections in 35 years. The elections represented a special milestone for Afghan women, who had endured second-class citizenry their entire lives. During the campaign, Joya's life was threatened multiple times because of her vocal and fearless opposition to the presence of warlords in the nation's government. But Joya's dedication also inspired many Afghans to join her in the cause of real reform. The film won the World Cinema Jury Prize in Documentaries at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

"Enemies of Happiness" is part of the One World Film Series sponsored by USI, University of Evansville, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, and the Committee to Promote Respect in Schools (CYPRESS). The One World Film Series uses the power of film to illuminate diversity issues and create discussion. All films in the series are free and open to the public.

And finally, the International Club Food Expo will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, February 22, in Carter Hall in the University Center. There will be food and entertainment from more than 20 countries. International delicacies available will include: New Year's dumplings from China; Costa Rican Chifrijo; Bratwurst and Kaiserschmarren from Germany; Butter Chicken Curry and Samosas from India; Oinari from Japan; Mexican

Flautas; Breadfruit from Nigeria and Kenya; Kabsa from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; Fried rice balls from Taiwan; Patatesli Borek from Turkey; and Arepas from Venezuela.

Tickets are \$8 in advance (at the International Programs and Services Office) or \$10 at the door. Children age six and under are free. Some of the proceeds will benefit Food for the Poor, an international relief and development organization.

Here's the complete schedule of International Week events:

Monday, February 18

Study Abroad Information Session, 11 a.m., University Center Room 215.

Bunraku Bay Puppet Troupe, 6 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center.

Tuesday, February 19

One World Film Series: "Enemies of Happiness," 7 p.m., Klemeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center.

Wednesday, February 20

Global Community Mardi Gras Celebration, 7:30 p.m., Ruston Hall Multipurpose Room.

Friday, February 22

International Club Food Expo, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center.

For more information, contact USI International Programs and Services at 812/465-7183.

Student representative sought for presidential search

The USI Student Government Association is seeking full-time students to apply for a position on the Presidential Search Committee charged with recommending qualified individuals to lead USI as its next president. **President H. Ray Hoops**, who was appointed president in 1994, has announced plans to retire in June 2009.

The committee will be broadly representative of the University's constituencies.

In addition to being full-time, students applying for the position must be in good standing with a minimum GPA of 2.5; attend USI through spring semester 2009; have completed two semesters at USI by the time of appointment; and be well involved within the University.

Deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6, to be considered for an interview. Interested students will complete an application form, write a 300-word essay addressing why they are interested in the position and what they can contribute to the committee, supply a letter of recommendation from a USI faculty or staff member, and submit an activity resume. Applications are online at www.usi.edu/sga or in the Dean of Students Office, UC 007. Completed applications should be submitted to the Dean of Students Office before the deadline.

Questions about the application process can be addressed to **Kristina M. Pelly**, SGA president, at sga@usi.edu or by calling 812/465-1109.

Names in the news

Welcome

Morgan Chilton has accepted a position as custodial worker in the Physical Plant. She holds a pharmacy technician certificate from Vincennes University. Chilton was formerly employed as a cashier at Wal-Mart.

Karyn Sproles has accepted a position as director of faculty

development and professor of English in Academic Affairs. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from American University, and a Master of Arts degree and a doctoral degree in English from State University of New York at Buffalo. Sproles was formerly employed as associate dean of University Studies at James Madison University.

Madonna Whisenant has accepted a position as custodial worker in the Physical Plant. She was formerly employed as a parking enforcement officer at USI.

FYI

Free financial aid assistance Sunday

College Goal Sunday, an event open to all college-bound high school students in Indiana, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 17, at Ivy Tech. College Goal Sunday is a national effort to make the financial aid application process easier for families. Indiana's College Goal Sunday started 19 years ago with help from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and state agencies to provide students and families with more information on available funds plus expert assistance in filling out paperwork required to qualify for aid. Governor **Mitch Daniels** recently proclaimed February 17-23 Financial Aid Awareness Week in Indiana.

Get the news first with USI's emergency text messages

When this week's winter storm prompted concern about treacherous travel conditions, the quickest and most reliable tool to communicate information to employees and students was the Rave system that sends a text message to your phone. The local media couldn't keep up with all the information they were receiving from area schools, businesses, and organizations. Email and Web are only helpful if you are sitting at your computer. And checking your voicemail means you need to go to the phone and dial in. Odds are you have your cell phone in your pocket or purse 95% of the time. Let the information come right to you, within seconds of the decision. Learn more about Rave and sign up at www.usi.edu/emergency.

Search coordinator named

In early January **President H. Ray Hoops** announced his plan for retirement and the USI Board of Trustees, at the regular January board meeting, approved the composition of the presidential search and screen committee, the charge to the committee, and the timetable for the search. **Sherrienne M. Standley**, vice president emeritus for Advancement, will serve as coordinator of the search, and she is meeting with constituent groups within the University to begin the process. Standley retired in June 2007. Questions regarding the search can be directed to her at smstandl@usi.edu.

Submit nominations for USI Alumni Trustee

The USI Alumni Association seeks applications for an alumni representative to the USI Board of Trustees to succeed **Frank F. McDonald II '73**, whose term will be complete June 30, 2008. The applicant must be an Indiana resident. To apply, send resume and cover letter by March 1 to **Nancy Johnson**, director of USI Alumni and Volunteer Services, at njohnson@usi.edu or mail to USI Alumni Association, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712. If you would like to nominate someone, use the online form. For information, call 812/464-1924. An alumni screening committee will review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend three names to Governor **Mitch Daniels** for appointment.

Skoglund to lead tour to Spain and Morocco

Margaret Skoglund, associate professor of art, is again organizing a two-week trip to Spain and Morocco, May 22-June 4, during Summer I. Places to be visited include Madrid, Toledo, Jaen, Antequera, Seville, Granada, Cordoba and Cadiz in Spain, and Tangier, Casablanca, Marrakech, and Rabat in Morocco. The tour, limited to 25 people, may or may not be taken for University credit and is open to members of the community as well as university students, faculty and staff. For more information, contact Skoglund at 812/465-1023.

Faculty Senate to hold forum on Presidential Search

The Faculty Senate will host a forum on the presidential search process at 3 p.m. Friday, February 29, Education Center Room 0139. The forum is designed to gather insights about leadership qualities desired in the next president of USI. Faculty also will be asked to provide perspectives on the short and long term planning needs of the major university divisions. The forum will update faculty on the process for selection of faculty representatives on the Presidential Search and Screen Committee, and share the timetable for the search process. Faculty members who are unable to attend the forum may email comments and feedback to Dr. C. Christy Baker, Faculty Senate chair.

Open Enrollment for USI Summer Camps

USI offers full-time summer child care to USI and community families, starting Tuesday, May 27 through Friday, August 1. Children entering kindergarten or first grade are eligible to enroll in the Kindergarten Camp, housed at the USI Children's Center. Children entering second through fifth are eligible to enroll in the Summer Enrichment Camp, housed at Messiah Lutheran Church on Middle Mt. Vernon Road, just a mile from campus. To learn more about the camps or to view photos, visit the Web site for Kindergarten Camp or Summer Enrichment Camp. To receive an enrollment packet or for more information, contact Jaclyn Dumond, program coordinator, Family, School, and Children's Programs, at 812/465-1274.

CareerLINK is for all students

The spring CareerLINK Internship/Co-op, Full-Time, and Graduate School Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, in Carter Hall in the University Center. CareerLINK connects seniors and graduates with employers and graduate schools, and undergraduates with employers seeking summer and fall internships and co-ops. For more information, contact Rene Koressel, recruiting supervisor in Career Services, at 812/464-1865.

USI hosting first-ever "Volley-a-thon"

The USI volleyball team is hosting its first-ever "Volley-a-thon" from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, February 23, at the Physical Activities Center. The event is hosted by Sarah Pepper from the WSTO Hot '96 Morning Show and gives people the opportunity to play volleyball, enjoy free food (from 6:30-8:30 p.m.), music, and win door prizes. Admission to the event is \$12, while USI faculty and any college students with valid ID will be admitted for \$7. For more information, contact USI Head Volleyball Coach **Leah Mercer** at 812/464-1789 or by email at lamercer@usi.edu.