



University of Southern Indiana

# University Notes

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## **Janet Johnson named assistant director**

**Janet Johnson** has been named assistant director of USI Career Services and Placement effective September 11, 2006. Johnson had served as a career coordinator in that office since 2002.

**Phil Parker**, director of Career Services, said, "For four years, Janet has been a valuable career expert for USI students in the College of Business, assisting with their career development, internships, and professional job search strategy, while developing strong recruiting relationships with local, regional, and national employers. She will continue to provide that same excellent service to business students, employers, and faculty, in addition to assuming this vital leadership role assisting in the overall management of USI Career Services and Placement."

A Mount Vernon resident, Johnson holds a Master of Public Administration degree from USI and a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) from the University of Evansville.

She is active in numerous community initiatives and is a graduate of the first class of Connect with Southern Indiana, a regional community leadership program sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana, an outreach program of USI Extended Services.

Johnson is a member of Career Development Professionals of Indiana, Evansville Area Human Resource Association, Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers, National Association of Colleges and Employers, and the Posey County Chamber of Commerce.

## **Outdoor Adventure with USI**

The University's Office of Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Outdoor Adventure program introduces USI students to the natural beauty of the Tri-state area with many exciting outdoor opportunities - most of which are free.

This semester, an overnight camping and canoeing trip to the Blue River near Milltown, Indiana, and a hiking trip to Garden of the Gods in southern Illinois are among the offerings. The Outdoor Adventure program staff helps students find the trip that is right for them. Most trips are designed to accommodate beginners, and offer those with experience the opportunity to gain more skills.

For the Outdoor Adventures Program itinerary, go to [www.usi.edu/rfw/outdoor\\_adventure\\_adventureTrips.asp](http://www.usi.edu/rfw/outdoor_adventure_adventureTrips.asp).

Most of the trips (excluding a two-day whitewater rafting trip and a skiing trip to Paoli, Indiana) are free and include meals and transportation.

Faculty and staff who are interested in serving in a supervisory position should contact **Joe Gratz**, assistant director of Intramural/Recreational Sports, at 812/465-1110.

"We like to have faculty and other University employees assist us with the trips," Gratz said, "but they should contact me well in advance."

Some University employees who have assisted with the Outdoor Adventure trips in the past have been **Dr. Kenneth Carter**, assistant

professor of psychology, **Margaret Felton**, instructor in psychology, and **Dr. Gary Stiler**, former assistant professor of education.

## **"Girl Culture" photographer at USI**

Los Angeles-based photographer **Lauren Greenfield** will present a slideshow lecture on her "Girl Culture" exhibition at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, October 1, in Carter Hall in the University Center at USI. "Girl Culture" runs at the Evansville Museum of Art, History, and Science through December 3.

The exhibition is the result of a two-year effort by the museum, the Girl Scouts of Raintree Council, The Women's Hospital, and more than 20 local organizations including social service agencies, libraries, and schools to raise community awareness about the harmful effects of media messages and cultural expectations on girls.

The project was initiated in response to findings indicating girls experience strong pressure to conform to images and messages in popular culture that are not always in their best interests.

In her artist statement, Greenfield writes, "Girl Culture has been my journey as a photographer, as an observer of culture, as part of the media, as a media critic, as a woman, as a girl."

"I am interested in the tyranny of the popular and thin girls over the ones who don't fit that mold. I am interested in the competition suffered by the popular girls, and their sense that being popular is not as satisfying as it appears. I am interested in the costly and time-consuming beauty rituals that are an integral part of daily life. I am interested in the fact that to fall outside the ideal body type is to be a modern-day pariah. I am interested in how girls' feelings of frustration, anger, and sadness are expressed in physical and self-destructive ways: controlling their food intake, cutting their bodies, being sexually promiscuous. Most of all, I am interested in the element of performance and exhibitionism that seems to define the contemporary experience of being a girl."

Greenfield's lecture is presented in cooperation with USI and the Canon Corporation and is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact **Mary Bower**, Virginia G. Schroeder Curator of Collections, at 812/425-2406.

## **Student Leadership Conference**

The 2006 Fall Student Leadership Conference will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, September 30, in the University Center. This year's theme is "Leadership: Your Golden Ticket." All USI students are invited to attend.

**Steve Dealph '88** will present the opening session, "Extreme Leadership and the Radical Leap."

Dealph is director of the Cliff Alexander Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and Leadership at Miami University of Ohio. He has been a fraternity/sorority advising professional for over 15 years and has worked in that capacity at Longwood University and Northwestern University. He also served as director of leadership education for the North-American Interfraternity Conference and coordinated such programs as the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI), Futures Quest, and IMPACT.

He has served on the executive board of the Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) and as associate executive director of the Mid-American Greek Council Association (MGCA). He is the recipient of the AFA Distinguished Service Award, and the South East Panhellenic Conference (SEPC) Outstanding College Panhellenic Advisor Award. Beta Theta Pi and Phi Kappa Tau fraternities both named him Greek Advisor of the Year. The MGCA named their Outstanding Professional Award in his honor.

Dealph received his Bachelor of Science degree in business from USI and a master's degree in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University. While at USI, he served as president of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Interfraternity Council president, Spring Week and Eagle Gran Prix chair for APB, as an RA, and an AMIGO.

In addition to Dealph's address, there will be three breakout sessions focusing on a variety of leadership topics. Lunch will be provided.

## Nominate a student for Who's Who

The Office of Student Development Programs will be accepting nominations for USI's 2007 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges through October 6.

For more than seven decades, this national program has honored outstanding campus leaders annually for their scholastic and community achievements. There is no initiation cost or membership fee to the nominated student. The Who's Who program was designed this way in 1934 by founder H. Pettus Randall II to ensure academic achievement was recognized regardless of a student's financial ability to participate.

In order to be nominated, students must be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student at USI and must have 60 or more credits (junior/ senior/ graduate student status) at the conclusion of the summer 2006 term. Selection criteria includes student scholarship, career goals, quantity and quality of student's participation and leadership in academic and/or co-curricular activities, quantity and quality of community involvement, honors and awards, and leadership potential for future contribution to society.

Faculty, staff, and student groups should send nominations for qualified students to **Ziena Clarkson** or deliver to the Office of Student Development Programs in the lower level of the University Center. Include your name, the names of nominated students, and any contact information for the students that you have. Nominations are due by 4:30 p.m. October 6, 2006.

## Parents & Families weekend

The first annual Parents & Families Weekend will be held October 7-8 at USI. The Parents & Families Association welcomes parents, grandparents, friends, and families to explore the USI campus and get a firsthand look at what life is like at USI. This event offers parents a taste of campus life and an opportunity to visit their student's campus home, meet other USI families, and take part in campus activities.

Events include a golf scramble at Helfrich Hills Golf Course, tours of the new Rice Library, a campus scavenger hunt, a USI Theatre performance, and a Sunday brunch.

On the same weekend, families can attend a variety of exciting community events including Historic New Harmony's Cathedral Labyrinth Moonlight Walk, the YMCA Evansville Half Marathon, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra's Oktoberfest Pops, and the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival.

For more information or to register for this event, visit [www.usi.edu/family/weekend.asp](http://www.usi.edu/family/weekend.asp). Reservations are encouraged.

For more information about Parents & Family Weekend, contact **Lisa Schaefer** at 812/465-1215.

## Feminist for Life at USI on October 17

The University's Newman Catholic Student Ministry is hosting a presentation by **Sally A. Winn**, senior communications specialist for Feminists for Life of America, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 17, in Carter Hall in the University Center. Winn will present "Refuse to Choose: Reclaiming Feminism."

According to a release from Feminists for Life, the organization was founded in 1972 and "continues the efforts of the early American feminists, including Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, to systematically eliminate the root causes that drive women to abortion by facilitating practical solutions. FFL has emerged as the link between the pro-life and pro-choice organizations, working on legislative efforts such as child support enforcement and the Violence Against Women Act, and opposing the child exclusion provisions in welfare reform."

Recent efforts by the organization on college campuses have inspired the introduction of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act. The bill, which has already passed the House of Representatives, would provide grants to eligible institutions of higher education to establish student services offices for students who are pregnant or parenting, students anticipating a birth or adoption, and students who place a child for adoption.

Winn has served on many state and local Right to Life boards and went on to become the executive director of Democrats for Life of America and Women and Children First, the largest provider of pro-life information on the Internet. She later chaired the National Pro-Life Democrats Committee and was a board member of the Feminism and Nonviolence Studies Association.

The lecture is underwritten by a grant from Indiana Right to Life and Vanderburgh County Right to Life. For more information, contact **Christine Hoehn**, director of USI Religious Life, at 812/465-7095.

## USI Wellness Fair

The USI Wellness Fair, "The Wonderful World of Wellness," will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 4, in Carter Hall in the University Center. A variety of health screenings and information will be available.

Some of the vendors will include Deaconess Health System, Deaconess Home Care, Deaconess Resource Center, HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital., Deaconess Concern, Home Instead Senior Care, Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., The American Red Cross, The American Cancer Society, The Alzheimer's Association, Anthem, The March of Dimes, and the Vanderburgh County Health Department.

USI organizations include the USI Fitness Center, the Office of Student Development, the Respiratory Care program, the Student Health Center, the USI Student Wellness Office, the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and the Food and Nutrition program.

The event is sponsored by Human Resources and the Department of Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness, and planned by the USI Wellness Committee. Anyone who is interested in serving on the committee, which plans to have monthly meetings and speakers this semester, should contact **Robert A. Hudson, Jr.**, benefits supervisor in Human Resources, at 812/464-1781.

## cMoe opportunities for learning

USI teacher education students have helped develop workshops to enrich learning at the new Koch Family Children's Museum of Evansville (cMoe). The workshops supporting the exhibits will be used with field trip groups.

**Vella Goebel**, assistant professor of education, said, "A number of the students were so enthralled with the opportunities at the museum that they volunteered to help with the grand opening and other activities."

Teacher education faculty and pre-service teachers are continuing their long-time relationship with the museum, which was known as Hands On Discovery when it was located in Washington Square Mall. The new cMoe opens September 29 in the former Central Library building in downtown Evansville. The historic building was renovated to house the museum.

Roto Studio, an internationally-recognized museum design and engineering firm based in Columbus, Ohio, created cMoe's interactive exhibits: Work Smart, Live Big, Speak Loud, Quack Factory, and Freedom Gallery.

**Dr. Michael Slavkin**, associate professor of education and director of graduate studies in education, has served on the museum board for four years. He is board vice president for education and exhibits.

Three years ago the board began redeveloping the museum, looking at its mission and the role it could play as an educational resource in the community.

Slavkin said focus groups that included children played a big part in the development of cMoe. In particular, children's ideas for a climbing structure and a health area are reflected in the facility's new exhibits.

"The museum really does meet the demands and needs of the community," Slavkin said. "We did everything possible to ensure that any hint, characteristic, or idea that community partners brought to us was included."

Goebel's students in a summer session class on educational assessment visited the museum as it neared completion to see the exhibits and get inspiration for their service-learning assignment. **Patti Wright**, director of education and experience for the museum, said the USI students developed pre-visit and post-visit activities for teachers to use as supplementary materials in addition to the workshop lesson plans. The workshops support Indiana academic standards for the various age groups. Best of all, they are interesting and fun.

USI teacher education students also helped the museum continue its mission while it was closed for two years in preparation for the relocation. Slavkin's students prepared Exhibits-to-Go boxes which teachers could check out and use in their classrooms. The boxes were filled with suggested activities and lesson plans on topics such as community helpers, natural resources, and inventions.

**December Warren**, director of cMoe, said the boxes were highly utilized but have gone into hiding as the staff concentrates on the opening. Exhibits-to-Go may be used again at a later time.

Slavkin said USI students benefit from the partnership with the museum because they get to develop curriculum that has meaning and relevance in the community.

"We've had students during their student teaching assignment who have told us that teachers down the hall were using their Exhibits-to-Go box," Slavkin said.

Warren said, "The participation of the USI faculty and students has certainly contributed to the depth and breadth of experience at the children's museum. It's been a win-win situation."

The Department of Teacher Education and the Children's Museum of Evansville will have a continuing relationship through field experiences and placements.

## "Eleemosynary"

USI Theatre presents *Eleemosynary*, a play by Lee Blessing, Wednesday, October 4, through Sunday, October 15. It features three generations of women struggling to balance their love for each other with their individual expectations and needs. Dorothea is the eccentric and stubborn family matriarch, while her daughter, Artie, is more down-to-earth but unable to cope with the day-to-day responsibilities of raising her daughter, Echo. Echo lives with Dorothea and devotes herself to her studies, but longs for a closer relationship with her moth-

er. According to *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Eleemosynary* is a "funny, perceptive and eloquently written" play.

The production marks **Lenny Leibowitz's** directorial debut in the Evansville area. Leibowitz taught at Boston University and directed Off-Broadway and at major regional theatres across the country before moving to Evansville this summer to accept the positions of assistant professor of theatre at USI and artistic director of The New Harmony Theatre, the professional summer theatre produced by USI.

According to Leibowitz, the play "ultimately hinges on a question that resonates with all of us: how do we understand those we love on their terms rather than on our own?"

The cast of *Eleemosynary* includes USI students **Joanne Gottcent** as Dorothea, **Kensington Blaylock** as Artie, and **Jasmine Ruckriegel** as Echo. The design team for *Eleemosynary* includes USI theatre students **Greg Schafer** as scenic designer, **Robert Dagit** as lighting designer, and **Ryan Nash** as sound designer. USI faculty member **Shan Jensen** is the costume designer.

*Eleemosynary* runs October 4-7 and October 11-15 in the Mallette Studio Theatre on the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center. Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. There is one Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on October 15.

Single ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for non-USI students and for seniors 60 and over, and \$4 for USI students. Season tickets for all productions in the USI Theatre season also are available at a discount. Tickets may be purchased by calling the USI Theatre box office at 812/422-3970 or online at [www.usi.edu/libarts/arts/theatre/USITheatre](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/arts/theatre/USITheatre). Tickets also may be purchased at the door; the box office will open one hour before each performance.

## Higher Learning Commission

At its exit interview on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 concluding two-plus days in meeting with USI students, faculty, and staff, the site visit team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools reported that full 10-year accreditation will be recommended to the HLC. The team also will recommend approval of USI's distance learning application.

**Dr. Linda L.M. Bennett**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, expressed her pleasure with the site visit and the recommendation and extended appreciation to all faculty, staff, and students who took time to participate. She said, "The extraordinary participation in this process from those working on subcommittees to those engaged in planning for this visit and meeting with our site visit team had a very positive impact. None of this would be possible without the entire University pulling together to highlight what an outstanding institution USI is."

Team chair **Dr. Roberta Teahen**, in delivering the team's assessment and recommendations, said the 10-year recommendation is made because USI met the HLC criteria and, in many cases, exceeded the expectations. She said a full report with the team's comments and recommendations will be sent to USI in six to eight weeks. The next HLC visit would be in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Dr. Teahen told the open meeting of faculty, staff, and students that she would like to work in a place "where students say what they say about your faculty." She also cited "the forward-thinking attitude that is found in the fiber of this place" and reported that students frequently commented on the value that USI has added to their lives.

**President H. Ray Hoops** thanked the site visit team members for their contributions to "an important process as we continually seek to improve the University."

## Names in the news

### Welcome

**Nikki Combs** has accepted a position as instructor in psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology. She is a member of several organizations including the Vanderburgh County Southwestern Indiana Network for Education, Evansville Literacy Coalition, and Psi Chi. Combs was formerly an adjunct faculty member at Ivy Tech Evansville.

**James Hammerstrand** has accepted a position as instructor in Spanish in the College of Liberal Arts. He holds a Master of Arts degree from Purdue University. He won the Pickins-Queen award for outstanding teaching and is a member of Faculty and Course Development in International Studies and Modern Language Association. Hammerstrand was formerly a visiting assistant professor at the University of Evansville.

**Mari Hopper** has accepted a position as associate professor in biology in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. She holds a doctorate degree in physiology from Kansas State University. She is the recipient of the Starfish and National Institution for Staff and Organizational Development awards. Hopper was formerly an associate professor at Palo Alto College.

**Tracy Kinner** has accepted a position as instructor in nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing degree from USI. Kinner was formerly a nurse practitioner at Saint Mary's.

**Rob Millard-Mendez** has accepted a position as assistant professor of art in the College of Liberal Arts. He holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He was named in Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2006 and has won a variety of art exhibit awards. His memberships include the College Art Association, International Sculpture Center, New England Sculpture Center, New England Sculptor's Association, and American Craft Council. Millard-Mendez was formerly a full-time lecturer in foundations at Northeastern University.

**Seungjin Park** has accepted a position as assistant professor of management in the College of Business. He holds a doctorate degree from Oregon State University. Park was formerly an assistant professor at Merrimack College.

### Accomplishments

The University community congratulates **Suzanne A. Nicholson** on her nomination for the 2006 ATHENA Award. Nicholson recently retired as director of Development for the University and president of the USI Foundation. She led the University's first capital campaign, establishing the prestigious Presidential Scholarship program with guidance of faculty, and organizing a planned giving society. Under her watch USI Foundation assets grew to \$51.9 million and scholarship dollars grew to \$25.6 million. "Like a skilled orchestra leader, she has made beautiful music with volunteers, business leaders, elected officials, alumni, staff, and friends contributing to the melody," said **Sherrienne Standley**, vice president for Advancement.

A revised edition of *The Truman Years* by Dr. Tracy Uebelhor, instructor in history, has been published by Facts on File as part of their Presidential Profiles series.

### FYI

#### Connect with Southern Indiana deadline is October 9

USI is seeking a diverse group of individuals to apply to its second Connect with Southern Indiana program. The core of the program is to help participants to strengthen their skills, options, and opportunities for involvement in community and regional projects; meet busi-

ness and civic leaders; and gain greater awareness of community and regional needs. Residents of nine counties (Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties) will be eligible for the 24 positions in the nine-session program that starts in January and ends in August 2007. Because the program is free and openings are limited, applicants must indicate their willingness and ability to participate in all programs and the limited out-of-class assignments to be given. October 9, 2006 is the deadline for applications. The program is sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana, an outreach program through USI Extended Services. More information about the program, the dates of the sessions, and an online application is available at [www.usi.edu/extserv/connect.asp](http://www.usi.edu/extserv/connect.asp).

#### Fall 2006 RopeWalk Reading Series: Amy Fleury, October 19

Amy Fleury will present the second reading in the fall 2006 RopeWalk Reading Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 19, in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center. Fleury's collection of poems *Beautiful Trouble* won the 2003 Crab Orchard First Book Award and was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2004. It was named a top 10 notable book of 2004 by the Kansas City Star. Her poems have appeared in *The American Life in Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *North American Review*, and *The Southeast Review*, among others. Her fiction has been published in *21st* and *The Yalobusha Review*. Fleury has been a recipient of the Nadya Aisenberg Fellowship from the MacDowell Colony and a Kansas Arts Commission fellowship in poetry. She resides in Topeka, Kansas, where she is an associate professor of English at Washburn University. A book-signing will follow the reading. The final fall 2006 reading will be presented by Judith Harris on November 16. For more information, contact **Jim McGarrah**, assistant professor of English, 812/461-5381.

#### Children's Center Scholastic Book Fair returns

The USI Children's Center will hold its semi-annual Scholastic Book Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 9-14 in the Science and Education Center lobby. There will be books for children, teaching materials, books in Spanish, cookbooks and many other items available for purchase. Proceeds from the Scholastic Book Sale benefit the USI Children's Center. For more information, contact **Pam Buschkill** at 812/464-1869.

### FBI on campus

The FBI's 10 Most Wanted List and job potential with the FBI will be two topics of discussion at 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3 when FBI agent Tom VanWormer meets with the Political Science Society at USI. The meeting will be in FA 3 of the Forum Wing of the Wright Administration Building. Greg Culver, instructor in political science, is the faculty advisor for the Political Science Society. He encourages all interested students, faculty, and staff to attend this informative session, especially students interested in a career with the FBI.

### Heart to Heart

Indiana First Lady Cheri Daniels will bring her Heart to Heart initiative to USI on Monday, October 2. Heart to Heart encourages Hoosier women to lead a heart-healthy lifestyle.

The presentation at USI will incorporate information, survivor testimonials, and social and personal goals, and will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. in Carter Hall in the University Center. The event is sponsored by Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness.

For more information, contact **Stephanie Walden-Schwake**, assistant director of Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness, at 812/461-5269.