

## USI students explore the world, discover themselves UBlog written by Heidi Gregori-Gahan

Last year 110 students earned USI credit in 15 countries around the world, ranging from Thailand to New Zealand to the United Kingdom. This number is a record for USI, reflecting a 40 percent increase over the previous year, up almost 100 percent from three years ago. USI is committed to making study abroad as affordable and accessible as possible, and with hundreds of study abroad options in over 60 countries, we expect the numbers to continue to increase.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work is to witness the tremendous growth that students experience – from the time they depart the US for their foreign destination, understandably nervous but very excited, to the time they return home, “citizens of the world” brimming with enthusiasm for all that they have experienced. As diverse as the individual experiences are, a common thread unites them: studying abroad is a life-changing experience. Indeed, this theme resounds in the responses from recent returnees to the question regarding how studying abroad has impacted their lives. Here’s a sample of what the students had to say:

“This was the single most important and life-changing venture I have ever done. My perception of life has been augmented and I look at things in a different, more lucid way. The people, the travels, the feelings, the learning, the sights, the sounds have taught me more than I could have ever imagined and I encourage everyone I come in contact with to consider studying abroad.” - **Kris Pickett**, Netherlands, ISEP, Spring 2008.

“My study abroad experience was literally life changing...I am a much more independent person. On top of that, I am a much more knowledgeable person. I understand the workings of the world a little better now. I am more open to trying new things and am more willing to look at things from other’s perspectives.” - **Lindsey Vandoornik**, Harlaxton, England, Spring 2008.

“The whole experience for me was incredible and life changing....I feel like I was rather mature before I left... but the experience of being thrown into a new environment... really pushed me into maturing way beyond where I was or would have been otherwise. It was also enlightening to be around so many people...who all had different views...Learning what others believe and why they do so...also helps your own morals and opinion to strengthen. Finally, another huge aspect is that, mind the cliché, I was able to find myself.” - **Heather Keefer**, CEA Cork, Ireland, Fall 2007.

What we hear from our students on an anecdotal basis has been borne out by a recent study on the long-term impact of study abroad. Conducted by the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) the study found that “regardless of where students studied and for how long ...studying abroad is usually a defining moment in a young person’s life and continues to impact the participant’s life for years after the experience.”

It is truly a privilege to play a small role in such a transforming experience. The increase in study abroad participation reflects a joint commitment on the part of many people at the University. For example, colleagues in the College of Science and Engineering have been working with our office to identify specific programs which offer a good fit for their majors. Through focused exchanges of this kind, increased access to scholarships and other financial aid, and the enthusiastic support of faculty and staff, I am confident that we will continue to see unprecedented growth in participation. Please contact International Programs and Services (ext. 1248) if

you would like to arrange for a presentation to a class or student organization, or to find out more information about study abroad opportunities available through USI.

## Betty & “Zora”: English professor writes screenplay

**Dr. Betty Hart**, professor of English, wanted to improve her dialogue-writing skills, so she sat in on **Patty Aakhus’s** screenwriting workshop. Aakhus, director of International Studies, has taught the course since 2002. It requires students to examine screenplays of others and write a full-length screenplay of their own.

“Patty Aakhus is absolutely inspirational,” Hart said. “It was good to learn from her teaching and see how she encourages students to produce a screenplay. For this class, their interest sustained them through 120 pages, minimum.”

After two years of research and a year of writing, Hart produced a screenplay, *Zora*, based on the life of Zora Neale Hurston, a Harlem Renaissance writer and anthropologist who wrote the acclaimed novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

“Her life appeals to me because she was very independent, which is unusual for a woman of the 1920s,” Hart said. “She had her own opinions. During the Harlem Renaissance, most of the women didn’t speak up, but she was very much outspoken.”

During the research period, Hart devoured Hurston’s letters, short stories, and novels, and the major biographies of her life. With the help of a College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Award, she attended the Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities in Eatonville, Florida, where Hurston grew up. Eatonville, the first incorporated African American community in the U.S., is the setting for *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Zora covers most of Hurston’s life, from age six until her death at 69. Hart said the most difficult part of writing the screenplay was deciding what to leave in. Finally, she decided, “Anybody’s life at any point is a metaphor for one’s whole life. I had to choose the episodes that would best represent the whole tenor of her life.”

Hart said writing a screenplay is a good format for creating a work, but also a good cause for doing research. “I felt that I had to be accurate, and a lot of times I used her actual words. It was important to her to acknowledge the craft of Black dialect, and I had to be true to the words she spoke in her life.” She is currently seeking the proper permissions from Hurston’s estate.

Writing the screenplay also gave Hart a useful teaching approach. “In African American literature class we read *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and I showed a film version and had students take a part of the novel that wasn’t in the film and script it. They learned how the dialogue could carry the story.”

Hart said she plans to attend a workshop next summer to improve her screenwriting and learn how to market and sell screenplays. “I never thought I’d be this interested in it, but it is fun,” she said.

Hart joined USI in 1991. In addition to the African American literature class, she teaches rhetoric and composition courses, ethnic literature, and racism in America. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University and master’s degree and Ph.D. from West Virginia University.

## How to find *USI Today*

We've received calls to the Office of News & Information Services requesting a quick link to *USI Today*. We're gratified by the interest in the new version of the USI employee newsletter and hope it will translate into more story ideas and contributions from faculty and staff.

To find *USI Today*, choose from these options:

- Make *USI Today* your home page. Go to *USI Today* at [www.usi.edu/usitoday](http://www.usi.edu/usitoday); go to "Tools" then "Internet Options." Under "Home page" click "Use current." Click on "Apply" then "OK." Your home page is now set to *USI Today*.
- From [www.usi.edu](http://www.usi.edu), hover over "Faculty and Staff" at the top of the page and scroll to the *USI Today* link at the bottom of the dropdown box.
- From [www.usi.edu](http://www.usi.edu), click on the "Everything @ USI" dropdown box, scroll to the *USI Today* link.
- From [www.usi.edu/newsinfo/index.asp](http://www.usi.edu/newsinfo/index.asp), choose *USI Today* from the menu on the left.
- Click on the link in the weekly email reminder from **Brandi Schwartz**.

Thanks for your interest in the newest version of the USI employee newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to help employees communicate, share, and enjoy the USI journey together.

## 2008 Volunteer of the Year award

The University of Southern Indiana's 2008 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to **David Herrenbruck '76** at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Wednesday. The Volunteer USI Advisory Council and the Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services host the annual event to acknowledge and thank USI's outstanding volunteers.

USI Men's Basketball Coach **Rick Herdes** presented the award. "David's service to USI is extraordinary," Herdes said. "His commitment to the University sets a fine example and demonstrates the power of individuals to effect change."

Herrenbruck, a USI graduate with a bachelor's degree in marketing, is vice president and wealth management advisor for Fifth Third Bank. He served as president of the USI Alumni Association from 2002-03; secretary 2000-01; and Alumni Council member 1999-2004. A member of the USI Foundation Board since 2001, he was chair of the 2005-06 New Donor Alumni Campaign, past chair of the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign Board, and a Campaign USI volunteer.

He has provided leadership to the Varsity Club since 1993, serving as president 1995-96, treasurer 1994, and co-chair of the Steak Fry 'n Auction for the past seven years, transforming the event into a successful fundraiser. He received the Alumni Association's Alumni Service Award in 2005.

As the recipient of the 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award, his name will be placed on the permanent plaque that is displayed outside of Carter Hall in the University Center.

## Pre-Professional Health Conference is for college and high school students

USI's Pre-Professional Health Club is hosting a Pre-Professional Health Conference on Saturday, October 4.

Junior biology major **Meral K. El Ramahi**, co-president of the club, said, "This conference is designed to expose current pre-professional students from USI and other universities as well as local high school students to the experiences and insights of various health care professionals."

The conference is free to USI students, but there is a \$10 registration fee for non-USI students. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in Couch/Renner Hall (Room 1101 in the Education Center).

There will be guest speakers, an MD panel, a panel of various health professionals, and more. The keynote speakers are **Dr. Mell B. Welborn**,

**Jr.**, General/Thoracic Surgery, Welborn Clinic, and **Dr. Heather Schroeder**, OB/GYN, St. Mary's Medical Center.

Lunch will be provided. An Information Fair held during the luncheon will include representatives from various graduate level professional programs. Tours of the Indiana University School of Medicine located at the Health Professions Center will be available.

College or high school students interested in medicine, physical therapy, podiatry, dentistry, or other graduate level health professions should RSVP by sending name, school, area of interest, and contact information to: USI Pre-Professional Health Club, 8600 University Blvd., SC 1255, Evansville, IN 47712.

**Dr. Jeannie Collins**, associate professor of chemistry, is advisor for the Pre-Professional Health Club.

## New Harmony Gallery presents Eric Tucker's "Colorplates"

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art presents "Colorplates" by artist **Eric Tucker** September 27-November 2, 2008. A reception for the artist will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, September 27, and is free and open to the public.

"Colorplates" investigates how we physically and subjectively perceive objects in space. Through the use of steel minimalist and abstract expressionist sculptures, the artist explores the ambiguities we perceive through our senses of sight and touch.

Tucker received his M.F.A. in 2001 from the University of Chicago and his B.F.A. from Indiana University Northwest. He has taught at Indiana University Northwest, Calumet College of St. Joseph, and College of DuPage.

His work has been seen at Zg Gallery and Gallery 312 in Chicago, Bachman Gallery in Munster, and Indiana University Northwest Center for Contemporary Art in Gary.

The gallery is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony, Indiana, 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.usi.edu/nhgallery](http://www.usi.edu/nhgallery).

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana. The exhibition also was made possible through the generous support of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

## 2008 International Studies Colloquium: "The Great Wall and Other Barriers"

The subject of the 2008 International Interdisciplinary Colloquium will allow Liberal Arts faculty to express aspects of the "The Great Wall and Other Barriers" through a variety of disciplines, including art, psychology, history, literature, original art work, and poetry. The colloquium will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, September 26, in Carter Hall in the University Center.

"The Great Wall and other Barriers" looks at boundaries that divide, protect, enclose, and exclude, producing a frontier along which diverse cultures meet, find conflict, exchange and transformation.

USI faculty will discuss the effects of the Great Wall of China on the environment, evidence of cultural exchange along Hadrian's Wall, and the impact of the walls of China, Rome, the prehistoric Midway: Constantinople, Berlin, the Mexican-US border, Israel, and the Iron Curtain. "The Great Wall and other Barriers" includes Shakespeare's walls to chemical walls to virtual walls.

Students, faculty, staff, and the public are encouraged to attend.

The colloquium is supported by grants from the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, the College of Liberal Arts, and the USI Society for Arts and Humanities.

For information, contact **Pat Aakhus**, director of International Studies, at [paakhus@usi.edu](mailto:paakhus@usi.edu).

## Deadlines nearing for nationally competitive scholarships

Deadlines for nationally competitive scholarships like the Goldwater, Rotary Ambassadorial, and Udall scholarships, occur in fall, typically October through December. **Dr. Brian Posler**, assistant provost, is encouraging students who are involved in undergraduate research and who have a high grade point average to apply for such national scholarships.

Dr. Posler said, "More of USI's best students should apply for national scholarships. Faculty mentors will help students prepare necessary credentials to compete successfully for such awards. We have tremendous talent on this campus, and the more students who apply for these scholarships and grants, the more success we will have. I encourage freshmen and sophomores to begin thinking about national scholarship prospects."

He added that in an effort to get more students to apply for these awards, nationally competitive scholarship posters will appear on USI hallways soon.

Last year three USI students who considered such funding options for research and study opportunities received national awards.

Resources at USI are available for prospective scholars through the web site at [www.usi.edu/acaaffrs/scholarships/](http://www.usi.edu/acaaffrs/scholarships/). Each national scholarship has its own faculty mentor to help guide serious contenders through the application process.

Students who want more information about the nationally competitive scholarships also can contact Dr. Posler at [bposler@usi.edu](mailto:bposler@usi.edu) or call 465-7020.

## College of Nursing and Health Professions earns national nursing continuing education accreditation

The USI College of Nursing and Health Professions has received national accreditation as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) following submission of an in depth self study of the continuing nursing education program and a site visit on May 27, 2008. USI College of Nursing and Health Professions has provided continuing nursing education for the past 16 years as an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Indiana State Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

"ANCC accreditation is a positive step forward in positioning the college as a leading provider of professional nursing development programs both on campus and online," said Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

**Peggy Graul**, coordinator of Continuing Education for Nursing and Health Professions, said, "This accreditation recognizes the excellent instruction provided to nurses and reflects our commitment to provide the highest quality continuing nursing education possible."

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's system for accreditation of continuing nursing education is a voluntary peer-reviewed accreditation process. USI submitted to an in-depth analysis of their continuing nursing education program to determine the capacity of the university to provide quality continuing education activities for nurses. The USI College of Nursing's ANCC accreditation status, which includes annual reviews, is valid for up to six years.

## Before you can vote in the 2008 General Election, you must register

Before you can vote in the 2008 General Election, you must register. The deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 6, 2008. Voter registration forms and applications for absentee ballots are available in several locations on campus.

Anyone not registered to vote may do so on or **before October 6** in the following USI offices: Residence Life Center front desk; Government Relations located in the Wright Administration Building, Room 102; Rice Library's check-out desk; and the Registrar's Office located in the Orr Center, Room 1075.

Any registered voter who will be absent from his or her home precinct on Election Day may submit an application for a mail-in absentee ballot by completing form ABS-1 on or **before October 27, 2008**. The application forms are located in the following USI offices or online at [www.IndianaVoters.com](http://www.IndianaVoters.com) : Residence Life Center front desk; Government Relations located in the Wright Administration Building, Room 102; Rice Library's check-out desk; and the Registrar's Office located in the Orr Center, Room 1075.

Below is important information concerning the 2008 General Election provided by the Office of Indiana's Secretary of State.

### Three things to remember for the October 6 Voter Registration Deadline

The October 6 voter registration deadline is quickly approaching. Are you registered? Remember these three things:

**Register to Vote:** Voters wishing to register for the first time in Indiana must do so on or before the October 6, 2008, deadline. Additionally, voters who have moved or changed their name must update their information by the same deadline.

Anyone not registered to vote may register in person at the county voter registration office, county clerk's office, or at any Bureau of Motor Vehicles license branch. Voters may also obtain a registration form online at the Secretary of State's Web page, [www.IndianaVoters.com](http://www.IndianaVoters.com). These forms can be filled out and mailed in if post-marked on or before the October 6 deadline.

Under Indiana law, each person who applies to register to vote must state the address of their "permanent residence." For some, but not all college students, their permanent residence will be the address that they traveled from to attend school. For other college students, who have no intention of returning to that address, their permanent residence will be in the community where they are attending school. A person can only have one permanent residence under Indiana law. However, where a person's permanent residence is located will depend on the facts of their situation and their intentions.

**Photo ID:** Voters registered in Indiana will be required to show an ID issued by either the state of Indiana or the United States government. If you currently hold an out-of-state ID, but consider Indiana your permanent address, you can surrender it and opt to receive an Indiana ID card (free of charge) or Driver's License. Please visit [www.photoID.in.gov](http://www.photoID.in.gov) for more information.

**Absentee Voting:** Any registered voter who will be absent from his or her home precinct on Election Day may vote by absentee ballot. You may visit the county election board office in the county where you are registered to vote in-person absentee starting October 6 and continuing until noon, Monday, November 3, 2008 (the day before Election Day). Qualifying voters also may submit an application for a mail-in absentee ballot by completing form ABS-1 available online at [www.IndianaVoters.com](http://www.IndianaVoters.com). or at your county election office on or before October 27, 2008.

**More Information:** Hoosiers can check their voter registration status and look up county-specific contact information by visiting [www.IndianaVoters.com](http://www.IndianaVoters.com). or by calling the Hoosier Voter Hotline, 1-866-IN-1-VOTE (1-866-461-8683).

For additional information on campus, contact the Office of Government Relations at 464-1774, or email [usi1govrel@usi.edu](mailto:usi1govrel@usi.edu).

## Announcements

### Bonnell's "Snapshots" to air on public television

"Snapshots of Southern Indiana" a television program produced by **Dr. Karen Bonnell**, professor of communications, as part of a Darrel



Bigham Historic Southern Indiana Faculty Research and Engagement Grant, will be shown three times on WNIN-TV, Channel 9 in October. The 2008 program features historic Vincennes including the George Rogers Clark Memorial, the Indiana Territorial Capitol historic sites, and Grouseland, the home of William Henry Harrison. It also features historic Corydon, Indiana, the first state capitol and the site of one of only two civil war battles fought on northern soil. Finally, the program explores Angel Mounds State Historic site including a look at how archaeologists continue to document the lives of early Native Americans. The airdates are 9 p.m. Wednesday, October 1; 3:30 p.m. Sunday, October 5; and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 8. Last year's episode featuring historic New Harmony, the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Wyandotte Caves, and O'Bannon State Park will be rebroadcast at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 1.

#### **CAR fellowship deadline is November 3**

The Offices of Sponsored Research and Extended Services will award two \$4,000 grants to faculty for summer 2009 research projects. The deadline to apply for the Center for Applied Research Faculty Outreach and Engagement Fellowship is November 3, 2008. Applications will be considered from faculty for projects that demonstrate a propensity to enhance faculty research while supporting economic development, community development, or quality of life improvements in southwest Indiana. For more information about the award go to [www.usi.edu/extserv/CAR/CARfellowship.asp](http://www.usi.edu/extserv/CAR/CARfellowship.asp) or call **Elissa Bakke** at 812/454-8946. Applications should be submitted to Bakke in Extended Services/Center for Applied Research OC1070.

#### **Masquerade Ball benefits MDA**

The Muscular Dystrophy Association will hold a benefit Masquerade Ball including dinner, a costume contest, dancing, and a live auction on Friday, October 17, at the Bauerhaus. The Monte Carlo-themed event will begin at 6:30 p.m. Participants will have the chance to "gamble" with play money and bid on fabulous auction items. Tickets are \$100 for one; \$180 for two; \$350 for four; and \$650 for eight. Call the MDA office at 812/479-6550 to reserve tickets.

#### **USI faculty in art show**

Artwork by **Michael Aakhus, Chuck Armstrong, Joan deJong, Lenny Dowhie, Joseph D'Uva, Xinran Hu, David Huebner, Robert Millard-Mendez, Carolyn Roth, Katie Waters**, and other USI art faculty, will be exhibited in the "East/West/North: A Collaboration" exhibit at the Evansville Museum. The exhibition opens Saturday, September 20 at 6 p.m. and will run through Sunday, November 30.

#### **Student and Employee Wellness Fair is October 1**

More than 50 exhibitors from the Evansville area will be on hand for USI's Student and Employee Wellness Fair on Wednesday, October 1, to answer questions and provide information about available health and wellness services. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Carter Hall in the University Center. Free health screenings will be offered. There also will be refreshments as well as the chance to win door prizes. USI exhibitors include the College of Nursing and Health Professions, the Department of Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness, and others. Participants from the greater community include local hospitals, chiropractors, massage therapists, fitness-related businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The Wellness Fair is sponsored by the Human Resources Employee Wellness Committee and USI Student Wellness.

#### **Call for proposals for Bigham Fellowship**

The deadline to apply for the Darrel Bigham Faculty Engagement Fellowship for summer 2009 is November 3, 2008. The fellowship provides one \$4,000 salary stipend to support scholarly work in the areas of

consulting, research, service learning, or creation of workshops/institutes by USI faculty. Priority will be given to projects which benefit Historic Southern Indiana and its constituents. Historic Southern Indiana is an outreach and engagement program of the University of Southern Indiana with the goals of identifying, preserving, protecting, enhancing, and promoting the historical, natural and recreational resources of the region. seeks to implement those goals through programs in historic preservation, history education, heritage tourism, community development, and scenic byways. For more information visit [www.usi.edu/hsi](http://www.usi.edu/hsi) or call **Leslie Townsend**, director of Historic Southern Indiana, at 812/465-7013.

#### **Accomplishments**

**Gary May**, associate professor of social work, will discuss issues of importance to veterans and people with disabilities October 2 at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. May's lecture is part of the college's Galaxy Series of fine arts and cultural events. He also is scheduled to meet with social work classes and veterans groups.

#### **Passings**

**Cortez Barnes**, former USI basketball player, died September 21 in an automobile accident. Barnes was a member of the 1995 NCAA Division II National Championship team, earning the Chevrolet Player of the Game honors in the title game. He recorded a double-double in the finals with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

**Wilfred C. "Bud" Bussing Jr.**, father of **Marie Bussing-Burks**, lecturer in the College of Business, and father-in-law of **Phyllis Bussing**, instructor in education, died on September 23. Services will be held on Friday, September 26 at Christ the King Catholic Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church, 3010 East Chandler Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714, Saint Mary's Foundation, 3700 Washington Avenue, Evansville, IN 47750, or the Parkinson's Action Network, 51 North Nunning Road, Evansville, IN 47712.

**Russell Alan Hopewell**, instructor in Extended Services, died September 18. Services were held on September 22 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Haubstadt, IN. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alan Hopewell Scholarship Endowment, Saints Peter and Paul Building fund, and the American Lung Cancer Association.

#### **New Employee Welcome**

**Priya Hewavitharanage** has accepted a position as assistant professor of chemistry in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kelaniya, a master's degree from the University of Peradeniya, and a doctorate from Bowling Green State University. Hewavitharanage was employed as an assistant professor at Ball State University.

**Debra Hunter** has accepted a position as assistant professor of accounting in the College of Business. She holds a doctorate in business administration from Louisiana Tech University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Baylor University. Hunter was employed as an associate professor of accounting at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

**Jacob Williams** has accepted a position as research associate in the Office of Institutional Research. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from USI.

**Cassie Wollrab** has accepted a position as teacher in the USI Children's Center. She is currently pursuing an associate degree in early childhood education at USI. Wollrab was employed as a center director and teacher at Lil' Rascals Learning Center in Checotah, Oklahoma.

**Keith Wright** has accepted a position as custodial worker in the Physical Plant.