



NEWS RELEASE

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USI campus-wide open house and Liberal Arts Center ribbon-cutting ceremony slated for October 10

On Sunday, October 10, the University of Southern Indiana will hold a campus-wide open house in celebration of the opening of several construction projects valued at more than \$30 million. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will open the new Liberal Arts Center, Art Studio, Fred C. Newman Residence Hall, and renovated facilities including the USI Foundation Office on Clarke Lane, the lower level of the Health Professions Center, and Science Center laboratories, the Kenneth McCutchan Art Gallery in the Wright Administration Building, and The Loft dining room in the University Center. USI President H. Ray Hoops, with the assistance of Dr. James Blevins, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, will preside at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on the lawn on the east side of the Liberal Arts Center.

Tours of campus facilities will be offered from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will tour renovations in the Science Center including the Black Beauty Coal Chemistry Laboratory, the Torrington Chemistry Research Laboratory, and the Torrington Molecular and Developmental Biology Research Laboratory; all provided by private gifts. On the lower level of the Health Professions Center, visitors can tour the new USI Student Health Center, operated by Deaconess Hospital. Other new facilities which will be open are the USI Foundation Offices at 7601 Clarke Lane; and the Kenneth McCutchan Art Gallery located in the Wright Administration Building. The USI Children's Center and the USI School of Business also will welcome guests, even though there are not renovations in their spaces. Because Newman Hall is a residence hall, it will not be open for tours.

Open to classes since the fall semester began, the 62,622 square foot Liberal Arts Center is located south of the University Center. The lower level contains radio and television studios, a computer lab, a seminar room, a distance education classroom and multi-media control center, as well as the Mallette Studio Theatre, Kleymeyer Lecture Hall, Hamilton Music Studio, Miller Foreign Language Laboratory, Topper Music Practice Room, and Scripps-Howard Center for Media Studies. The named spaces were made possible through generous donations by friends of the University during *Campaign USI*, the University's capital campaign, and could not have been completed and furnished without donor gifts.

The next two floors house a total of 25 classrooms, including two seminar rooms, four 60-seat lecture halls, 15 classrooms, and four electronic classrooms as well as a psychology laboratory and a Center for Communal Studies. Electronic classrooms are designed with a computer workstation for each student, a full complement of word-processing and multi-media software, and access to satellite downlinks and to the Internet. Eventually all classrooms throughout the Liberal Arts Center will have the capability to send and receive digitized information making it, according to Dr. Thomas Wilhemus, associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts, among the most technologically-advanced classroom buildings in the state. The psychology lab also will have computers. The Center for Communal Studies, directed by Dr. Donald Pitzer, professor of history, has what is perhaps the world's best collection of materials pertaining to the study of communal life.

At the center and back of the building is a two-story glass atrium and the Helen Niednagel Ruston Terrace overlooking Reflection Lake. In this area, when they are not distracted by the view, students may read or gather in small groups before, between, or after classes.

The fourth story contains offices for the dean and associate dean, management offices for Southern Indiana Theatres, and offices for faculty and department chairs. Two conference rooms and office space for adjunct faculty complete the arrangements on this floor. The only Liberal Arts department not housed in the new Center is the Art Department, which is located in the Technology Center and the newly constructed Art Studio south of the Technology Center. Both of these facilities will be open to campus guests.

Five USI art students have built functional and aesthetic artwork to display in the Liberal Arts Center. Under the direction of John McNaughton, professor of art, the students created a 3' diameter clock, a glass table top with a pair of wooden scissors legs, a geometric block table, a classic hall table, and a female form sculpture. The art will be featured during campus tours.

Dr. Marie Hankins, chair of the Chemistry Department, will hold "Explosions, Fireballs, and Big Bangs" demonstrations for the family at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Forum III. Dr. Hankins will perform experiments that demonstrate chemical reactions designed to teach both young and old the role chemistry plays in everyday life.



Brunch will be served in The Loft from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features cafeteria-style dining. These newest renovations to the University Center include adding several theme food bars including a pizza and calzone bar, a salad bar, pasta bar, dessert table, and a featured menu bar. Cost is \$9.95 per person.

For more information, call the USI Office of Special Events at 812/464-1930.