



# NEWS RELEASE

Kathy Funke, Director  
News & Information Services  
812/465-7005  
FAX 812/465-1096  
E-mail [kfunke@usi.edu](mailto:kfunke@usi.edu)  
<http://www.usi.edu/events.htm>

**For immediate release  
March 27, 2000**

## **Two international experts on the new wave of intentional communities and an eco-village activist to speak at USI**

An expert on communities and co-housing for the elderly from the Netherlands, an authority on the interests and rights of the elderly in Iceland, and an official from the Global Eco-Village Network will speak at a symposium, "New Communities for the New Century: Answers for Retirement and Ecology", which will open in New Harmony at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, in the Atheneum. Other events will be held at USI and other locations in Evansville throughout the week.

Dr. Beatrice Kesler of Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and Dr. Edda Hjaltsted, district director of Houses and Retirement Services for the Elderly in Reykjavik, Iceland are traveling to the United States specifically to speak and attend this conference. Dr. Pitzer, director of the Center for Communal Studies, the sponsoring agency, has met the speakers during travel to those countries. He said, "For perhaps the first time, area citizens will have a first-hand opportunity to meet people who know from experience how questions of retirement and ecology are being solved by communities in other countries."

Dr. Kesler will speak at the opening session and at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, at Willow Park Retirement Center, 5050 Lincoln Avenue. Dr. Hjaltsted will speak at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 3, at Solarbron Pointe Retirement Center (next to USI).

The third expert is Albert Bates, attorney and activist in the network of ecology-friendly villages, who will present the newest information from these ecology communities. He'll discuss community planning at noon on Monday, April 3, in Wright Administration Building, Forum I and present contemporary eco-village experiments around the world at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4. His lectures will be illustrated with slides. Bates is principal founder of the Ecovillage Training Center, which is located at The Farm, an intentional community in south central Tennessee. He has taught sustainable design, natural building, agriculture, and technology to people in more than 40 nations.

A grand panel discussion will be the finale of the symposium. It is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5 and panel members will include the featured speakers of the symposium along with local experts and residents, including Mary Buedel, director of marketing, Solarbron; Pat Kerr and Linda Kerr, co-managers, Willow Park; Scott Wittman, director Habitat for Humanity, Evansville, and Janice Meliska, a local resident whose mother resides at Willow Park.

A complete schedule of the symposium is available online at [www.usi.edu/libarts/communal/intlsymp.htm](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/communal/intlsymp.htm).