



University of Southern Indiana

# University Notes

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## Ruston estate to drive excellence at USI

**Henry W. Ruston**, the most generous donor to the USI Foundation, died in December 2005. His estate is responsible for a \$5.1 million gift, the single largest USI Foundation bequest to date.

A portion of the gift, \$4.5 million, is being used to establish the Ruston President's Endowment for the University of Southern Indiana.

The annual distributions from the Ruston President's Endowment will be used to promote academic excellence as determined by **Dr. H. Ray Hoops**, the University president. It may be used to fund academic excellence initiatives directly or serve as a match or challenge for programs or capital improvement projects related to academic excellence.

The remaining \$679,000 is being used as the major funding for a complete renovation of the basketball arena in the Physical Activities Center on campus.

Commenting on the generous gift, President Hoops said, "Henry was a big fan of the Screaming Eagles and always listened to the games if he couldn't attend. His generous gift to assist the athletic program is another fitting tribute to him.

"Henry genuinely cared about all of our students. He enjoyed meeting them. He also enjoyed receiving correspondence from them, especially his academic scholarship recipients. He used to slip them what he called "gas money." Because Henry was a realist he knew the University would need funds in years to come for items that cannot be dreamed of at this time. His goal was to meet the needs of USI students far into the future."

Ruston received an honorary degree from USI in 1995 for his achievements in business and civic affairs. In 2002 the USI Alumni Association gave him the Special Recognition Award for his generous contributions to USI and for his community involvement. The Helen Niednagel Ruston Terrace of the Liberal Arts Center was named for his first wife. Ruston Hall, the fourth residence hall built on campus, bears his name and that of his second wife Betty, who died in 2002.

## Black History Month celebration

For the second year in a row, the USI Black Alumni Society is hosting "An Evening of Jazz" at The Pub. This year, the guest performer is Rob White, a jazz saxophonist from Indianapolis.

White has opened for national recording stars Freddie Jackson and Marion Meadows. He plays soprano, alto, and tenor saxophone and writes, arranges, and performs his own music. He recently performed at the Mayor's breakfast in Indianapolis.

"An Evening of Jazz" will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, February 24.

Light refreshments will be served. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Proceeds benefit the USI Black Alumni Scholarship Fund. Contact Alumni &

Volunteer Services: 812/464-1928.

Here are more USI events offered during Black History Month:

**February 14-17 and 21-25:**

USI Theatre production of "A Raisin in the Sun" directed by Elliot Wasserman, director of theatre. This was the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway. Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at USI Theatre at 3001 Igleheart Avenue. There is one Sunday matinee on February 25 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors 60 and over, and \$4 for USI students. Tickets may be purchased by calling the USI Theatre box office at 812/422-3970.

**February 19:**

**Black Student Union Week Kick Off; "Help Me, Help You, Help Us Together,"** presented by Herman Thomas Jr., program advisor for the Multicultural Center, 6 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Designed by Grace, the University's gospel choir, also will perform. For more information, call the Multicultural Center: 812/465-7188.

**February 22:**

**Black Student Union Poetry Café**, 8 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center. USI students will read poetry; also open mic. For more information, call the Multicultural Center: 812/465-7188.

## GLVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year

USI sophomore **Allison Shafer** (Plainville, Indiana) has been named the GLVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year for women's cross country.

Shafer, who is double-majoring in nursing and health services, has accumulated a 3.882 grade point average in her first three semesters at USI. She had a 4.0 GPA during the fall semester.

On the cross country course, Shafer was the GLVC Female Runner of the Year after winning the conference championship with a 6k time of 21 minutes, 46.07 seconds.

Shafer, who helped the Screaming Eagles to a second-place team finish at the GLVC championships, went on to the NCAA II Great Lakes Regional Championships where she finished second. She earned All-America honors two weeks later when she finished 15th at the NCAA II National Championships in Pensacola, Florida.

A two-time All-GLVC performer and former GLVC Freshman of the Year in cross country, Shafer was USI's top finisher in every race and was a two-time GLVC Runner of the Week this past fall.

Shafer, who is the 17th USI student-athlete to earn GLVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors since the award's inception in 1998, started the indoor track and field season by posting an NCAA II provisional qualifying time in the 5,000 meters. She will lead her squad into the Hoosier Relays this weekend in

## "A Raisin in the Sun"

USI Theatre presents "A Raisin in the Sun", a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Lorraine Hansberry, February 14 through February 25. The play premiered in New York in 1959, making Hansberry the first African American woman playwright to be produced on Broadway. It earned the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, and *Variety* named Hansberry "Most Promising Playwright" of that year.

According to Frank Rich of *The New York Times*, "A Raisin in the Sun" "changed American theatre forever" by "portray[ing] a black family with a greater realism and complexity than had ever been previously seen on an American stage." The original Broadway production featured groundbreaking performances by Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee and Louis Gossett, Jr. The recent Broadway revival included performances by Phylicia Rashad, Audra McDonald, Sean "Diddy" Combs, and Sanaa Lathan.

Hansberry took the play's title from a poem by Langston Hughes, "Harlem," which questioned whether "a dream deferred" withers "like 'A Raisin in the Sun'." Set on Chicago's South Side in the 1950s, the play focuses on the Younger family's struggle to decide what to do with a \$10,000 inheritance. Each member of the family has a dream that might be realized with the money, but they can't agree. Lena, the family matriarch, wants to purchase a home. Her son, Walter, wants to open a business. Her daughter, Beneatha, wants to attend medical school.

According to Rich, Hansberry "wrote 'Raisin' well before the marches on Washington, the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the inner-city explosions. Yet, with remarkable prescience, she saw history whole: Her play encompasses everything from the rise of black nationalism in the United States and Africa to the advent of black militancy to the specific dimensions of the black woman's liberation movement. And she always saw the present and future in the light of the past - clear back to the slavery of the Old South and the new slavery that followed for black workers who migrated to the industrial ghettos of the North."

**Elliot Wasserman**, assistant professor of theatre at USI, directs the production. The cast includes **Nicole Whitney** and **Mario Reid** as Ruth and Walter Younger; **Marielle Scheid** as Walter's sister, Beneatha; and **Sybil Robinson** as Walter's mother, Lena. Other cast members include **Glynn Allen**, **Jonathan Baker**, **Lindsey Baxter**, **Eric Boyd**, **Matthew Harris**, and **Donald Thomas**. USI Theatre faculty members **Doug Hubbell** and **Shan Jensen** serve as the scenic and costume designer for the production. USI theatre students **Sean Nicholl** and **Dustin Williams** serve as lighting and sound designer.

"A Raisin in the Sun" runs February 14-17 and February 21-25 at USI Theatre at 3001 Igleheart Avenue. Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. There is one Sunday matinee on February 25 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors 60 and over, and \$4 for USI students. 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.

## Academic Skills helps students succeed

USI Academic Skills offers academic support for students, faculty, and staff. Encourage students to take advantage of the Success Series Workshops and start the semester off right. All workshops are free and will be held in ED 1103.

## Kiss the Text Anxiety Away

Does an upcoming test have you "stressed out" already? Do you "freeze" while taking tests? Learn the cause of test anxiety, effective study techniques, and relaxation techniques to help you take control of test anxiety. Presented by Cyd Fithian, assistant math specialist, noon-12:30 p.m. February 5 and 1-1:30 p.m. February 13.

## Mastering the Game of College

The rules of college can be confusing. University policies, campus resources, and academic planning are some of the strategies this workshop will cover. Come learn how to play the game of college to win! Presented by Amber Hughes, advisor, University Division, 4-4:30 p.m. February 6 and noon-12:30 p.m. February 14.

## A Six Step Program for Passing Math Classes

Every college student is required to take at least one math class. If math is not your favorite subject and even if it is, this workshop will help you learn exactly what it takes to pass a math class. Presented by Nancy Myers, math specialist, 3-3:30 p.m. February 8.

## Yes, You Can Beat the Odds!

Did you know there are test taking strategies that can help you on your exams? Improve your test taking performance by learning tips for objective tests, essays and more! Presented by Dr. Nils Johansen, advisor, University Division, 3-3:30 p.m. February 12.

## Improving Reading Speed

The average college student will be required to read 2,500 pages of text every semester. Are your reading speed and comprehension skills strong enough to meet the demands of college reading? Attend this interactive workshop to assess your current reading speed, learn to break bad habits, and apply some new reading strategies to become an efficient and flexible reader. Presented by Jann Hickey, learning specialist, 2-2:30 p.m. February 15 and noon-12:30 p.m. February 20.

## M.U.R.D.E.R. Your Midterms

Murder your midterms, or any test, with this six-step study-strategy. Presented by Dr. Mark Razor, advisor, University Division, 3:30-4 p.m. February 22.

## Getting More out of College "Homework"

How's your homework going? Have you studied long and hard for the exam? How do you define "study?" Find out how to study smarter to get more out of your college homework. Presented by Pat Flake, supplemental instructional specialist, 4-4:30 p.m. February 19 and February 27.

## Spirit Soothers and Mind Enhancers

We know that students who are relaxed remember more and do better on exams. Take the pressure off with this 30 minute session designed especially for students. Participants will be nourished with music, meditation, and relaxation with this lighten up and learn program for students during midterms week. Come and bring a towel or blanket. Attend one or all of the sessions. Presented by Joan DeVillez, advisor, University Division, noon-12:30 p.m. February 26-28.

No registration is necessary. For more information, contact Lori Saxby at 812/ 464-1743.

## International Week and Food Expo

It's that time again!

International Programs and Services' International Week 2007 will be held Monday through Friday, February 19-23.

This year's International Club Annual Food Expo will offer an extra hour to allow more people to participate. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, February 23, in Carter Hall in the University Center. There will be food and entertainment from more than 20 countries.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Children 6 and under are free. Purchase tickets at the International Programs and Services Office or from International Club members.

Other International Week Events:

#### **Monday, February 19**

**Islam: A Lunch and Learn with Dr. Mohammad Hussain,** noon-1 p.m., University Center Room 206. Sponsored by International Programs & Services. Information: 812/465-7183.

#### **Tuesday, February 20**

**Study Abroad Information Session,** 4-5 p.m., University Center Room 214. Sponsored by International Programs & Services. Information: 812/465-7183.

**Bulgarian dance workshop and demonstration,** 7-9 p.m., University Center Room 201-202. Presented by Daniela Ivanova, professional folk dance teacher and performer.

#### **Wednesday, February 21**

**International Week – Latin Fiesta with Calle Sur,** 7 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center. Snacks, drinks provided.

**International Week Lunch and Learn: Bulgarian Folk Dancing and Folklore,** noon-1 p.m., University Center Room 201. Presented by Daniela Ivanova, professional folk dance teacher and performer.

#### **Friday, February 23**

**International Food Expo (see details above).**

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

## **"Drawing Game"**

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art proudly presents the exhibition, "Drawing Game," February 10 through March 24, 2007.

"Drawing Game/D.I.C.K." is a collaborative group of four international artists based in the Carbondale, Illinois, area, who play a game similar to the Exquisite Corpse game created by Surrealists in the 1920s.

From May 2005 through January 2007, the members met weekly for a one-hour drawing game. They took turns providing eight sheets of paper - two per person. The paper size and quality varied. All of the artists begin two drawings and when finished with their portion, pass them to the next artist and so on until all members have contributed to each paper thus completing the image. As a result the entire group contributes to all drawings.

Providing a counterpoint to the artists' solitary studio practices, "Drawing Game" resembles play rather than work. It teaches the artists to react and communicate through drawing. The game's fast pace calls forth an instantaneous and automatic reaction, which forces the artists to make their marks on paper without the pressure of a polished finish: placing more weight on the activity than the outcome. This playful pursuit encourages new ideas to develop and unexpected outcomes to surface.

The reception for the artists will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, February 10, the evening of the New Harmony Winter Art Stroll, and is free and open to the public.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony 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.nhgallery.com](http://www.nhgallery.com).

The exhibition is made possible through the support of the University.

## **Wrestling Eagles to host first tournament**

USI Eagles Wrestling will host its first wrestling tournament Saturday, February 10, at the PAC.

Wrestling begins at 10 a.m. and admission is free. Indiana Wesleyan, University of Kentucky, Rio Grande University, Wright State University, and Dayton University will compete in the tournament.

The University community and the public are welcome to watch the wrestling teams compete.

Team members are **Brian Bittner, Joe Hillenbrand, Mike Coughlin, Brandon Pinkston, David Oneil, Casey Miller-Bock, John Stanfield, Chad Cook, Cody Royster, D.J. Plummer, Josh Brown, Jeff Ausenbaugh, Joel Jefferies, and Shaun Bresher.**

USI Eagles Wrestling is in its second season under the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA), a nationally known collegiate wrestling governing body. There are a total of eight conferences encompassing more than 120 teams.

USI is a member of the North Central Conference. As members of NCWA, Eagles Wrestling has the opportunity to compete in many tournaments in the state of Indiana and around the country. Eagles Wrestling also competes in the North Central Conference Championship and in the National NCWA tournament.

USI students who would like to wrestle for USI should contact USI Wrestling Coach Jeff Ausenbaugh for more information.

Non-students can get involved with the wrestling team by joining the Eagles Club. For more information, contact Ausenbaugh.

## **Queen and king named**

USI students **Kelli Becher** of Evansville and **Heath Ruder** of Newburgh were chosen as queen and king of Homecoming 2007. The pair was announced during the half-time of the men's basketball game on Saturday, February 3. USI students elected them during voting the week before the Homecoming game.

Becher is a junior at USI with a major in marketing, a minor in theatre, and an emphasis in international business. One of her career choices is marketing in the entertainment industry. She represented Delta Zeta sorority and is vice president of membership. She also is vice president of Student Government Association and has been active in Chamber Choir and Women's Choir. She played the title role in the USI Theatre production of Antigone. She is a graduate of North High School and the daughter of Dean and Jacque Becher of Evansville.

Ruder is a senior majoring in business administration. A Castle High School graduate, he is the son of Janet and Dennis Labhart of Newburgh. He represented Lambda Chi Alpha. Last year Ruder served as financial chairman for Lambda Chi Alpha and was named Officer of the Year. This year he is president of the fraternity. He also is active in USI intramurals and is a member of United Methodist Church. His long term career plans are to own his own business.

## **Names in the news**

### **Welcome to the USI family**

**Carmen Stoen**, director of Student Development Programs,



and her husband Ted, announce the birth of their son, **Jacob Mark Stoen**, born Monday, February 5. Jacob weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

### **In sympathy**

The University community extends sympathy to **Becky Ball**, senior administrative associate in Business Affairs, whose father **John Riggins**, died on February 1. Services were held Saturday, February 3 at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Home Health Service Hospice Program, 9894 E. 121st Street, Fishers, IN 46037 or Cross and Crown Lutheran Church Foundation, 5233 E. 79th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

The University community extends sympathy to **Becky Weinzpfel**, distribution services clerk in procurement and distribution services, whose father **Robert C. Bender**, died on Thursday, February 1. Services were held Monday, February 5 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

### **Welcome**

**Michael Cathro** has accepted a position as foundation accountant in Business Affairs. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from USI. Cathro was formerly employed as a finance director at the United Way of Southwestern Indiana.

**Walter Fisher** has accepted a position as data applications system technician in Instructional Technology. He holds a computer engineering degree from the University of Evansville. Fisher was formerly employed as an operations assistant at Dynamic Healthcare EFCV.

**Delana Fleenor** has accepted a position as administrative assistant in the USI Foundation. She holds an Associates degree from Wabash Valley College. Fleenor was formerly employed as a box office manager at SMG/Roberts Stadium.

**Kitty Wusstig** has accepted a position as senior administrative assistant in Extended Services. Wusstig was formerly employed as director of sponsorship and events at Downtown Evansville Inc.

**Roberta Wyngaarden** has accepted a position as administrative assistant in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. Wyngaarden was formerly employed as a student supervisor at Murray State University.

### **Conferences**

USI's 2006 Student Case Team, which won the Indiana CPA Society's Student Case Competition, is featured in the "Topline" section of the February 2007 issue of the *Journal of Accountancy*, the official publication of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The article, entitled "In the Spotlight: A Student Threepeat," includes an accompanying photo of **Jeanette Maier-Lytle**, faculty advisor, and **May Flores**, **John Hayden**, **Adam Knepp**, and **Amy Oglesby**, the four student team members.

**Dr. Greg Valentine**, professor of Business Education, has been invited by Dr. Suellen Reed, state superintendent of Public Instruction, to serve on a statewide task force on financial literacy for Indiana's youth. He attended the first meeting of the task force in Indianapolis in January.

### **FYI**

#### **Distinguished Scholar to discuss environmental justice**

**Dr. S. Ravi Rajan**, associate professor of environmental

studies at the University of California-Santa Cruz, will present the 2006-07 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture, "Sustenance, Security, and Suffrage: A Perspective on Environmental Justice," at 7 p.m. Monday, February 19, 2007, in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center. A humanist and social scientist, Rajan is the author of *Modernizing Nature: Forestry and Imperial Eco-Development 1800-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2006), numerous scholarly articles, and periodic essays for the popular news media; served as the president of the board of directors of Pesticide Action Network, North America (PANNA); and co-founded the Bhopal Group for Information and Action. For more information, call the Sociology Department at 812/461-5264.

### **Hacienda Gives Back Fiesta Day**

The USI Varsity Club will sponsor Hacienda Gives Back Fiesta Day on Tuesday, February 13 at the Hacienda located on Pearl Drive. A percentage of each purchase on this day will be returned to the Varsity Club.

You must have a token for the Varsity Club to receive credit for your purchases. Please call the Varsity Club office at 812/464-1973 to obtain a tokens or drop by the third floor of the PAC to pick one up.

All proceeds from this day will help to benefit USI Athletics and our USI student athletes.

### **Federal tax breaks for students and families**

Special IRS instructions for taxpayers who want to claim the above-the-line tuition deduction. Congress belatedly reinstated the tuition and fees tax deduction in December retroactively (it had expired January 1, 2006). The IRS had already sent its paper forms to the printer before Congress acted, so there is no place on the form 1040 for the deduction. Further, IRS needs to reprogram its software (and so will the on-line and software providers) to allow for the deduction, so the key piece of advice is that no returns claiming the tuition and fee deduction should be filed until early February. More information including instructions on how to fill out paper forms, is available at: [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=165640,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=165640,00.html)

Updated NACUBO publication, Paying for College, Tax Benefits and Savings Options. This one-pager outlining the several federal tax benefits and savings tools that can help students and families help meet the cost of higher education has been updated to reflect changes to the tax laws in the last five years. We are in the process of printing the third edition in brochure format, for bulk purchase by institutions to include in mailings to students. However, for a limited time, this preliminary copy will be available at no charge from the NACUBO Web site at [www.nacubo.org/documents/business\\_topics/paying\\_for\\_college200701.pdf](http://www.nacubo.org/documents/business_topics/paying_for_college200701.pdf).

### **Sweets for your sweetheart**

Pick up your Valentine's Day goodies at the USI Administrative Assistants & Associates' second annual Valentine's Day bake sale, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 14 in the Orr Center Atrium. There will be a variety of baked goods, Valentine's Day cards, and flowers available for sale. The AAA also is taking orders for gift bags of Hershey's Hugs and Kisses. Each bag includes a gift card and sells for \$2. Orders may be placed at [www.usi.edu/aaa/orders](http://www.usi.edu/aaa/orders). For more information, contact Kathy Karn-Carmichael at 812/465-1686.