



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/464-1956

Dr. James M. Bandoli is USI's 1997 Distinguished Professor

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Dr. James M. Bandoli, associate professor of biology who in 15 years at the University of Southern Indiana has developed a status among students and colleagues as an outstanding scientist, teacher, mentor, and friend, is USI's 1997 National City Bank Distinguished Professor.

The award was announced Monday as 1997 Honors Week programs opened with presentations in the School of Science and Engineering Technology, and will be presented at the 1997 Commencement May 10 at Roberts Stadium.

Dr. Bandoli received a B.S. in biology from the University of San Diego, M.S. from Northern Arizona University, and Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, and joined the USI faculty in 1982. His efforts in and out of the classroom have inspired students to follow him into careers in the sciences, as they cited his unique ability to make complex studies understandable and enjoyable. One, now a teacher in Olney, Illinois, said it was his experience with Dr. Bandoli that "makes me try to be a fair, knowledgeable, and challenging teacher."

Students told of being privileged to join him in research projects -- primarily the endangered spottail darter in Indiana and the local white-tailed deer population -- and becoming inspired by his ability to challenge his own findings as he sought answers to lingering questions.

Colleagues cited Dr. Bandoli's balance between wisdom, sympathy, and justice, whether serving on student and faculty appeals committees at the University or looking at environmental issues in the community. Dr. Bandoli is a member of ChemQuery, a group of local scientists who compile information on environmental matters and present it to the public to allow informed decisions. He also is ChemQuery's representative to ACORN (Action Committee for Ozone Reduction Now).

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Dr. Bandoli has served actively on most University committees, including chairing both the committees on Faculty and Academic Affairs and Students and Academic Affairs and the annual Honors Symposium. He was faculty advisor for the Science and Ecology Club for 13 years, guiding students through regular cleanup of Reflection Lake on campus and Pigeon Creek in the city, monthly recycling efforts before it became a city program, and many other projects.

The Bandoli family lives in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, where they have been involved in school and community activities. A school official described Bandoli as "a risk taker...who leads not only with inspiration but with sound philosophy...", demonstrated in the creation of a Parent Advisory Committee at Mt. Vernon Junior High School that provides a channel of communication and supports teacher creativity through mini-grants.

Dr. Bandoli will receive a \$1,000 grant as recipient of the National City Bank Distinguished Professor Award, will select a student to receive a scholarship in his name next year, and will deliver the Distinguished Professor Lecture at a later date.