



NEWS RELEASE

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Dr. Bertram receives first Sydney and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award

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Dr. Charles J. Bertram, professor of mathematics education, has been selected by the University of Southern Indiana Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee to receive the first annual Sydney and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award.

His nomination and selection -- based primarily on his efforts to create Eagle Math Mania for second and third graders in Evansville -- was announced Monday, March 24, at the opening of 1997 Honors Week programs at USI.

Dr. Bertram has been a math educator in southern Indiana for more than 30 years. His nomination for the Berger award by USI basketball Coach Bruce Pearl cited Dr. Bertram's concern over falling math scores among the nation's children and his decision to try to improve those scores at home.

Dr. Bertram began in 1995 to put together a framework for Eagle Math Mania, working with Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation representatives. The pilot program was introduced in spring semester 1996 and by fall, all of Evansville's public elementary schools had been brought into a program designed to make math fun for the youngsters. Local corporate sponsors also make it rewarding, while the USI championship coaches and athletes have added excitement as they greet students at pep rallies on campus and visit individual schools for awards ceremonies. USI math students helped create the sports-oriented workbooks for math mania and Dr. Bertram's program now is becoming a model for other schools across the nation.

Dr. Bertram was chair of the former ISUE Division of Education for 14 years, teacher certification director for nine years, and for many years has been an Indiana examiner for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Indiana Teacher Education Standards Board. He is a long-time member and president of the Indiana Library and Historical Board, being appointed in 1984 by former Governor Robert D. Orr, and long-time member and former officer of the Indiana Textbook Adoptions Advisory Committee of the State Board of Education.

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Dr. Bertram also has been USI faculty athletics representative to the NCAA since the mid-1970s and has been involved with the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) since its inception. He began a two-year term in January as president of the GLVC, which includes serving as liaison to the Council of Presidents and representing the conference at NCAA meetings and workshops. He was GLVC treasurer for many years and served on many GLVC committees. He also has been an IHSAA basketball referee for more than 20 years and has been a youth coach at his church.

Dr. Bertram received an A.B. degree from the University of Evansville, M.S. from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and Ph.D. from Indiana University. A Gibson County native, he taught at Haubstadt, Elberfeld, and Evansville North high schools and at SIU prior to joining the USI faculty in 1969. He and his wife Mary Alice have two adult sons.

The \$500 Community Service Award was established in the USI Foundation by Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Berger in memory of his parents, the late Sydney and Sadelle Berger. The citation at the presentation stated:

"Sydney and Sadelle Berger were lifelong partners in improving the lot of those less fortunate. They believed in the freedoms extended by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and passionately fought to assure that they were extended to everyone, regardless of social circumstances. As community volunteers, they were peerless. They worked tirelessly for civil rights and humanitarian issues. And they were self-effacing in the community work. Love of others and a real care for social welfare in our community led them into one cause after another -- Sydney using his brilliant legal mind to advocate and promote social and human equality and Sadelle using her extraordinary creativity and high energy to help those who could not help themselves. Though they won numerous accolades from community, church, and profession, they sought nothing but the personal satisfaction of knowing that this community might be a better place as a result of their efforts. Thus, it is fitting that the first award to recognize community service by a faculty member be named and presented in their honor."