



NEWS RELEASE

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BIOCHEMISTRY EDUCATOR TO SPEAK AT USI

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An Evansville native who is professor emeritus in biochemistry and cell biology at State University of New York (SUNY), Stony Brook, will visit the USI campus April 6-7 as a speaker in the Community of Scholars/Biology at the Interface series.

Dr. Frank C. Erk, who most recently was acting master of the Stony Brook Honors College, will present a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, in Forum I on "The Human Genome Project: Science and Ethics." The \$3-billion-plus project being carried out in laboratories around the country has stirred controversy in Congress and the biomedical community, stimulating debate on privacy issues in genetic screening and ethical use of information gained by knowing the complete map and genetic coding of the human genome -- the blueprint of genetic information that determines the development and functioning of human beings. Dr. Erk is acquainted with most of the scientists involved and has reviewed many articles on the project in *Quarterly Review of Biology*, which he has edited since 1969.

The Community of Scholars program was established in the mid-1980s to celebrate the establishment of the University of Southern Indiana as a separate state institution. The program brings distinguished scholars to the University for several days to interact extensively with students, the faculty, and the community. Besides the public lecture, Dr. Erk will discuss "Teaching Biology in the 21st Century" with area science teachers at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Forum I and will participate in faculty/student discussions at the University.

Dr. Erk is a graduate of Central High School, where he is a member of the CHS Hall of Fame, and the University of Evansville. He received a Ph.D. in genetics from Johns Hopkins University in 1952 and since has taught in New York and England, including serving as chairman of the SUNY Biology Department. His extramural research has taken him to England, Scotland, and Italy, while biological education activities have included serving as a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Biological Education* in London since 1976; assistant examiner in biology with the International Baccalaureate Programme in Geneva, Switzerland (1976-83); director in 1984 of the Advanced Placement Biology Workshop at the U.S. State Department's American School in Taipei; and author (with others) in the mid-80s of the 6th edition Green Version of *Biological Science: An Ecological Approach*.

In addition to scientific endeavor, Dr. Erk taught piano for many years, directed choirs at Washington College and SUNY, was director of the Madrigal Singers at Stony Brook for eight years, and has been active (including singing bass) with the Long Island Symphonic Choral Association and the University of Sussex and Brighton Festival choruses in England. He and his wife, the former Ruth Hobgood of Evansville, live at Stony Brook.

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