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Award-winning author, journalist to present MLK program

Author and journalist **A'Lelia Bundles** will speak at the University's Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon, "Is Your Dream Alive?" at 11 a.m. Monday, January 16, in Carter Hall in the University Center.

Bundles is director of talent development for ABC News in Washington, D.C. and New York. Her critically-acclaimed biography of her great-great-grandmother, *On Her Own Ground: The Life and Times of Madam C. J. Walker*, was named a 2002 Borders Books-Hurston/Wright Legacy Award finalist; a 2001 *New York Times* Notable Book; a 2001 Washington Post Best Biography; the 2001 Letitia Woods Brown Book Prize winner by the Association of Black Women Historians for the best book on black women's history; and a 2002 Honor Book by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

The book traces Walker's transformation from an impoverished washerwoman into one of early 20th century America's wealthiest self-made businesswomen. Bundles' biography for young adults, *Madam C.J. Walker: Entrepreneur*, received an American Book Award.

Bundles was deputy bureau chief of ABC News in Washington from 1996 to 1999, after 20 years as a network television producer with ABC and NBC News. Among her journalism awards are a duPont Gold Baton and an Emmy.

She has appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," NBC's "Today," "CBS Sunday Morning," NPR's "Morning Edition" and "Fresh Air," C-Span Book TV's "Public Lives," WNET/13's "A Walk Through Harlem" and other national programs.

Her articles have been published in the *New York Times Book Review*, *O (The Oprah Magazine)*, *Parade*, *Essence*, *Fortune Small Business*, *Black Issues Book Review*, and the *Radcliffe Quarterly*.

A member of the Dean's Council at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, the Harvard Alumni Association Nominating Committee, and the advisory board of the National Women's History Museum, she is co-chair of the National Association of Black Journalists Authors Showcase.

She has served as president of the Radcliffe College Alumnae Association and is a Radcliffe College trustee, *Radcliffe Quarterly* advisory board member, member of the Board of Governors of the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, Harvard Alumni Association director, Harvard Club of Washington director, and National Women's Hall of Fame board member.

She has been a visiting faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies and the Hurston/Wright Foundation's Writers Workshop.

Bundles spearheaded the national campaign that led to the 1998 U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage stamp of Walker. She was inducted into the Black Memorabilia Hall of Fame in 1991 and received a 2002 Harvard Alumni Association Award and a 2004 Distinguished Alumnae Service Award from Radcliffe.

In 2003, she created the "100 Books, 100 Women" campaign to expand the library at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women in New York.

Bundles was born in Chicago and attended high school in Indianapolis. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and Radcliffe College and received a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She is a member of the Alpha Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard College and received an honorary doctorate from Indiana University in May 2003. She lives in Washington, D.C.

The luncheon costs \$5 for USI students without a meal plan and \$7 for faculty, staff, and the general public. There also will be an informal question and answer period with students, "Up Close and Personal with A'Lelia," at 1 p.m., location to be determined.

For more information, contact **Pamela Hopson**, director of the USI Multicultural Center, at 812/465-7188.

Connect with Southern Indiana 2006 participants chosen

Twenty-four people from seven counties have been chosen to participate in Historic Southern Indiana's Connect with Southern Indiana (CSI) pilot program. Funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment and sponsored by USI, the program is intended to boost Indiana's retention of intellectual capital by helping participants learn about and strengthen their skills, options, and opportunities for involvement in regional and community projects.

"The ultimate goal of the project is the enhancement of the quality of citizenship in southwestern Indiana," said **Darrel Bigham**, director of Historic Southern Indiana and USI professor of history. "Strengthening participants' critical thinking is the chief means whereby that goal will be pursued. Developed after almost a year's discussion and review by an advisory committee of area business, civic, and professional leaders, CSI offers a distinctive collaborative effort between the University and the people of the region."

The 2006 participants are **Lana Abel**, customer service specialist, Mead Johnson; **Jay Baker**, vice president/sales leader, German American Bank, Jasper; **Jane Bender**, coordinator, public programs, Princeton Public Library; **Barbie Brown**, executive director, Spencer County Chamber of Commerce; **Linda Carney**, coordinator, Aurora, Inc. (formerly Evansville Coalition for the Homeless); **Sally Denning**, administrative director, Posey County Chamber of Commerce; **Chuck Divine**, human resources manager, Inwood Office Furniture Company, Jasper; **Jacqueline Duncan**, special projects coordinator, Lincolnland Economic Development Corporation; Sue Habig, human resources manager, Flexcel, a unit of Kimball International, Jasper; **Janet Johnson**, career coordinator, Career Services, USI; **James Kamla**, assistant professor of physical education, USI; **Marc McNeese**, executive director, Knox County Chamber of Commerce, **Dorett May**, volunteer, Mount Vernon; **Christopher Middleton**, agency manager, SCB Insurance Solutions, Rockport; **Doris Mohr**, assistant professor of mathe-

matics, USI; **Stacy Moore-Nolan**, assistant director, Southern Hills Counseling Center, Jasper; **Todd Mosby**, executive director, Gibson County Chamber of Commerce; **Lisa Nelson**, economic development coordinator, Vectren; **Marie Opatrny**, assistant professor of social work, USI; **Lacey Rains**, executive director, Vincennes/Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau; **James Schmidt**, vice president for Capital Markets, Old National Bank; **Cynthia Smith**, assistant professor of psychology, USI; **Julie Walker**, self-employed consultant, Evansville; and **Dana Willett**, media productions manager, Instructional Technology, USI.

They will participate in nine meetings, as well as some collaborative research between meetings, from January to September, 2006. Topics include an overview of program goals and structure; thinking critically and creatively; community overview; interpersonal influence; leading organizational development; project management in community organizations; skills practice and application planning; public skills; and program outcomes.

Each meeting will be coordinated by an instructional team comprised of facilitators, USI and other faculty, and community leaders. Locations of the programs will be spread throughout the region. The first and last meetings will be held in Evansville.

For more information, contact Bigham at 812/ 465-7014.

Perry Township chief named top firefighter

Jerry Bulger, maintenance supervisor in the Physical Plant and fire chief of the Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department, was named the 2005 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of East Evansville.

Bulger has been a volunteer firefighter for 26 years. He became chief of the Perry Township Volunteer Firefighters in 2003. He has responded to 75 percent of the department's 872 runs this year, including three days spent on rescue efforts at the Eastbrook Mobile Home Park after the November 6 tornado.

He has established an annual fire prevention course for USI resident assistants and also teaches CPR and first-aid courses.

Bulger was secretly nominated by his peers and didn't know his name was on the ballot when he was announced as the winner on October 20.

Most volunteer firefighters don't get the credit they deserve, **Shirley Naylor**, Kiwanis Club secretary, told the *Evansville Courier & Press*. "If it wasn't for them, people out of the city wouldn't have any protection," she said. "It's just amazing what the volunteer firefighters do without pay and without much recognition."

Club is not just for geology students

Geology students and Geology Club members certainly get around.

In addition to several parks and sites in Indiana, geology students have made recent trips to the St. Francois Mountains in Missouri, Badlands National Park in South Dakota, and Rough River State Resort Park in Kentucky.

State sites included Indiana Dunes National Seashore, Falls of the Ohio State Park, and Cagles Mill Lake Lieber State Recreation Area.

Geology Club president **Daniel Kotter**, a senior geology major from Vincennes, Indiana, said students don't have to be geology majors to be members of the club.

"If you love the earth and love the outdoors, you can have camaraderie with other geology club members, get acquainted

with geology, have fun, and go camping," he said.

Other officers are **Laura Bordelon**, vice president; **Kaylon McIntosh**, activities coordinator; **Genna Billingsley**, secretary; and **Liz Curtis-Robinson**, treasurer.

The Geology Club currently has about 25 members. Dues of \$10 per academic year are used to buy pizza for monthly meetings and pay for camping fees.

Kotter said the club plans a camping trip to the Appalachian Mountains immediately after 2006 commencement.

Anyone interested in the Geology Club should contact Kotter at Dkotter27@yahoo.com.

The Geology Club was founded by Joe DiPietro, associate professor of geology, and Norman King, professor of geology, in the early 1990s. It was originally called the Chthonic Society. DiPietro and King remain the club's faculty advisors.

Skoglund to lead Spain trip in summer 2006

Margaret Skoglund, associate professor of art, is again organizing a two-week trip to Spain, May 24-June 7, during Summer I in 2006.

Skoglund had led alternating summer trips to Italy and Spain for the past eight years. Participants will visit Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Toledo, Cordoba, Granada, Segovia, Ronda, Cadiz, and Jerez de la Frontera.

To view the full itinerary go to www.usi.edu/libarts/travel/Spain2006.pdf.

The tour is open to students, staff, faculty, and the community. The tour may be taken for 3 hours of art history credit as Art 359. Lectures will be given on campus before the trip for anyone taking the tour for academic credit.

The total fee is dependent on the number of participants, and food and fuel costs, but will be in the range of \$2,725 to \$3,025.

A \$300 deposit will be due in January.

For more information, contact Skoglund at 812/465-1023.

Thompson named Player of the Month

USI men's basketball senior forward Chris Thompson of Starke, Florida, was named the Player of the Month for November in the December issue of the Division II Bulletin. He is the third USI men's basketball player to earn this honor. Past honorees were Randy Holbrook, January 2005, and Wayne Houston, December 1997.

Thompson led the Screaming Eagles to a 6-0 record in the month of November. The Division II Bulletin preseason All-American averaged 22.5 points and 10.7 rebounds per game, while shooting 75.7 from the field (56-74) and 66.7 percent from three-point field goal range (4-6).

He was named the Disney Division II Tip-Off Classic Most Outstanding Player after leading the Eagles to tournament championship by posting three straight double-doubles and averaging 22.7 points and 12.3 rebounds per game. Thompson also set a tournament record by shooting 75 percent from the field (27-36).

In the two exhibition games, Thompson posted 19.0 points and 9.5 rebounds per game against the University of Tennessee and the University of Louisville.

Epi-Hab scholarships available

The application deadline for the Epi-Hab Scholarship Program is Friday, January 20, 2006. An essay and two letters of recommendation are required.

A \$1,000 award is given to one student from each of the five colleges at USI, and a sixth one is available to either a student in the University Division or from the Bachelor of General Studies program.

A student does not have to have a disability to qualify, but is asked to write an essay about his or her perceptions of disability in America.

More information is available online at www.usi.edu/extserv/epihab/index.asp.

Contact Lee Ann Shafer, academic programs manager of Extended Services, at 812/464-1879.

Master of Health Administration graduates hooded

The Master of Health Administration Program held its Third Residency Symposium and Hooding Ceremony on December 2 in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center. The 16 members of the class started working toward their master's degrees in August 2003, and they completed the program with a capstone administrative residency course that places them in a health care organization with a senior executive mentor.

During the Residency Symposium, each member of the class gave a 10-minute synopsis of their residency experience. Over 100 people attended the ceremony, including current MHA students, business mentors, members of the MHA Advisory Council, faculty and staff from the College of Nursing and Health Professions, and class members' family and friends.

The Hooding Ceremony, immediately following the Symposium, was hosted by **Kevin Valadares**, director of the MHA program.

"The pageantry of commencement has its roots in medieval times, dating to the early tradition of Europe's first universities," Valadares said. "Origins of academic attire are obscured in history, but it is likely that the scholar's distinctive dress was based on modifications of ecclesiastical costumes of the times.

"The colorful hood is reserved for those who attain the highest academic degree beyond the bachelor's degree. It is a special part of academic regalia and denotes scholarly and professional achievements."

The graduates received their ceremonial hoods from **Linda L.M. Bennett**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; **Peggy Harrel**, director of Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research; and **Nadine Coudret**, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

A reception followed the ceremony, and each student was given a memento of his or her time as a student at USI. The graduates will receive their diplomas at the 2006 commencement ceremony in May.

Members of the graduating MHA class are: **Elizabeth J. Adams**, **Summer D. Aulich**, **Sean M. Bagbey**, **Shelia A. Bruce**, **Nyla J. Chamberlain**, **Mary Josephine Fenol**, **Bradley D. Futrell**, **Sarah B. Griesemer**, **Cathy C. Head**, **Allison K. Ingler**, **Melanie M. Koressel**, **Roli Lall**, **Jami M. Schultz**, **Elissa K. Travers**, **Markita K. Weaver**, and **Cindy L. Whittinghill**.

Names in the news

In sympathy

The University community extends sympathy to the family of **Henry W. Ruston**, who died December 1. In recognition of their generous support to the University, Ruston and his wife Helen received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from USI in

1995. Ruston provided the funding for the outdoor terrace in the Liberal Arts Center in honor of Helen Ruston, who died in 1997. Ruston was a life member of the USI Foundation and in 2002 received the Special Recognition Award from the USI Alumni Association. In 2003, the University dedicated a new student residence building, the Henry W. and Betty Jane Ruston Student Residence Hall, in honor of Ruston and his second wife, who died in 2002.

"Henry Ruston was a great friend, whether to an individual, or as was the case for USI, to an entire university," Hoops said. "He felt that his giving was not charity but rather an investment in the future; in the future of the students he funded, in the future of the University, and in the future of the community and the state. We were all privileged to know this great friend."

Services were held December 6 at Ziemer Funeral Home East Chapel. President H. Ray Hoops co-officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the USI Foundation, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712.

Accomplishments

Two art department members are currently displaying their work in "The Mighty Midwest Biennial 2005." **Brandon Gardner**, instructor in art, is showing his silkscreen print on gessoed paper, "Shake Hand" and **Carolyn Roth**, instructor in art, is showing her acrylic painting, "The Gift." The juried exhibition is being held in the New Visions Gallery, Inc. in Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin, December 4- January 14.

FYI

Women's Choir Holiday Concert

The USI Women's Choir Holiday Concert will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 11, at Old North United Methodist Church, 4201 Stringtown Road. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Daniel Craig, director of music, at 812/464-1736.

Register gifts-in-kind ASAP

If your department has received a gift-in-kind in 2005, notify the USI Foundation office to obtain a form so the donor's gift can be properly recognized and claimed as a 2005 tax deduction. Gifts-in-kind, or charitable gifts of non-cash property, include such things as library books, oriental rugs, paintings, and other fine art gifts, computer software, laboratory equipment, and real estate. Gifts of appreciated stock also are considered Gifts-in-kind. There are substantial tax benefits to be derived from such gifts. Call the Foundation office at 812/464-1918 for a gift-in-kind form.

Relaxation sessions offered Finals Week

Academic Skills is offering "Mood Soothers and Spirit Enhancers" during finals week. The 30-minute relaxation sessions, offered from 11:30 a.m. to noon December 12 to December 15, are designed for students, but stressed-out faculty, administrators, and staff are welcome. Participants will be nourished with music, meditation, and relaxation with this lighten-up and learn program during finals. Bring a towel or blanket. The calming sessions are spirit soothers and mind enhancers, and they will be held in ED 1102 in the Education Center. Attend one or all of the sessions.

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