



NEWS RELEASE

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National Earth Science Week to be observed by USI

The first annual National Earth Science Week will be observed from Sunday to Saturday, October 11, to October 17. As a federal resolution entered into the Congressional Record by Senator Ron Wyden (OR), and formally proclaimed by at least 14 governors of the United States, National Earth Science Week is designed to raise public awareness and appreciation of the important role of geology and other earth sciences in human society. Faculty and students in University of Southern Indiana's Department of Geology have planned a number of activities to celebrate the week.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, Mr. Jim Durbin, assistant professor of geology, will host a group of local Cub Scouts at 2 p.m. The scouts will meet Durbin at Eicher Barn and proceed on a nature hike through USI woods while Durbin introduces them to aspects of geology and earth science.

Dr. Joseph DiPietro, associate professor of science, will schedule a presentation on the geology, landscapes, and peoples of the Himaylayan region. The date, time, and place will be announced.

In addition, geology students Mr. Jeremy Brack, Ms. Jennifer Quinn, Ms. Misty Voelker, and Mr. Ron Counts, and communications student Ms. Jennifer Tamillo, will make three visits to local high school and elementary classrooms to share their enthusiasm for the geosciences. Geology students also plan to publicize Earth Science Week in the University Center mall throughout the week, and field trips are being planned.

USI students will visit classrooms according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, October 14	8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Sharon Elementary	sixth grade
Wednesday, October 14	noon - 2:30 p.m.	North High School	senior science class
Thursday, October 15	8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m	Central High School	senior science class

Dr. Paul K. Doss, chair of the Department of Geology and Physics, said, "We invite the community to observe National Earth Science Week by attending one of the planned activities. From building materials to fuel, from jewelery to clean water, from earthquake awareness to flood preparedness, earth science awareness is in everyone's best interest." Call Dr. Doss at 812/465-7132 for more information.