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University Q & A: Herman E. Thomas Jr.

Herman E. Thomas Jr. is the new program advisor for the Multicultural Center. He and his wife, Donna, have two children: Jessica and Everett. Thomas is president and owner of Everseal, Inc., and has a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Louisville.

What was your first job?

Delivering handbills door to door for the neighborhood grocery. I was in the fourth grade and earned \$1 a week.

What is your most marked characteristic?

My friendly personality.

What is your greatest strength?

Wisdom.

What is your principal defect?

I'm too trusting.

What is your dream of happiness?

To grow old with my wife, Donna, and truly enjoy life's simple pleasures.

What to your mind would be the greatest of misfortunes?

To go through life never using God-given gifts.

Where would you like to live?

I love Evansville.

Where would you like to visit?

Alaska, so I can view the scenery.

Who is your favorite author?

Walter Wangerin.

Who is your favorite composer or musician?

Quincy Jones.

Who is your favorite artist?

Norman Rockwell.

Who is your favorite character in history?

Martin Luther King Jr.

Who is your favorite fictional character?

George Bailey, "It's a Wonderful Life."

Who are your heroes in real life?

My father, the greatest human being on the planet; my wife Donna, who loves me; my sister, who is studying to be a minister as a second career; and my brother, who is my best friend.

What was the last book that you read and loved?

"As For Me and My House" by Walter Wangerin.

What was the last song that you heard and loved?

"The Prayer," sung by Devonna and Shane Lawrence, local talent.

What is your hobby and what about it gives you joy?

Singing allows me creative expression and emotions flowing from me to others.

If you could live in a different time period, what time period would it be and why?

Now. This is the greatest time period in history. I have seen televisions go from black and white to color; I saw a man walk on the moon; there have been the inventions of microwaves, computers, and fast cars; and Americans are more tolerant, appreciative, and respectful of one another than at any other time in our history.

If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you'd buy?

I'd buy an annuity so my wife can retire.

Who would you invite to lunch if you could invite a famous person, living or dead, and why?

My mother, who died 10 years ago. In the last 10 years, I have conquered many situations in life by using the wisdom and strength I received from her while she was alive. I would love to say thanks!

Have you written your epitaph? If so, what does it say?

No, but it would say that Herman loved life, he loved his family, he lived life to its fullest without reservation, he helped as many people on earth as he could, and he did it with a smile. And now he is so very, very, very, very happy, because he is with his best friend in the whole universe: God!

If you'd like to be featured in University Notes Q & A, or would like to recommend a faculty or staff member, contact the editor. at wkbredhold@usi.edu.

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Thirty Years of Service

Editor's note: This is the last story in a University Notes series featuring support staff members who are celebrating 30-year service anniversaries in 2005. Support staff will be honored for years of service at an Employee Recognition Banquet from noon to 1 p.m. August 16 in Carter Hall in the University Center.

Steve Selby, motor vehicle operations supervisor with the Physical Plant, was hired by the University in December 1974 but officially began work in January 1975, after the winter recess. Selby manages the University's fleet of vehicles. He buys and sells vehicles, maintains them, and "keeps them clean and ready to go out on the road."

USI has a fleet of 54 vehicles. Thirty of those are "over the road vehicles" which are treated like rental property. "Employees rent vehicles to go to conferences and such," he said. Other vehicles in the fleet are used by the grounds crew, custodians, telephone services, and security.

The Physical Plant is the only entity on campus allowed to purchase vehicles, providing them for other departments.

Selby was grounds supervisor until 1995. Until that year, the grounds supervisor position included his current duties in addition to grounds maintenance.

"I handled mowing and landscaping and that sort of thing. We were all working supervisors back then so I got right in the middle of it," he said.

Selby is proud that USI has maintained its beautiful campus through its accelerated growth. "Most campuses don't evolve that way," he said. "They turn into urban jungles of asphalt, buildings, and parking lots. I think we've done an excellent job of providing a beautiful environment that makes people feel comfortable."

In addition to maintaining vehicles, Selby promotes and oversees recycling on campus and in student housing. "If we have a group that wants to recycle, I try to make it happen for them," he said.

"I actually recycle vehicles, too. When we're done with them, we take them to the auction and sell them."

Selby was born in Rensselaer, Indiana. He went to high school in Warsaw, Indiana, served in the United States Navy for six years, and attended college at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, where he met his wife, Karen, an Evansville native. They have a daughter, Marnie Johnson.

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Coslett family gift to fund Joe Coslett Family Sales Management Development Laboratory

A sophisticated new sales management development laboratory where growing numbers of students majoring in marketing can perfect their personal selling techniques and sales presentation skills is planned for the Orr Center.

The new facility will be named to honor the Joe Coslett family, whose generous gift of \$25,000 will equip a laboratory with state-of-the-art technology and equipment for video recording and editing and the creation of high-quality advertising and sales promotional materials. Plans call for an existing classroom on the second floor of the Orr Center to be reconfigured to provide appropriate space for the lab.

President H. Ray Hoops said, "The generosity of our good friends, the Joe Coslett family, will benefit many future USI students as they work toward degrees and careers in marketing."

Joe Coslett is a retired businessman whose innovative career in sales spanned more than 40 years. He came to Evansville in 1964 as a sales manager for Bartel's furniture and the following year became associated with L.B. Jones, a furniture manufacturing company. Coslett headed the company from 1967 until 1971, changing it during that time from a manufacturing company to a retail operation. He bought the business in 1972 and developed it into a furniture gallery with brand names such as Broyhill, Pennsylvania, Tell City, and Kinkade. In 1978, he was the first to introduce "free financing" in Evansville. Upon his retirement, his son Patrick assumed leadership of the company.

Coslett earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, majoring in merchandising at the University of Cincinnati. He is a former member of the Chamber of Commerce board and the USI Foundation board. He was a member of the Evansville Regional Airport board from 1980 until 1989, during which time the present terminal opened.

R. Eugene Klippel, dean of the College of Business, said the Joe Coslett Family Sales Management Development Laboratory will provide an outstanding facility where students can develop expertise in sales in situations that simulate sales jobs in the workplace. The video capabilities will provide students a heightened awareness of their sales skills and developmental needs and will allow instant feedback as they learn sales management.

Sang Choe, chair of the Department of Marketing and Business Communication, said that **Carl Saxby**, associate professor of marketing, and **Beth Mott-Stenerson**, who will join the faculty in August as assistant professor of marketing, put together the proposal for the lab. Mott-Stenerson, an instructor at New Mexico State University, recently completed requirements for a doctorate in marketing and moved to the Evansville area this summer. Both Saxby and Mott-Stenerson specialize in personal selling and sales management. They will provide consultation on the final design of the space and selection of equipment in order to develop a laboratory that aligns with the goals of the sales curriculum.

The proposal for the Joe Coslett Family Sales Management Development Laboratory includes the following:

- A group presentation studio with multimedia equipment, including an LCD projector, speakers, video capability, and boom microphones
- Two personal selling studios for recording one-on-one personal selling presentations
- A control room for digital recording, video production, and editing
- Graphics production station for production of high-quality color advertising and sales and promotion materials
- Storage room
- Observation area featuring one-way viewing of the studios from the control room

Choe said that other departments of the University and the community will benefit from the sales management development lab. For instance, students interested in interpersonal communication in the College of Liberal Arts often choose careers in sales and may receive instruction and practice in the lab. The College of Business plans to share the lab with area companies for training and development of their sales forces on an as available basis. Also, the video production capability will allow the college to videotape presentations made by visiting sales professionals.

Development of the new laboratory will allow the College of Business to provide better resources to increasing numbers of USI

students who plan careers in marketing.

Choe said, "This lab is a valuable resource to help us educate our students to be ready to go into the workforce after graduation. Because more of our students are going into sales, this is an important facility."

From fall 2000 to fall 2004, the number of students majoring in marketing has more than doubled. In fall 2000, 103 students declared marketing as a major. By fall 2004, the number of marketing majors had grown to 223 students. In addition, 83 USI students majoring in various disciplines throughout the University have chosen marketing as a minor. The marketing course in professional selling and sales management enrolled 53 students in 2000-01. In 2004-05, 88 students completed the course.



Help needed for Bonding Through Books

A few University employees are still needed to participate in the Bonding Through Books program, in which Living Learning Community students, faculty, and staff gather to discuss a book during Welcome Week, August 25-31.

"We are a few members short of having a full complement of committee members who will read the book and discuss it with students at the beginning of the year," said Bonding Through Books committee chair **Edie Hardcastle**, assistant professor of biology. "Members are asked to read the book and come to the brunch prepared to have the discussion."

This year's book is *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeannette Walls, an entertainment reporter most often seen on MSNBC. The book tells of the poor, nomadic childhood she shared with three siblings, suffering the whims of artistic, intelligent and utterly selfish parents. Walls eventually moved to New York, attended Barnard and began rising up the journalistic ranks. The title of her book is taken from her father's promise that he would build them a magical, perfect glass castle in which to live.

"I chose *The Glass Castle* because it's the story of a woman who really overcame great odds to not only survive, but to put herself through college," Hardcastle said. "I thought it would inspire students and give them a sense of perspective of what other people have overcome to go to school and succeed. She's become a great success in life despite all she had to go through. She uses humor very effectively, so the story doesn't drag you down, despite her difficult challenges."

Students received a copy of the book in July and are expected to read it before they come to campus for Welcome Week. The Bonding Through Books Brunch will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, August 27, in the University Center Conference Center.

To help out with Bonding Through Books, call Hardcastle at 812/461-5372.



Advancement "goes live"

The Banner project to convert the University's administrative software is progressing as planned, with the Advancement module up and running as of July 20, according to **Steve Bridges**, project coordinator.

"It went very well. They were on schedule, in budget, and had a very successful implementation. They had a strong team in getting Banner implemented. It's by no means an easy task."

Bridges said the student implementation will begin next and Admission will "go live" over Thanksgiving weekend. Financial Aid is expected to be ready in February 2006, and the student

module should "go live" in spring 2006.

Advancement employees should report technical problems to the Computer Center help desk at 812/465-1080 or contact **Debbie Laster**, manager of alumni/development information systems, at 812/465-1641.



Softball coaches lead team to championship in Holland

The USI softball coaching staff returned from Holland this month with a title in hand. Head Coach **Sue Kunkle** and Assistant Coach **Annie Medico** directed a team from USA Athletes International to a perfect 8-0 record and in Holland's Robur '58 Softball Tournament July 6-10.

USA Athletes International is a non-profit organization dedicated to giving amateur athletes and coaches the opportunity to participate in International Olympic-style sporting events throughout the world, while also allowing them to broaden their educational and cultural knowledge of the world.

Kunkle and Medico guided a team that included former USI standout **Sunny Oelling** of Valparaiso, Indiana. Oelling had an outstanding tournament, batting .350 with a triple, three RBIs, and seven runs scored.

"I was a little eager and anxious about coaching kids that I had never met," Kunkle said. "I met them for the first time at JFK airport."

It did not take long for Kunkle and Medico to get adjusted to the new athletes. "The athletes were very receptive to our coaching staff," Kunkle said. "They went there to win."

Despite having just one practice, Kunkle and Medico had little trouble getting the players to look and act like a team that had been together for a long time.

"We had to organize quickly to see what type of talent that we had, but when we put a line-up together, the girls took the field and looked like they had been playing together for years," Kunkle said.

The opening day featured pool play and an opening ceremony in which all the teams lined up throughout the infield for each squad's National Anthem. USA Athletes International started pool play off with a 2-0 victory over another squad from the U.S., Coast-to-Coast. The tournament featured two teams from the Netherlands, including the host Robbers Robur '58, as well as four teams from the U.S.

Kunkle's squad was 5-0 in pool play, outscoring the opposition 15-2. After two tournament wins, USA Athletes International defeated the Birds, another team from the Netherlands, 8-1 in the gold medal game to take home the championship.

"The girls got the full experience of being in another country," Kunkle said. "They had the opportunity to see the sights while competing at a high level. The main thing we wanted to do was make sure everyone got the chance to be a contributor in every game, and they did."

Kunkle and Medico directed USI's softball team to a 30-20 record in 2005 and a third-place finish in the GLVC Tournament. Kunkle is entering her fifth year at the helm of the Screaming Eagles, while Medico is entering her third season at USI.



Luigs wins City Golf Tournament

Senior physical education major **Alisha Luigs** won the 2005 Evansville Courier & Press Women's City Golf Tournament on

July 12.

Luigs, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, earned All-GLVC honors after winning the conference individual title in fall 2004. She was second at the SIUE Tournament and third at the Bellarmine Invitational, in addition to winning the GLVC Championship, and placed 21st at the NCAA II East Regional.

She transferred to USI from John A. Logan College, where she was an honorable mention All-American and placed 16th in the 2003 NJCAA National Tournament.

Luigs lettered in golf and basketball at Mater Dei High School in Evansville, Indiana. She was the SIAC and sectional medalist in 2000, and helped MDHS to qualify for the state tournament in 1997 and 1998.

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Good turnout expected for SWIRDC Wabash Heritage Paddle Fest

Participants in the Wabash Heritage Paddle Fest, to be held Saturday, August 6, will paddle their canoes 9.7 miles along the Wabash River from Grayville, Illinois, to New Harmony, Indiana. Canoe floats will begin at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m., in Grayville.

"We're expecting a lot of people, and there are many activities going on in New Harmony and Grayville that day, too," said **Nancy Burns**, executive director of the Southwestern Indiana Regional Development Commission (SWIRDC).

Burns was among a group that scouted the route in May. Made up of experienced and novice paddlers, the group took three hours to get from Grayville to New Harmony.

The trip was required in order for the event to be sanctioned by the American Canoe Association. "We took the map of the river and checked to make sure the sand bars are where they're supposed to be; checked the access roads; and decided where the three rescue dive teams will be," Burns said.

"The water was high, because we'd just had the spring rains, and on that particular day the wind was blowing toward us instead of behind us. It was tough paddling," Burns said. "But it's a beautiful trip. Everything is pristine. It's like it had to have been when the first settlers came."

Activities highlighting the history of the Wabash will be held in Grayville and New Harmony.

"People do not think about the historic significance of the rivers surrounding us," Burns said. "The Wabash River actually drains two-thirds of Indiana's 92 counties and flows over 475 miles to its confluence with the Ohio at the edge of Posey County."

There will be demonstrations of historic activities such as bread baking, butter churning, weaving, rope making, and more, on the grounds of the Atheneum in New Harmony. There also will be music from The Red Bank Reunion Band and children's games. Canoe Evansville will lead canoeing classes including Yoga for Boaters, Canoeing with Kids, and a Quickstart Class for beginning paddlers.

Tom Straw, a retired Western Michigan University geology professor, will lead a historic tour. "Tom is the consummate New Harmony historian. He will lead groups on a trail near the riverbanks, show points of interest, and talk about the early settlers," Burns said.

"It's good quality fun."

Burns is encouraging those interested to register as soon as possible by going to www.swirdc.org. Scroll down and click on "Register online." Call Burns at 812/465-7067 for more information.

Registration begins in both New Harmony and Grayville at 8 a.m. and is \$20 for adults and \$12 for children under 12. Two buses will provide transportation between New Harmony and Grayville every half hour.

Canoe rental will be available for \$20 or participants may bring their own canoes. Personal canoes will be transported back to Grayville from New Harmony.

The event is sponsored by the Gibson County Visitors and Tourism Bureau, CLIF Bar, Fire & Rain marketing company, and Warrick County, Indiana, and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

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Grammy-award winner Sam Bush, Live at Lincoln

Grammy- and International Bluegrass Music Association award-winning mandolinist **Sam Bush** will show off his innovative picking at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 29, on the Live at Lincoln Amphitheatre stage. Perhaps best known as the founder and driving force behind the legendary New Grass Revival, Bush has been called "a Bill Monroe for our times."

Bush was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in 1952. A child prodigy on the fiddle, Bush placed first at the national fiddle contest in Weister, Idaho, three times in a row. He bought his first mandolin at the age of 11 and made his debut appearance on the Grand Ole Opry in 1969.

He founded New Grass Revival, which also included Evansville native John Cowan and banjoist Bela Fleck, in 1972. New Grass Revival challenged the preconceived notions of traditional bluegrass instruments by fusing a wide range of styles, including gospel, rock, pop, reggae, jazz, country, and bluegrass. Bush recorded his first solo album, "Late as Usual," in 1985. New Grass Revival disbanded in 1990, and Bush went on to lead Emmylou Harris' Grammy-winning Nash Ramblers for five years.

In 1995, Bush worked as a sideman with Lyle Lovett and Fleck's Flecktones. He formed his own band, featuring Cowan and ex-Nash Ramblers, shortly before recording his second solo album, "Glamour & Grits," in 1996. He released his next album, "Howlin' at the Moon," in 1998, with many of the same players and special guests, including Harris, Fleck and J.D. Crowe. Since then, he's released a live album, "Ice Caps: Peaks of Telluride" (2000) and "Hold On, We're Strummin'" (2003) with fellow master mandolinist David Grisman. His most recent release is "King of My World" (2004).

Tickets are \$20. For tickets, call the Lincoln Amphitheatre box office at 800/264-4ABE (4223) or go to www.lincoln-amphitheatre.com.

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Names in the news

Welcome

Rachael Monconduit has accepted a position as administrative assistant in the Multicultural Center. She formerly was an optician at Lens Crafters. She is a USI graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in e-business and computer information systems.

Robert Scott Wylie has accepted a position as manager of development and public relations for Historic New Harmony. He formerly was associate dean of external affairs and John FitzRandolph director of clinics at Whittier College School of Law, where he also served as acting director of the Center for Children's Rights and clinic and externship program director. He

also was an adjunct professor at California State University at Fullerton; served as a member of the board of advisors and adjunct professor of law at Chapman University School of Law; and was adjunct professor of law and served on the career services advisory board at Western State University College of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of California, Orange County Bar Association, and American Bar Association. He was recipient of the Orange County Human Relations Commission 2003 Human Relations Award; the State Bar of California President's Pro Bono Service Award at the 2002 State Bar Annual Meeting, at which he also received a distinguished service citation from the California State Assembly; the 1999 Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League of Orange County and Long Beach; and the 1999 Attorney of the Year award from Orange County Women Lawyers. He has a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Illinois at Champagne/Urbana.

In Sympathy

The University community extends sympathy to **Charlene Tripp**, assistant professor of radiologic technology, whose husband, **John H. Tripp**, died July 18. Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads Christian Church, 10800 Lincoln Avenue, Newburgh, Indiana, 47630.

Accomplishments

Nicole Reid, assistant professor of English/creative writing, has had a new poem, "Under a Moon" accepted for publication in *Distillery: Artistic Spirits of the South*.

In the community

Wendy Knipe Bredhold, writer in News and Information Services, will portray Amy Randall in Actors' Playhouse's production of the Stephen Belber drama "Tape" at 8 p.m. August 19-20 and 26-27 in Room 314 at the Riverhouse Hotel, 20 Walnut Street in downtown Evansville. The play also features **Leo Kempf**, a 2005 USI graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre arts, and John Kozloski. Tickets are \$10 and seating is limited. Contact Bredhold at 812/461-5259 for more information.

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FYI

Raised walkway under construction

The construction work that has closed a section of University Boulevard in front of the Orr Center will create a raised crosswalk to slow traffic on the roadway, according to **Stephen Helfrich**, director of the Physical Plant. The crosswalk will serve as a wide speed bump and make pedestrians more visible. Work should be complete by the end of the first week in August.

USI employee training

Extended Services is offering two classes this summer for employees who would like to improve their business writing skills and note-taking abilities.

Taking Meeting Minutes will be led by **Lori Saxby**, study skills specialist in Academic Skills. The workshop is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, July 29.

Better Written Communication will cover aspects of business writing such as letters, memos, and e-mail. Structure, style, and content organization will be covered, as will e-mail style and etiq-

quette. There will be a short assignment to complete between the two workshop sessions, which will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 3, and Friday, August 5. The workshops will be led by Extended Services' **Charmaine McDowell** and **Rebecca Deeg**.

The courses were developed primarily for administrative assistants/associates, but any interested USI employee is welcome to enroll. Registration information is available at www.usi.edu/extserv/training/schedule.htm.

"The Odd Couple" opens at The New Harmony Theatre July 29

Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," opens at The New Harmony Theatre Friday, July 29 and runs through August 14 at The New Harmony Theatre, Murphy Auditorium, 419 Tavern Street, in New Harmony, Indiana.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 2 p.m. Sundays. There will be an additional matinee at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 13. USI employees are eligible to purchase tickets at the group rate, \$18.

For tickets, call 812/682-3115 or 877/464-0029.

Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Scholarship Golf Scramble

The Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter will have its ninth annual Scholarship Golf Scramble at The Links Golf Club in New Palestine, Indiana, on Friday, August 19.

Check-in is at 11:30 a.m. and tee time is at 12:30 p.m. The entry fee is \$75 per individual or \$290 per foursome. The fee includes green fee, cart, and dinner. Admission to the awards dinner only, which will begin at 5:30 p.m., is \$10.

There will be prizes for women's, men's, and mixed foursomes, and a gift for every player. There also will be closest to pin, longest drive, and putt contests. The entry deadline is August 1.

The Links Golf Club is located at 11425 N. Shelby 700 West in New Palestine. For more information, call Alumni and Volunteer Services at 812/464-1924 or email alumni@usi.edu.

Tenth annual Alumni Fun Golf Scramble

The 10th annual Alumni Fun Golf Scramble will be held at Helfrich Hills Golf Club on Friday, September 16.

Check-in is at 10:30 a.m. and there will be a "shotgun" start at 11:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$65 per individual or \$250 per foursome. The fee includes green fee, cart, and a sandwich lunch.

There will be prizes for women's, men's, and mixed foursomes, and a gift for every player. There also will be several contests including Hole-in-One prizes. The entry deadline is August 30.

Helfrich Hills is located at 1550 Mesker Park Drive in Evansville. For more information, call Alumni and Volunteer Services at 812/464-1924 or email alumni@usi.edu.

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