



University of Southern Indiana

# University Notes

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## **Honorary degrees to be awarded to local residents; largest class will graduate**

A retired bank executive and two retired Evansville educators will be recognized during the University of Southern Indiana 2006 Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 6, 2006.

The USI Board of Trustees at the board meeting on March 2, 2006 approved honorary degrees for **Wayne F. Henning**, **Mattie S. Miller**, and **William E. Miller**. Board members also approved degrees for 1,675 degree candidates, making the Class of 2006 the largest class to graduate from USI.

Henning, an advocate for expansion of public higher education, retired this spring after 42 years with Old National. He was the executive vice president and regional chief operating officer upon retirement.

This year the Indiana legislature recognized Henning's community service by passing a resolution in his honor describing him as "being deeply involved in the Evansville business and cultural community most of his adult life." He is the associate co-chair of Evansville Catholic High School Campaign and serves on the Honorary Cabinet of Hands on Discovery Children's Museum. He is past president of the Evansville Freedom Festival and has served as the associate general chairman of the United Way.

Several community organizations have recognized Henning for his impact in the community. He has received the Beacon Group Community Award, the Best of Evansville Decades of Wisdom Award, the Memorial High School Distinguished Service Award, The Multiple Sclerosis Hope Award, and the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Buffalo Trace Council Boy Scouts.

He has been active with the Evansville Association of Commercial Banks, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, and Greater Evansville Lenders Association. He is a past member of the board of directors at the Evansville Association of Retarded Citizens, Roberts Stadium Foundation, and the Evansville Airport Advisory Board. He served as financial chair at Holy Rosary Church, vice chair of the Evansville Chamber of Commerce, board member of Mesker Zoo, and chair of the Southern Indiana Financial Institutions for 1-69.

Henning is a graduate of St. Edward's University and The Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

He will receive the honorary degree Doctor of Laws from USI.

William and Mattie Miller, leaders in education and Evansville civic affairs, have earned state and national recognition for their work in education. William received the Meritorious Teachers Award from the Indiana Industrial Arts Teachers Association, the Principal of the Year Award from the Indiana Middle School Association, and in 1984 he participated in an educational study tour of nine countries with the National Education Association.

William Miller is presently serving as construction chairman and board member of the African American Museum in

Evansville, the first museum of its kind in Indiana, planned to open this year. He also is on the Board of Directors for Vanderburgh County Council on Aging.

He was the first African American elected to the Vanderburgh County Council. He was president of the Evansville Board of Public Safety and chair of the Evansville Police Merit Commission. He has been an active Liberty Baptist Church member for 60 plus years, and he volunteers for Liberty Mentoring and Tutoring Program for students.

Mattie Miller earned the Sagamore of the Wabash award from the state of Indiana for her service to youth in the state and was named a Lilly Endowment Leadership Education Fellow. For six years, she was with the National Education Association, elected by teachers to represent them in Washington, D.C.

Mattie was the community representative on the USI presidential search committee in 1994 and a former University of Southern Indiana Foundation Board member.

She has participated in educational study tours of schools in Paris, Brittany and Lyon, France; five countries in West Africa; and Saskatchewan, Canada. She is currently the president of the Vanderburgh County Retired Educators' chapter, and she is an adjunct instructor of English at Ivy Tech Community College. She is active in Liberty Baptist Church and is a volunteer with students in grades 1 through 12 through the tutoring and mentoring program there. For 20 years she served as President Reagan's appointee to the United States Selective Service Draft Appeals Board for District 43 in Evansville, where she served as chair of the board.

Both husband and wife spent their education careers in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. William is a former K-8 elementary school industrial arts teacher, assistant principal, elementary school principal, and retired principal of McGary Middle School. Mattie is a former English teacher, reading teacher clinician, high school guidance counselor, assistant middle school principal, and retired principal of Harper Elementary School.

William is a Kentucky native and graduate of University of Evansville, where he earned a baccalaureate degree and Master of Arts degree in Education. His administration certification is from Indiana University.

Mattie is from Tennessee and received her undergraduate degree from Tuskegee Institute, Master of Science degree in Education from Indiana University, and counseling and administration certification from University of Evansville and Indiana University.

They each will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from USI.

## **Board of Trustees approve tenure and promotion for faculty, librarians**

The USI Board of Trustees in the March 2, 2006 board meeting approved tenure effective August 20, 2007 for the following faculty members:

**Dr. Michael D. Dixon** and **Dr. Tamara Hunt** from College of Liberal Arts

**Dr. Gregory B. Murphy** from College of Business

**Dr. Michael L. Slavkin**, **Dr. Jeff A. Thomas**, and **Dr. Wendy G. Turner**, Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services

Promotion, effective August 21, 2006, was approved for the following faculty:

Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

**Dr. Thomas D. Bordelon**, social work

**Dr. Michael D. Dixon**, history

**Dr. Gregory B. Murphy**, management

**Dr. David E. Schultz**, engineering

**Dr. Michael L. Slavkin**, education

**Dr. Jeff A. Thomas**, education

Associate Professor to Professor

**Dr. Joseph A. DiPietro**, geology

**Dr. Sharlett K. Gillard**, computer information systems

**Dr. Tamara L. Hunt**, history

**Dr. Martha B. Sparks**, nursing

**Dr. Stephen C. Zehr**, sociology

Affiliate Librarian to Assistant Librarian

**Mr. Peter C. Whiting**, Rice Library

Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian

**Mr. Philip E. Orr**, Rice Library

## Thirty years ago, Buckminster Fuller lectured at USI

**R. Buckminster Fuller**, the great American engineer, mathematician, and architect perhaps best known for designing the geodesic dome, lectured an American Issues Forum course 30 years ago, on February 25, 1976.

According to **Darrel Bigham**, professor of history, Fuller was the most celebrated of several AIF guest lecturers in the spring of 1976. "The AIF was one of several national efforts to encourage Americans to think about the American Revolution Bicentennial, which reached its climax on July 4, 1976," he said.

"Bucky" Fuller, 80 years old at the time, lectured to an overflow audience.

**Donald Pitzer**, professor of history, said, "We had people sitting in the aisles in Forum I, so there were well over 300 people, and we had a TV hookup in Forum II for the rest of the crowd."

Fuller's subject was "Utopia or Oblivion."

"He thought that by recycling and being careful with natural resources and energy sources, we could provide for the whole population of the earth," Pitzer said. "If we did that, we could produce a type of Utopia, but if not, we would destroy ourselves."

Pitzer said Fuller began his lecture very simply, "dancing around like a little child."

"He even lay down on the lab table that was there. He got everybody involved. And as he went along, he began to explain

that the tetrahedron [the basic structural unit of the geodesic dome] is the building block of the universe, so he was showing that the way he had put the universe together in his mind and in his structures was really the fundamental way that the universe builds structures.

"Then he began writing equations on the blackboard, and he spoke for three hours. He was finally dancing on the ceiling - nobody could follow him. He was up there in the sky intellectually and scientifically, and we were in awe.

"He electrified the room."

Having an intellectual giant on campus, Pitzer said, "was uplifting, positive, intellectually charged - I just thought that he had given us a great boost. We were such a young institution, just barely 10 years old. Fuller said he felt that the places he was invited were the intellectually alive places on the planet."

Pitzer contacted Fuller through one of his students. "I had a student whose parents somehow had a contact with him, and he spoke for \$500 dollars, when his fee was \$10,000. We were very lucky to get him to come here," Pitzer said.

When Fuller died in 1983, Pitzer wrote a "little verse" that was published in an Evansville newspaper. He said he was inspired by Fuller's love of inventing new words.

*Weren't we lucky*

*To have Bucky*

*That intellectual extravaganza*

*Showing us a whole new world of Universe, Omniverse, Buckyverse.*

## Reservations required for graduates

Students who wish to take part in Commencement exercises will be required to make a reservation in order to participate this year.

Due to fire marshal regulations, the Office of Special Events must now have an accurate count of the number of graduate participants expected at Roberts Stadium.

Commencement exercises will be held Saturday, May 6, 2006.

To make a reservation to participate, go to the Commencement homepage at [www.usi.edu/commencement/index.asp](http://www.usi.edu/commencement/index.asp) and click on the link provided to complete the required Commencement reservation form.

You will receive email confirmation of your reservation. If you do not have access to email, call 812/464-1930 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you do not receive a message confirming your reservation, or if you have any questions about Commencement, call the Office of Special Events at 812/464-1930.

## Eagle wrestlers send six to nationals

The Eagles Wrestling Club grappled to a 5th place finish in the 17-team conference tournament of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association in Toledo, Ohio on February 18.

USI brought 10 wrestlers to the tournament, and six placed high enough to advance to the nationals in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 3.

"It's an extraordinary accomplishment for any team, and the effort put forth by our wrestlers is nothing short of fantastic," said **Paul Kuban**, associate professor of engineering and faculty advisor for the club. "I'm thrilled that our hard-working students have earned the opportunity to represent USI at the national level."

Although the club has over 26 active members, not all of them can attend every tournament, due to scheduling conflicts with work or school. There are 13 collegiate weight classes, so the USI club started the day with a considerable disadvantage. Several wrestlers were defeated in the first round and had to battle their way back to the top of the loser's bracket, while others competed in weight classes with over 30 participants.

Most squad members wrestled five grueling matches. Advancing to the national tournament were **Mohammed Stahly, Brian Bittner, Joseph Hillenbrand, John Paul Brandt, Michael Price, James Wright, and Mike Coughlin**. The conference tournament participants also included **Jeff Aussenbaugh, Josh Brown, and Chad Cook**.

For more information, join the Eagles Wrestling group on MyUSI or go to [www.ncwa.net](http://www.ncwa.net).

## University community invited to credit card identity theft presentation

**Sgt. David Gullledge** of the Evansville Police Department Financial Crimes Unit will address the USI Administrative Assistants and Associates Organization on Wednesday, March 15.

He will speak about credit card identity theft. Since the topic is of broad concern, AAA is inviting anyone who is interested to attend.

Box lunches will be available at a cost of \$6.15 each. Because of limited seating, reservations are required for both lunch and Sgt. Gullledge's presentation.

The event is tentatively scheduled for Carter Hall D with doors opening at 11:45 a.m. for lunch. Gullledge's 45-minute presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Bonnie Scheller at 812/465-1276.

## Spring break with purpose

Eagle Road Crew, a new service organization on campus, is heading south for spring break, but members won't be lounging on the beach. They are headed to Waveland, Mississippi, to help rebuild a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Area coordinators **Tracy Shadowens** and **Matt Krevda** founded the group in fall 2005. Last semester's projects included volunteering at a national park in Maine and feeding the homeless in Indianapolis.

"We were looking for an alternative spring break trip for which students could actually help," Shadowens said. Eagle Road Crew will be joined by the USI chapter of Habitat for Humanity, as well as students from Silver Lake College in Wisconsin and Lynchburg College in Virginia. In all, about 50 students will help with clean-up, building, and anything else that needs to be done. A local church will provide food and accommodations in a MASH-style camp.

"The area looks like the hurricane hit yesterday," Shadowens said. "Fifty college students will really be able to have an impact there."

The Student Christian Fellowship is sending groups of USI students on mission trips to Chicago and Panama City, Florida.

In south Chicago, USI students will join with Sunshine Ministries to seek out the homeless, bring them food and blankets, and make sure their healthcare needs are addressed. Students also will provide food and clothing to new immigrants to the United States, and work with inner-city children. This is the second year SCF has done this work in an urban setting.

Students also will participate in a program called Beach Reach, serving a free breakfast for three to four hours each morning to people up and down the Panama City Beach strip. Starting in the early evening, students provide free van rides to ensure people get to the clubs safely. Beach Reach drops off and picks up club-goers. The vans run until 3 a.m.

"It sounds crazy, but it's an interesting trip," said **Don Williams**, director of the Southern Christian Fellowship.

Every year, College of Liberal Arts faculty lead Travel Study programs during the spring recess.

**Michael Aakhus**, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will lead a tour of the art of ancient, colonial and modern Mexico. His group will visit the site of Teotihuacán, the colonial cities of Queretaro and San Miguel de Aliende, and view the 20th century mural master works of Diego Rivera and others in the National Palace and the Belles Artes in Mexico City.

**Eric vonFuhrmann**, associate professor of English, is taking students on a 19th annual European tour to Spain and Morocco. Stops include Madrid, Toledo, Seville, Gibraltar, Tangiers, Granada, Cordoba, and Valencia.

The second annual spring break trip sponsored by International Programs and Services will make stops in Clearwater, Tampa, and Orlando, Florida. **Kristine Meier**, program coordinator for International Programs and Services, will accompany about 20 international students on the trip.

**Heidi Gregori-Gahan**, director of International Programs and Services, said, "Over the longer breaks we try to plan a trip that offers international students a chance to do something. Sometimes they don't have many friends, or even know anyone with a car."

She said they chose Florida because it's an accessible warm-weather location. "Of course, Disney World and Universal Studios are a huge draw for international students - and they usually have heard of Florida!"

Spring break starts Monday, March 6, and continues through Friday, March 11. Classes resume Monday, March 13.

## March Success Series workshops offer help with test performance, and more

Academic Skills is sponsoring the following Success Series workshops in March. They are free and open to all faculty, staff, and students. All workshops will be held from 3 to 3:30 p.m. in The Writers' Room, Education Center Room 1102.

**Yes, You Can Beat the Odds!** Wednesday, March 15. Improve your test taking performance by learning tips for objective tests, essays and more. Presented by Nils Johansen, P.E., University Division advisor.

**Plagiarism: What it is and how to avoid it**, Tuesday, March 21. What is plagiarism and why is it a campus issue? When do you have to use quotes? What is paraphrasing? How do you cite sources properly? What about paper mills? What can happen if you're caught plagiarizing? These questions will be discussed, and strategies for avoiding plagiarism will be presented by Susan Metcalf, Instructional Services librarian, Rice Library.

**Exploring Careers**, Wednesday, March 22. This workshop will show you how to start exploring your interests, abilities and work values. You also will obtain information on how to learn about various careers. Attendees will receive their own personal password to access an online career exploration program. Presented by Stephanie Hamington, director, University Division.

For a complete list of the currently scheduled spring semester Success Series workshops, go to



For more information, contact Lori E. Saxby, study skills specialist, at 812/464-1743.

## "Nix the Fix"

Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness will offer free smoking cessation classes on four Tuesdays, March 14 through April 4.

"Nix the Fix" will meet from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Orr Center, Room 2016, and will be led by **Stephanie Walden-Schwake**, assistant director of Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness.

"The classes give students and employees the tools they need to become nonsmokers," she said. "I'll tell them what to expect, and how to deal with cravings and triggers."

Even those who have been smoking for a long time gain benefits from quitting.

"The sooner they can stop, the better off they are going to be," Walden-Schwake said. "As soon as they stop, their bodies already start to heal."

"The sooner they quit, the sooner they can get their health back."

"Nix the Fix" is open to faculty, staff, and students. In the future, Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness is considering offering a smoking cessation class specifically for employees.

If you are interested in participating, call Walden-Schwake at 812/461-5269.

## FYI

### **Relay for Life USI**

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight activity that mobilizes communities across the country to celebrate survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and raise money for the fight against cancer. Start time is 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at the Physical Activities Center. Registration is \$10. For more information contact **Julia Krampe** at 812/424-8281.

### **Treasures of Italy**

The USI Alumni Association is sponsoring a trip to Italy, Treasures of Italy, September 22-30. The cost will be \$1,899 per person double occupancy which includes departure from Evansville, plus taxes and optional excursions.

This unique trip allows travelers to custom design their week, experiencing the exciting excursions along with fellow members of the group or exploring on their own. For 34 years, Go Next (formerly Global Holidays) has been providing the highest quality travel programs at affordable prices, and their experience, excellent reputation and commitment to service ensure an unforgettable vacation. Make reservations as soon as possible, due to the limited space and the incredible value of this trip.

For further information, please contact **Nancy Johnson**, director of Alumni & Volunteer Services, at 812/464-1928.

## **USI Family Fund accepting gifts of support for Walker**

The USI Foundation has reactivated the USI Family Fund in order to accept gifts of support for colleague and library associate Gina Walker, who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer. She has exhausted her paid-leave days and has exceptional need. Currently she is only able to work part-time.

Friends and colleagues who want to assist Walker with her medical expenses may make a contribution to the USI Foundation/USI Family Fund, with a memo indicating it is for Gina Walker. The entire amount will be made available to assist her. Please note that gifts to the USI Family Fund are not tax-deductible charitable gifts for income tax purposes and no receipts will be issued.

Contributions should be delivered to the Office of Business Affairs, WA 102 in the Wright Administration Building. For more information, contact the USI Foundation at 812/465-1658.

## **Names in the news**

### **In sympathy**

The University community extends sympathy to **Jenny Medcraft**, computer systems analyst in Colleges of Business and Liberal Arts, whose father **Clyde Mauer**, died on Monday, February 27. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 3, at Alexander East Chapel with burial at Sunset Memorial Park.

### **Accomplishments**

**Martha Raske**, associate professor of social work, and **Maurice Hamington**, assistant professor of philosophy, presented "Jane Addams' Feminist Pragmatist Philosophy: A Model for 21st Century Social Work" on February 19 at the Annual Meeting of the Council for Social Work Education in Chicago, Illinois. In the presentation, Raske dresses as Jane Addams and speaks in her voice as Hamington provides commentary.