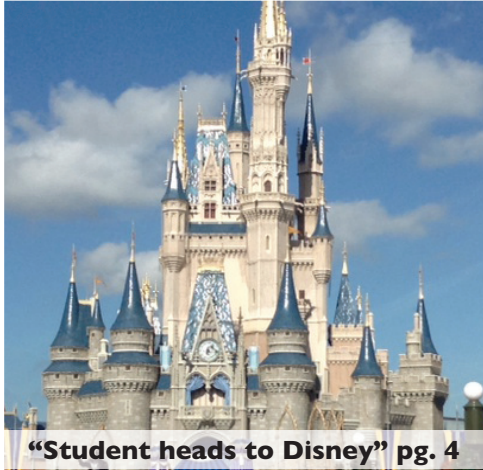


THE SHIELD

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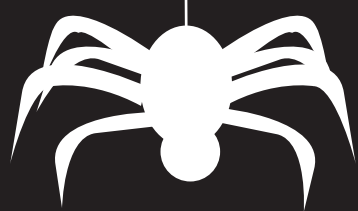


“Rutledge returns in time for ‘intense’ weekend” pg. 7



“Student heads to Disney” pg. 4

SPIDERS MILDEW AND MOLD OH MY!



Mold, venomous spiders concern campus residents

By **DENNIS MARSHALL**
Staff writer

Paige Hatfield said she has a problem with brown recluses in her campus apartment at a meeting about housing issues Nov. 19, in the Fireside Lounge.

“I kill at least five of them a week,” she said. “Some of them get as big as a quarter, which is really scary. My roommate had to jump on our kitchen table.”

The university had a company spray the apartment after she reported the issue.

“They sent someone to spray, but they don’t spray often enough, and that’s why they keep getting in,” Hatfield said. “I’m terrified of waking up and having a hole in the side of my head because their venom will actually eat holes in your skin.”

No one has followed up with her since the company sprayed, Hatfield said.

Laurie Berry, housing and residence life director, said if students see something like that, they should put in a work order. The university has a contract with a pest control company that will come in and spray.

“I know we have had some black widows and brown recluse spiders, but that’s common wherever you go,” Berry said. “Spiders are a little more difficult to deal with than other kinds of bugs, but what we usually try to do for those kinds of things are if they (spiders) eat other kinds of bugs and those are present, we will try to kill some of those bugs and the spiders will leave.”

Brown recluses like to hide in shoes, boxes and dark places. Students should keep their living space clean and not have a bunch of boxes lying around.

“It’s the type of spider you just don’t want to have around,” Berry said.

Resident Assistant (RA) Aaron Gottman mentioned another dangerous issue facing the students who live on campus.

“I noticed my friend was a little sick and had been coughing a lot lately,” Gottman said. “We ended up pulling back his bed and looking into his vent and it turned out there was a little bit of black mold in there.”

Gottman’s roommate called the Physical Plant, and they came in and cleaned up the mold.

“There is not any more mold here than there would be if you were lying in the grass,” Gottman said Physical Plant told him. “What I don’t think the Physical Plant understands is that people are living in these environments where mold is present. Al-

though it is the same consistency of mold as if you were laying in the grass, I don’t think they understand that you’re not sleeping on the grass.”

Gottman went to some of his fellow RAs to see if they were facing the same issues.

“It just all started popping up everywhere. So eventually I had to take charge with my position and get in contact with the Physical Plant and the housing office,” he said of his housing role in the Student Government Association. “They told me, ‘Hey, we are aware that this is happening on campus. There is mold everywhere, but there is nothing we can really do.’ I didn’t like that answer. There is a lot more they can do.”

Since then, Gottman has been working with the Physical Plant, letting them know where problem areas are.

“They have actually been improving their way of going about it and how they approach mold on campus,” Gottman said. “There is definitely a growth of what they are trying to do.”

As for mold – Berry said she understands it’s a problem.

“I will say that I feel like we treat mold at a higher level than I even treat it in my house,” she said.

Berry said she is seeing more of an issue with mildew in the reports.

One of the main reasons mold is an issue is because students are pushing their couches against air conditioning units, creating an airflow problem and condensation.

“You’ll start to see black stuff that grows, when they come and look at it, it’s not mold it’s mildew,” she said. “I feel like we have a good mold remediation, but a lot of it depends on students letting us know that (even) if we come and take care of it, and it comes back. Any time we have a water issue and we have anything that can consume water or it sits, there is a potential for mold or mildew.”

Similar to having issues with bugs, if students have an issue with mold or mildew, they should contact the Physical Plant and put in a work order.

“We have a bed bug dog that comes out and checks for those before students are here and while they are on break we’ll have the bed bug dog come through again,” Berry said. “We try to the best of our ability to control the pest issue. The best thing students can do is let us know if they think they have a problem so that we can come in and take care of it.”

Faculty member arrested for domestic battery

By **JAMES VAUGHN**
News Editor

Graduate Studies Director Wesley Durham was arrested around 9 p.m. Sunday at his home on the 1500 block of Akin Drive in Evansville for a reported domestic battery incident in the presence of a child under 16, a Class D felony charge.



Durham

According to court records, Durham was released from the Vanderburgh County Jail Monday on a \$500 bond. A condition of the bond is that he not have contact with his wife, Kristalyn Shefeland, who is an assistant professor of history at USI.

“The University of Southern Indiana is aware of the arrest Sunday night of one of our directors,” said Kindra Strupp, assistant vice president for marketing and communications. “The university will take the appropriate amount of time to review this matter.”

Durham is also an associate professor of communications studies. His research interests include communication and family planning, privacy and disclosure within families, privacy and disclosure within romantic relationships and everyday talk in family and close personal relationships.

He is scheduled to appear at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Vanderburgh County Circuit Court.

Are we prepared for a crisis?

By **JAMES VAUGHN**
News editor

What if a student were to come face-to-face with a gunman? What if a tornado set its sights on the university? What if the campus began shaking traumatically?

The above scenarios are ones Associate Professor of Geology James Durbin and Public Safety Assistant Director Stephen Bequette think students and faculty should be asking themselves.

Over the next three weeks, The Shield will take a look at potential disasters and how the university plans to react.

By the end of the year, 28 school shootings occurred in the United States – eight of which occurred on college campuses.

From reports of gunmen at Ball State, Vincennes and IUPUI, to a stabbing incident at IU, it was an active year for Indiana, too.

One in four college campuses are not prepared for an active shooter situation, according to a recent survey by Campus Safety Magazine.

While USI left 2013 disaster-free, it also left a lot of people asking, “Are we prepared?”

Some faculty members aren’t so sure.

Durbin said if a gunman were to walk into his classroom, he wouldn’t know what to do.

“There are steps in the right direction for preparation, but they’re window-dressing,” Durbin said. “They’re meant to make us feel good, but there’s not a lot of practical, demonstrable, usable information.”

Bequette said concerned faculty members should come forward and let the Office of Public Safety know.

He and Public Safety Director Stephen Woodall collaborated on a “Shots Fired” presentation, which was shown to 20 individuals, administrators and organizations, including the Children’s Center, College of Nursing and Health Professions Dean Ann White, the Provost’s Council and the President’s Office, in 2013.

Bequette said it provides individuals with pre-incident knowledge.

“Maybe they didn’t get the message. Maybe they didn’t attend one of these sessions. If they don’t really feel safe or prepared, why is that?” Bequette said. “Take a little responsibility. We’re here

CRISIS on pg. 3

PUZZLES

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Paddock parents
6 Two-timer
9 Illustrations
12 Tolerate
13 "The ___ Daba Honey-moon"
14 Fresh
15 Earth tone
16 "Halo" singer
18 Beast
20 TV remote button
21 Have
23 Enthusiast
24 Dud
25 Indian royal
27 Ship of the desert
29 "The Godfather" star
31 Christmas carol starter
35 Someone in the kitchen?
37 Therefore
38 Eagle's nest
41 Toothpaste type
43 Current measure, for short
44 Pharmaceu tical
45 Psychiatrist
47 "Material Girl" singer
49 Idaho's capital

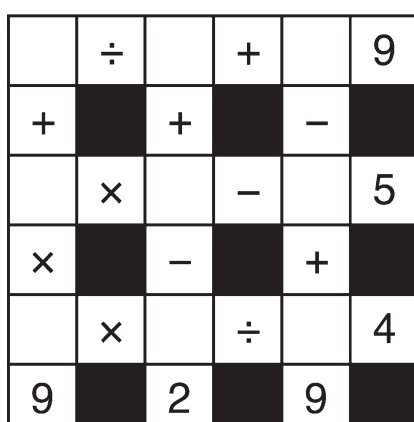
DOWN

1 Long March leader
2 Easy as ___
3 "Take a Bow" singer
4 First place
5 Letter line
6 Poolside structure
7 Explorer
8 Desk-calen-
9 Per ___ (yearly)
10 Right-hand page
11 Seventh-grader, usually
17 Brunch entree
19 Georgia city
21 Sphere
22 Series of skirmishes
24 Started
26 Rainbow component
28 "Real Time With Bill ___"
30 Gaming cube
32 "Hips Don't dar page
33 Belly
34 Mindreader's claim
36 Shocked
38 Madison Avenue employee
39 Lyric poet's Muse
40 Less courteous
42 Cuba ___ (cocktail)
45 Child's play
46 Yule refrain
48 Cagers' org.
50 Perched
51 Away from WSW

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.



DIFFICULTY: ★★★

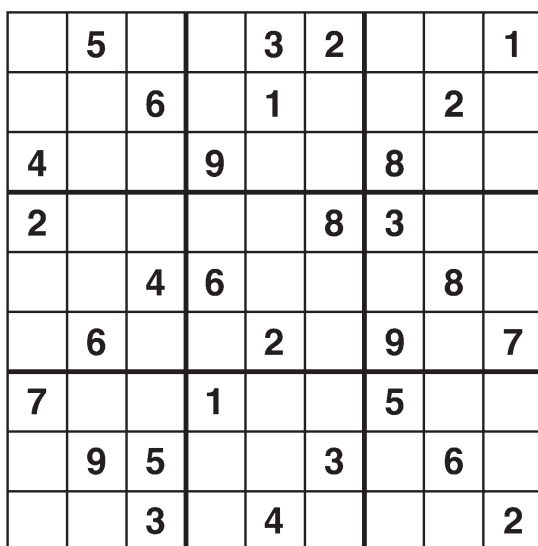
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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TOP TEN MOVIES

- The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13)
Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman
- Frozen (PG) animated
- Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13)
Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate
- American Hustle (R)
Christian Bale, Amy Adams
- The Wolf of Wall Street (R)
Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill
- Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)
Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks
- The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG) Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig
- The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13)
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
- 47 Ronin (PG-13)
Keanu Reeves, Hiroyuki Sanada
- Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13)
Tyler Perry, Chad Michael Murray

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TOP OF THE CHARTS as of Jan. 6, 2014

- | | |
|---|--|
| Top 10 Pop Singles | Top 10 Albums |
| This Week Last Week | 1. Beyonce No. 1 "Beyonce" |
| 1. Eminem feat. Rihanna No. 1 "The Monster" | 2. Garth Brooks No. 2 "Blame It All on My Roots: Five Decades of Influences" |
| 2. Pitbull feat. Ke\$ha No. 2 "Timber" | 3. One Direction No. 5 "Midnight Memories" |
| 3. One Republic No. 3 "Counting Stars" | 4. The Robertsons No. 6 "Duck The Halls: A Robertson Family Christmas" |
| 4. A Great Big World & Christina Aguilera No. 4 "Say Something" | 5. Kelly Clarkson No. 3 "Wrapped in Red" |
| 5. Lorde No. 5 "Royals" | 6. Eminem No. 8 "The Marshall Mathers LP 2" |
| 6. Imagine Dragons No. 6 "Demons" | 7. Katy Perry No. 9 "Prism" |
| 7. Passenger No. 9 "Let Her Go" | 8. Soundtrack No. 10 "Frozen" |
| 8. Avicii No. 7 "Wake Me Up!" | 9. Michael Buble No. 13 "Christmas" |
| 9. Miley Cyrus No. 8 "Wrecking Ball" | 10. Luke Bryan No. 14 "Crash My Party" |
| 10. One Direction No. 10 "Story of My Life" | |

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Philly Cheese Steak — Chicken Bacon Ranch — Italian — and more
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\$3 CAP. & COKE
\$3 GOOSE ISLAND IPA & HONKERS

FRIDAY - LIVE MUSIC
\$2 MILLER LT.
\$3 GOOSE ISLAND NUT BROWN

SATURDAY - LIVE MUSIC
\$2 COORS/ COORS LT.
\$2 WELLS

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News Briefs

Alumna takes director position

Alumna Sally Gries was named university and community relations director.

In her new role, she will coordinate and implement strategies that broaden USI's civic and governmental presence.

She will report to the Vice President for Government and University Relations.

Japanese school receives award

For the eighth consecutive year, USI's Southern Indiana Japanese School received the School Award in Writing from the Japan Overseas Educational Services.

Of the 230 Japanese schools that participated, 20 won awards.

Community health center to open

The third USI Community Health Center will open tomorrow at the Lodge Community School located at 2000 Lodge Ave.

USI Security Incident Log

12/17/13- 01/07/14

Traffic Accident	
Park Lot E	Suspicious circumstances
12/17/13 1:25 p.m.	Parking Lot A
Closed	12/20/13 11:36 p.m.
	Closed
Code of Conduct- Alcohol violation	Code of Conduct - tampering
938B Eckels Ln - Marshall	7920 A O'Daniel Ln. - McNutt
12/18/13 10:04 p.m.	12/21/13 9:28 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Injury Report	Incident Report
Parking Lot E	Orr Center
12/18/13 4:10 p.m.	12/22/13 9:56 a.m.
Closed- transported	Closed
Alcohol incident	Incident Report
Hammond Bldg	Grounds Center
12/19/13 9:41 a.m.	12/27/13 2:00 p.m.
Closed	Closed
Lost Property Report	Code of Conduct - weapons violation
Unknown	911 B Eckels LN- Hanly Bldg
12/19/13 10:15 a.m.	01/03/14 10:59 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Alcohol - underage possession	Fire- False Alarm
8044A O'Daniel Ln- Ray	Newman Hall
12/19/13 2:40 p.m.	01/07/14 10:24 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Code of Conduct- alcohol violation	Property damage- university
8044A O'Daniel Ln- Ray	Newman Hall
12/19/13 2:40 p.m.	01/07/14 10:24 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Theft- university property	Fire- False Alarm
8060A O'Daniel Ln- Noble	O'Bannon Hall
12/19/13 2:55 p.m.	01/07/14 3 10:32 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Code of Conduct - Alcohol	Property damage- university
8124A O'Daniel Ln.- Dunning	O'Bannon Hall
12/19/13 3:49 p.m.	01/07/14 3 10:32 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Alcohol - underage possession	Fire- False Alarm
8124A O'Daniel Ln.- Dunning	Technology Center
12/19/13 3:49 p.m.	01/07/13 11:48 a.m.
Closed	Closed
Illness Report	Property damage- university
University Center (east)	Technology Center
12/20/13 10:10 a.m.	01/07/14 4 4:33 p.m.
Closed- transported	Closed

Information gathered from USI's Public Crime Log, provided by USI Safety and Security.

Crime Log Key

- Case suspended: No suspects listed, no leads. No follow up investigation unless new information arises.
- Case cleared: The incident is resolved, suspect was identified and will be adjudicated appropriately.
- Case pending: On hold, awaiting new information.
- Violation of University Policy: Violation of the Student's Rights and Responsibilities.
- Failure to comply with a university official: Any university official, from an area coordinator to a security officer.
- Residential entry: Someone walked into the residence. This is different than burglary because burglary is entering with intent to commit a felony.

Student faces charges after off-campus party

By **JESSIE HELLMANN**
Staff writer

Three Evansville men, one of whom is a USI student, face charges after police say they held a house party involving underage drinking and marijuana on the 2400 block of West Franklin Street Friday night.

USI student Izaiah Anderson, 20, and former students Wesley Nickens, 23, and Ziaire Anderson, 20, were preliminarily charged with maintaining a common nuisance, a Class D felony, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a Class A misdemeanor. All three were released on bond Sunday.

The Indiana State Excise Police arrested 25 minors, including five less than 18 years of age, on preliminary charges of illegal consumption at the party, according to a press release issued by the Indiana State Excise Police.

One person was also charged with false informing, according to the release.

The Evansville Police Department reportedly received a complaint about the large party where people were causing a disturbance outside and contacted the excise police for assistance.

Officers found more than two dozen minors consumed alcohol, with

some testing as high as .15 percent blood alcohol concentrate.

EPD also arrested three people on drug related charges.

According to the probable cause affidavit, officers discovered dozens of people hiding in rooms on the second floor of the house who refused to let the officers inside.

Officers also found several individuals hiding in closets and attic spaces.

Officers found a multicolored glass bong with burnt residue that had a strong of marijuana in one of the bedrooms.

Excise officers also preliminarily charged University Liquors on 4920

University Blvd. with two counts of allowing a minor to loiter, two counts of sale of alcohol to a minor, failure to maintain employee permit records and having an unlicensed employee.

Officers also arrested three minors on eleven charges after they left the store. The charges included illegal possession of alcohol, illegal transportation of alcohol, minor in a liquor store, possession of false ID, false statement of age, furnishing of alcohol to a minor and false informing, according to the release.

Those arrested will appear in Vanderburgh Misdemeanor Court on later dates.

Crisis continued from Pg. 1

help educate and to assist in public safety issues on campus anytime someone requests us to step in. They do have to take a certain amount of responsibility for their own safety, though."

According to the Campus Care Guide, individuals should report any suspicious behavior to the Office of Public Safety or the Dean of Students Office.

Another concern for faculty members is the locks on classroom doors, which are exterior rather than interior. A faculty member would have to step into the hallway with a key in order to secure the room.

"The cost to put new locks on every door so that you could lock yourself in is extremely expensive," Bequette said. "Basically, you'd be modifying something that's already there."

There was an incident several years ago in one of Durbin's classes - a student had a grand mal seizure during an exam.

"Everybody and myself thought it might be a heart attack," Durbin said. "I didn't have a cell phone with me, so I ran out to the nearest office to make a phone call. But what if that'd been a gunman instead of a seizure? What if it had been a heart attack? I wasted 40 seconds running over to the office to call security."

He said every classroom should come equipped with an emergency phone.

Junior communication studies major Jesse Marx learned a lot about the university's plan during a crisis communications class he took in the fall.

In groups of three, students were asked to de-

velop a crisis plan should an active-shooter situation occur on USI's campus. They were asked to reach out to university officials to gather information they needed for the project, and Bequette was more than willing to help out, Marx said.

"He came to our class for the presentations to see if there was any knowledge or ideas he could gain from us to help with the university's plan," Marx said.

Bequette spoke to the entire class initially and communicated with Marx's group via email as they worked on their project.

"Within hours of sending our questions or requests for information, he would respond with exactly what we needed," he said.

Marx said he was surprised by what he discovered.

"Our public safety department is headed by some very forward-thinking individuals," he said. "They shared some very neat and interesting ideas that are actually being worked on now to increase the ability to get the message out to the population on campus of an emergency taking place."

Marx feels USI is one of the universities in the U.S. that is ahead of the game, he said.

"Like any organization, there is always room for improvement no matter what," he said. "No one is going to feel safe, no matter what, if the incident were to really happen. It is comforting to know that USI's public safety department is very forward thinking in their plans, prevention and monitoring

for any hints of a possible crisis. But I would not feel safe if a gunman was said to be outside of a vault I was in."

Bequette said the university is generally safe because of its location in proximity to the city, and because he and Woodall are both retired Vanderburgh County Sheriff deputies.

"We have an excellent liaison with the sheriff's office that's carried over since our retirement," Bequette said.

The university employs sheriff's deputies to patrol Thursday through Saturday to supplement the work of public safety officers.

"Things just seem to click and work out," Bequette said. "Many of the sheriff's deputies graduated from here. They're stakeholders here. So they do their best to keep it safe."

Public safety officers are not sworn in.

Therefore, they are unarmed.

The Board of Trustees does not support an armed force on campus, Bequette said.

"The only thing our officers carry on them is their handcuffs," he said. "They're really not a weapon - they're more of a protection tool."

In his five years with the university, he said he knows of three instances when handcuffs were used.

"Our officers really don't put their hands on anybody unless they need to protect themselves, the person they're dealing with or someone else," he said.

Public safety officers undergo "refresher training" every summer for the

use of handcuffs and self-defense. They also take verbal judo classes.

"Their best weapon is their mouth," Bequette said. "If it gets to a point where it looks bad, they know to step back and call for assistance from the sheriff's office. They do a good job with the conditions that they're given, you know, no weapons - it's just them. If a gunman were to come on this campus, our officers would work to their ability - eyes, ears, intelligence, information gathering. We would already have the sheriff's office and outside resources responding."

He said local law enforcement personnel have trained with public safety officers, so they're well acquainted.

"You're going to have law enforcement officers responding here in all manners of dress," Bequette said. "They're going to get here as quick as they can with a large variety of weapons."

He is confident the sheriff's deputies know their way around campus because all new hires are required to spend half a shift learning the lay of the land.

In a crisis situation, public safety officers would be responsible for assisting law enforcement personnel and giving them directions.

"They would be a great support role," Bequette said. "But they'd be in a pickle if they came face-to-face with it and didn't have weapons."

UP NEXT: Take a look at how the university plans to handle potential natural disasters in next week's issue of *The Shield*.

Faculty Senate opposes controversial marriage bill

By **JAMES VAUGHN**
News Editor

The Faculty Senate passed a statement opposing House Joint Resolution-6 (HJR-6) Dec. 13.

HJR-6 is an amendment that, if passed, would permanently define marriage as a bond between a man and a woman and would remove protections under current Indiana law for same-sex couples.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy Garret Merriam, who introduced the topic at the Nov. 8, meeting, and Senate Vice Chair Jason Fertig collaborated on two statements.

Statement A, which passed, reads as follows: "The Faculty Senate at the University of Southern Indiana recognizes the controversial nature of

House Joint Resolution-6. While we respect the differing opinions surrounding it, we believe this bill is not consistent with the best interests of the faculty, staff and students of USI. To attract and retain the most talented personnel, as well as to promote our expressly stated values of diversity, inclusion and understanding, USI needs to foster an environment that welcomes everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or marital status. These values are already reflected in our policy towards same-sex domestic partners. Both the policy and the underlying values are threatened by HJR-6. Accordingly, the Faculty Senate opposes the adoption of House Joint Resolution-6, and we encourage both the adminis-

tration at USI and the Indiana General Assembly to do the same."

Statement B reaffirmed USI's and the Senate's commitment to diversity and equality, but maintained that it is not the Senate's place to weigh in on political matters.

Eight senators voted for Statement A, three voted against it, two abstained and one was absent.

The vote didn't come before all of the senators had a chance to express their opinions, many of which had prepared written statements.

President Linda Bennett made a statement following the meeting.

It reads as follows: "If higher education is to educate for citizenship, the university campus must be a place of open dia-

logue and even debate on the important issues of the day. The USI Faculty Senate has engaged in a wide-ranging discussion about HJR-6 and its implications, as well as about the role of a public university in the political realm. This discussion has highlighted the diversity of views and I congratulate the faculty senators on the civility of their process. In a democracy no single voice represents all opinions, nor should it."

The proposed amendment will be placed on this year's general election ballot. It will be discussed in the Indiana General Assembly's legislative session this month.

Read more on *The Shield's* website at usishield.com.

Former student dances his way to Disney

By **ARIANA BEEDIE**
Features editor

Jade Perry, a former USI student, received a position to work at Disney World - something he's only dreamed about. The 24-year-old gave himself three tries to achieve his lifelong goal and made it on the second try.

"I first auditioned four years ago in Chicago when I was a freshman at USI," Perry said. "I auditioned with my best friend, and we both made it to the finals. I waited but never got an email back."

The lack of response from Disney left Perry feeling discouraged. Despite having to focus on tragic events after his father passed away three years ago, Perry kept dancing.

"My dad was the biggest cheerleader in my life," Perry said.

Even though Perry experienced hard times, it led him to continue to pursue his dream of auditioning for Disney.

"Four years later, I auditioned again in Louisville, Ky., which is only an hour and a half away," Perry said. "At the dance audition, you're in a group of 65 to 70 people and half



Perry

are cut within the first 30 minutes."

Dancers learn the routine, then cuts are made. After that, the remaining dancers learn a longer routine, he said.

Perry auditioned with a fractured foot because he felt this was his chance to make it to Disney.

"I thought after 16 years of dancing, 'I've got this'," Perry said. "It's kind of fun, but you still have to pay attention not to be overconfident."

During his time at USI, Perry was also the first male to join to dance team. The skills learned while on the dance team helped him learn quick dance routines during his audition in Louisville.

"After all the dancers were narrowed down, I was asked to stay longer because they wanted to video tape me dancing,"

Perry said. "I'm just a small-town Indiana boy, and they asked me to stay specifically."

After almost two months of waiting for a response, Perry had a phone interview and was offered the job.

"It was so weird. It still hasn't hit me yet," Perry said. "I'm going to be a parade performer and a character."

Perry moved to Florida to prepare for his position at Disney. His first day on the job was Jan. 4, and his first performance will be later this month in the Animal Kingdom parade.

"I'll be doing half this and half that another day, and I'll still be dancing," Perry said. "I'm going to be rehearsing my butt off."

It's neat getting a second chance, he said.

Perry began his dancing career at eight years old, with his first show as one of the Lolly Pop Guild in the Wizard of Oz. He attended many dance workshops around the Midwest, which led him to be a competitive dancer and to go for scholarships.

Perry also taught young adolescents hip-hop and tap dance in Evansville and Newburgh, which happens to be his favorite

types of dance.

"(On) my last day of teaching, my students and staff gave me gift cards, cupcakes and posted a huge sign in the studio," he said.

Perry appreciates how supportive people have been, he said.

"Just because you're from a small town doesn't mean you can't branch out," Perry said. "Whatever the risk, sometimes the reward is bigger than the risk."

If you can dream it, you can do it, he said.

"You have to take chances or you will be stuck," Perry said. "I only had to drive an hour and a half away to make my dreams come true."

Friends, like Brianna Beck, and family have known for years that Perry would make it to something this big.

Beck and Perry have been best friends since kindergarten. As far as she can remember, he's wanted to be a dancer.

"I always knew somehow he'd end up entertaining," Beck said. "When

he finally told me he was auditioning, I had a really good feeling about it."

Everybody's always loved Perry, she said.

Perry's focusing on his present success but brainstorming on his future endeavors.

"I'm hoping within a year to transfer to the Disney in Paris," Perry said. "I don't know where it's going, but this can open so many doors."

This is the ultimate accomplishment in life and everything happens for a reason, he said.



Former USI student began working at Disney World on Jan. 4.

Photo courtesy of Jade Perry

International student becomes 'definition of a success story'

By **ROBERTO CAMPOS**
Special to *The Shield*

On a Tuesday morning in December, Shan Hussein sat in the UC East Fireside Lounge. Her wavy brown hair falls below her shoulders, she sports a light blue USI Screaming Eagles sweatshirt, jeans and a gold necklace that hangs off of her neck revealing a charm that reads USI.

She's a typical USI senior student, managing classes, course work and a job. But one thing separates her from most students - she's an international student.

First coming to USI as part of a six week long Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program in 2010, Hussein was awarded a full scholarship to USI so she could pursue an undergraduate degree in economics as well as a minor in social work.

Hussein, natively Kurd, previously graduated from the University of Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq with an undergraduate degree in engineering. Sulaymaniyah is her hometown.

Hussein's parents have supported her endeavors and continue to push her to pursue her aspirations.

"Both of my parents are very proud of me," Hussein said. "My dad constantly tells me how proud he is and how I need to improve myself more and be more independent because there is no difference between male and female."

Hussein's mother, a



Hussein

writer, helped inspire her to pursue studying at USI and has served as her role model of what a woman should be.

"My mother taught me how to be an independent woman and how to look (at) the women around me and how to feel their pain and how to do something about it," Hussein said. "We started reading about how many women were getting killed. I was about 13 when we started this, and we didn't see this to be fair to women."

"She didn't want me to end up being one of those women," Hussein said. "She wanted me to be an independent woman and to depend on myself and to value myself." Hussein said.

Eventually Hussein wants to take what she has learned throughout her college career to help the people of her nation, she said.

"For me, there are two paths," Hussein said. "Either I want to go back to my home country and start my own business to train women as construction workers or apply for a

MBA program and a doctorate program."

Providing training for women to become construction workers is a way to provide opportunities to women in her country.

For Hussein, USI has been an experience that has allowed her to learn, grow her leadership abilities and become familiar with American culture.

Phillis Brown, president of USI's International Club, has known Hussein throughout her time at USI and has witnessed her grow in her time here.

"(Hussein) has flourished here at USI," Brown said. "She has really made her experience her at USI the best it could be because she is not only involved with international club but also photo services and women's leadership."

"She's the definition of a success story," Brown said.

Whether Hussein decides to pursue a MBA program or return to Iraq, her aspirations remain the same - she wants to help women.

"USI has been great to me. I love this place," Hussein said. "I'm surrounded by wonderful people here, my bosses in (USI's) Photography Services and University Divisions are all wonderful and I keep learning from them and looking up to them to learn their leadership styles and to take something away from every experience here."

Senior gains experimental grounds on campus

By **DENNIS MARSHALL**
Special to *The Shield*

Ellena Stumpf, senior economics major, choose to do an experiment that measures if payment has an affect on the effort an individual gives.

She received an USI Endeavor Award for Research and Creativity, which helps with the costs associated with doing research or a creative project: lab work, equipment, materials and travel to research sites.

"I wanted to do an experiment just to learn how to do experiments because I want to be-maybe a professor later on," Stumpf said. "I'm a person who shows a lot of effort. It doesn't matter how high the wages are, but I'm just speaking for me, so I wanted to know if that was the case for everyone."

Stumpf started preparation for this experiment earlier this year. She said because her experiment is still in progress she can't say a lot about it.

"Everything takes a lot of time and effort to do an experiment," Stumpf said. "It has been fun but also tough because you have to take care of so much."

Stumpf plans on putting a video together on her finding that will be presented during the Endeavor Awards Symposium on April 10.

Stumpf said one of the most difficult parts about this project was convincing the university to let her do something like this on campus.

"Nobody has ever done anything like that here with subjects and experiments," she said. "That is kind of groundbreaking and it took a lot of work to convince people to run this experiment on campus."

Assistant Professor of Economics Curtis Price is Stumpf's faculty mentor for her project. Stumpf said Price is known at USI for being the professor who does experiments.

"He has been a guide in this journey," she said.

There are only about 60 of these labs where Stumpf will conduct her experiment in the United States and about 120 of them in the world.

Price said Stumpf is responsible for almost everything, and he is there to guide her in proper laboratory procedures and to get her to think deeply about the kinds of things she will

do in the laboratory.

"What I am there to do help her is help her figure out how to answer the hypotheses she has came up on her own," he said. "In (Stumpf's) case, she wanted to do something that involved laboratory methods instead of tradition economic methods, which is what I do."

Students are selected from all different disciplines to receive grant money.

"People are not aware of what an academic conference is about," said Jane Johansen, the Endeavor Awards Program director. "They get over there, and they have a wonderful time because sometimes we have music and there have been some really interesting pieces of art on occasion."

Johansen has one problem with the program.

"This is where people are creating new ideas and new stuff and I don't think students and faculty pay enough attention to the fact that," she said. "Right here there is an academic conference that is really high quality with our own students."

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Theatre goes to Mich. for competition



Photo courtesy of Photo Services

USI will compete at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival this week with the play "In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)."

By **ARIANA BEEDIE**
Features editor

Thirty-five students and four faculty members from the theatre department traveled to Saginaw, Mich. Tuesday to compete in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF).

The theatre students will present, "In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)," a play the department premiered during the fall semester.

Written by Sarah Ruhl, the play takes place in the 1800s and deals with the invention of electricity. It also describes the use of technology to cure illnesses like hysteria and emotional distress that afflict women.

Senior theatre major Lyndsey Hill designed the

costumes for "In The Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)," and will be entering costume designs for another show during the competition.

"The KCACTF is a regional thing, and judges come from different schools and talk to us about our show and nominate actors for awards," Hill said. "USI has been invited four times and has made it to the competition three times."

Students are going to be auditioning and doing monologues during the competition, she said.

USI stands in region three, the largest, which also includes Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and certain areas in Ohio. There are eight regional competitions hosted across the country.

Along with production, students will be nominated for scholarships and awards in categories like costume design and technology.

"The adjudicators tell us what they think, and they really liked our show," Hill said. "I'm hoping to make it to finals and that some of our actors win awards."

This will be the first time Hill has attended the KCACTF competition.

"It'll be really good experience," she said.

The competition lasts from Tuesday until Sunday. Winners of the competition in Michigan will compete in the national competition located at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

Elliot Wasserman, theatre professor, will be

among the four faculty members traveling to the competition in Saginaw.

"I've been at USI for 23 years, and I remember wondering how we could participate," Wasserman said. "I'm extremely proud."

The theatre department has grown rapidly over the past few years, which makes it easier to enter national competitions.

Four students are due to compete for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, in honor of the late Broadway actress Irene Ryan who began giving this scholarship in the early 70s.

"We couldn't do this without university support, hard work and dedication to build a special program," Wasserman said.

Undergraduate research helps students get into grad school

By **MEREDITH HARRIS**
Special to *The Shield*

AAaron Clark, junior biochemistry major, has already had a year and a half of experience working in a genetics lab.

"My favorite thing is being able to learn ahead of the curve," Clark said. "The techniques of chemistry, biology, biochemistry, they kind of integrate well because you have an opportunity to learn techniques well in advance of the textbook and things like that. And being able to actually do them is the best part."

Undergraduate research gives USI students experience and an edge when they apply to graduate or professional schools.

Clark most often isolates and expresses DNA in the lab.

"My favorite thing is being able to run out the results of that, which would be an SDS PAGE gel," Clark said. "That's the best way to identify the successfulness of the experiment."

An SDS PAGE gel (sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis) separates proteins based on their molecular weight, according to bitesizebio.com.

Then, Clark expresses the proteins.

"I think that having hours of research under your belt is the best way that you can show that you can actually apply your knowledge as opposed to just being able to regurgitate it from a textbook or lecture slides, etc.," Clark said.

The goal of research is to be published, but learning along the way is when one learns the most, Clark said.

"One of the most important things about early undergraduate research is being able to take negative results and learn how you can change your procedure or interpret those negative results to find what you're looking for," Clark said.

Clark wants to be a doctor, and his experience in lab will help him prepare for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

"A lot of the MCAT is being able to interpret results, which is often (something) you have to do in undergraduate research," Clark said. "The results may not always be what you expect, but you have to explain why you got your results and taking the next step to finding ultimately what you want."

Clark will apply to Indiana University School of Medicine at the end of the summer of 2014 after he takes the MCAT.

Clark wants to be a specialized doctor who focuses on an organ or an organ system he finds interesting, he said, and he thinks the brain and the heart are the most interesting organs, so he wants to be a cardiologist or a cardiothoracic surgeon.

"I can't think of a more fulfilling and challenging (profession)," Clark said.

Biology Professor James Bandoli uses undergraduate researchers to help him research mating strategies of the spottail darter, a local fish, he said.

"Even if we had grad students, undergraduates tend to bring more enthusiasm to a project. So for that reason, they're often more enjoyable and enthusiastic to work with," the behavioral ecologist said.

Bandoli researches how spottail darter nest sites are selected, how males find mates, how nest site quality and the spread of fungal disease in eggs influence hatching success and what males can do about it.

Behavioral ecology is how behavior influences organisms and their environment, Bandoli said.

The students pick the professor that they want to work with and the research project they are interested in.

"We don't require students to do research as part of their graduation, but if you want to go to graduate school or some professional schools, having some undergraduate research will enhance your application, so we try to accommodate students that want to do research," Bandoli said.

Bandoli makes sure the students understand his research.

"Students meet with me and we talk," Bandoli said. "And based on their interests and what kinds of things they're comfortable doing. Not everybody likes to wear waders and go out and splash around in streams. We decide, 'yeah this will work, here's what the timeline is,' and give them a stack of papers to read and go from there."

If the student wants to do their own research,

Bandoli helps the student plan his or her project, he said

Bandoli's research is seasonal because the spawning season for the spottail darters is from March to May, which is when most of the work is done, he said.

Usually the researchers will stay with him for one research season, but sometimes they will stay for two seasons, Bandoli said.

"Very often the first time you go through (an experiment) you're really just figuring out how to do what you really want to do," Bandoli said. "Occasionally I'll have a student who will work with me for a couple of years and the first year (is just) figuring out how they're going to do it and the second year they collect most of their data."

If Bandoli has grant money, he will pay the researcher. But if he doesn't have the money, the student can get credit for the research they do, he said.

Bandoli has worked with 29 or 30 students in the 30 years he has worked at USI, and he keeps in contact with some of them.

Working with undergraduates helps professors get to know their students better.

"Plus it gives me material for letters of recommendation," Bandoli said. "I can talk about how responsible they are, how easy they are to work with, how they contribute to the research, whether or not they can be allowed to work with minimal supervision, etc."

REVIEWS

MUSIC, MOVIES, MORE...

"American Hustle"

When I first saw the trailer for "American Hustle," I knew I was going to make a trip to see it.

With a star-studded cast featuring the likes of Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Renner, Jennifer Lawrence, and even an appearance from Robert De Niro, the movie was set up with high expectations in mind. And I feel that, in many ways, those expectations were well surpassed.

From David O. Russell, the director of the acclaimed comedy-drama "Silver Linings Playbook," comes a movie with a similar blend of humor and bleakness. However, this time around, Russell showcases his ability to craft a movie more ambitious in its characterization of an era and its attention to detail.

"American Hustle" follows con man Irving Rosenfeld, played by Christian Bale, and partner-in-crime Sydney Prosser, played by Amy Adams, as they are blackmailed into further criminal activity by FBI agent Richie Di Masi, played by



Bradley Cooper. The movie shows the struggle of each of these characters, as they are forced to balance their work lives with their personal lives and decide what is truly important to them.

The success of the movie ultimately rests in its well-crafted and believable characters that we are forced to sympathize with, despite their blatant and, in some cases, inexcusable flaws. This, paired with a plot twist that will likely throw you for a loop are reason enough to give "American Hustle" a viewing. And if you end up feeling a bit hustled yourself, I'm sure a second viewing will lend itself to clarity.

Rating 4/5 ★★★★★

By **JAKE TAPLEY**, Staff writer

"The Hobbit: the Desolation of Smaug"

Visually-triumphant and vivacious, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" incinerated fan skepticism brought on by its predecessor's folly.

The second installment in the high-fantasy trilogy based on The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, "The Desolation of Smaug," directed by Peter Jackson, rejoins Bilbo, Gandalf and a gang of dwarves as they travel toward The Lonely Mountain to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor.

Peril, heroism and tomfoolery broil throughout as their quirky band evades a band of orcs, slays a cluster of oversized arachnids and escapes the clutches of woodland elves.

Many fans of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy were disappointed when "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" schlepped audiences through extended scenes of sluggish banter leading, ironically, to a brief climactic conclusion.

The sequel not only revitalized viewer's hopes but delivered the most jaw-dropping dragon sequence of all time.

Bilbo comes face-to-face with Smaug, a dastardly dragon who laid dormant in Erebor after invading the kingdom for its mass riches.

In the heart of the Lonely Mountain Smaug relentlessly pursues Bilbo and the dwarves in an action packed scene of terror



and trickery.

Although pulse-pounding and inventive, "The Desolation of Smaug" errs to the side of dull during its brief but uninspiring "romantic" scenes.

Peter Jackson's film-adaptation introduces Tauriel, a woodland elf played by Evangeline Lilly (ABC's "Lost").

Tauriel's "love-triangle" with Legolas, who she is forbidden from pursuing by the king's orders, and Kiri, a dwarf companion of Bilbo, made adequate filler at best.

Although likeable, her scenes lost my attention several times with lackluster dialogue; perhaps because she is not a J.R.R. Tolkien "original."

Cheesy writing aside, Tauriel shone radiantly in action and made for a deserving fit into the adapted vision of Peter Jackson.

A grand addition to the world of fantasy, "The Desolation of Smaug" is a rambunctious and riveting; stylish and scary; and a must-see!

Rating 4/5 ★★★★★

By **BOBBY SHIPMAN**, Staff writer



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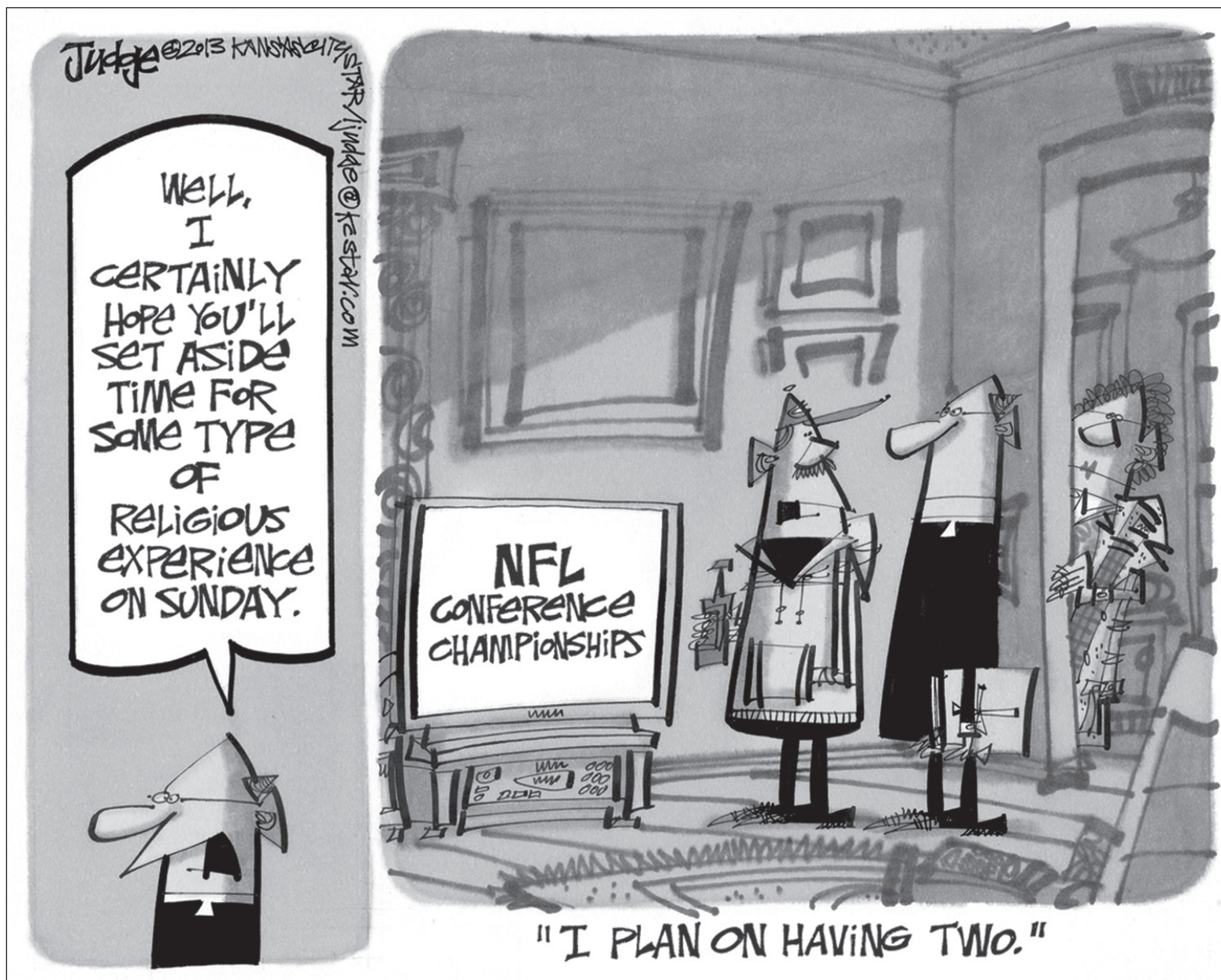
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Don't overload your New Year's resolutions

By **JESSICA STALLINGS**
Staff writer

With the new year comes new resolutions. Even if we don't write them down somewhere, we all have at least one goal that we want to accomplish by the end of the year. If you don't, then that is a whole other story.

Each year, many of us make New Year's Resolutions.

Some of us lock them away in a secret folder on our laptops whereas others fearlessly post them on Facebook.

Resolutions become an annual tradition for people, but the tradition of breaking them tends to follow.

Why is it so hard for us to complete a goal that we made for ourselves? Even though we have a 12-month deadline, most resolutions we make are broken within the first few.

All right Class of 2014. This is our time. The moment we've been waiting nearly four years for - Graduation.

With that glorious day looming about 100 days away, most of us are entering the final stages of Senioritis: a serious and contagious disease which usually affects those entering their final years of college.

While it may be easier to let Senioritis take over, you shouldn't, and here's why: It could make your GPA plummet. Carrying a decent GPA through college isn't too difficult of a task. If you slack off for the last semester, it could

I have come up with three helpful tips on how to keep your promises to yourself this year.

Number one: make reasonable goals.

This simply means make your goals ones that you know that you can reach. There is nothing wrong with setting them to be a little challenging but going to extremes isn't a good idea. If you set your goals too high, you are basically setting yourself up for failure. Make sure you know it's something you can accomplish.

Number two: don't overload yourself with goals.

Try and keep your resolutions to a minimum. There is no point in having a long list of goals. It will be troublesome and stressful trying to complete all of them.

In addition, you run the risk of forgetting most of them, even the important

ones. Make your goals simple and very straight to the point.

Number three: share your plans with others.

Let your family and friends know about your goals.

Ask them to get involved with helping you cross off your list.

If you are trying to get in shape this year, ask your friends to go to the gym with you. Find others with similar goals, that way they can get tackled together.

Sharing your goals with others means that you will want to try harder and are less likely to let yourself down, and your peers too.

Go back through your list of resolutions and pick out the jokes and the ridiculous ones. Pick out the ones that you copied from your friends' lists and tell someone about your plans. Make this year a better one with a better you.

send your GPA toppling down a few points.

For those applying to graduate school or people who are entering a field where employers pay close attention to grades, this can be detrimental. So suck it up and trudge through the last days of college knowing it will all be over soon.

Aside from grades, another reason not to disconnect during your last semester of college is pretty simple and obvious. This is your last semester of college. Most of us will never be in school again, and that's okay. But this is exactly why you should savor the last days and enjoy every moment possible.

It's very unlikely that

we'll be in a place like a university again. A place where we're surrounded by our peers who are similar and different from us at that same time.

A place that cultivates and encourages creative thinking and helps grow phenomenal people who will make a difference in this world.

When will we ever have access to all of the amazing things a university provides again? While rushing through your final year of school seems like the most desirable and viable option, I encourage my fellow classmates to do everything they can to make these last days count.

Go to the free lectures on campus you would never dream of going to,

USI needs more summer classes

By **BRENNA WU**
Staff writer

When students register for classes, a good majority do not want to exceed on hours with part-time jobs, extracurricular activities and whatever else the student may have going on in his or her life.

Those students take on about a 15- or 16-hour course load during the fall or spring semesters.

An option that I have chosen to take is summer classes. There are great benefits towards taking summer classes. For example, it allows students to knock out core classes or major courses that one may not want to take during the regular school session.

There are three summer sessions. The first starts May 14 with the last session ending around Aug.15, so if a student were to take summer classes, the entire summer would be composed of studying.

I started going through the class list for each of the summer sessions. For example, one of the biology classes that I needed was only offered during

the first two sessions of the summer, but I really needed to take it during the third session due to an issue with scheduling.

I believe if students were to know more summer classes were offered - therefore decreasing time during the regular school session - the number of students would definitely increase. Unfortunately, some professors prefer to lecture only in the fall and spring rather than the whole year.

USI should definitely look into having more professors teach in the summer, maybe people who would like a summer job doing something they always wanted to do, teaching students. As USI expands, I hope leaders around the campus look for ways to include more classes in the summer.

This option allows students to finish early as well as offering students who may live in Evansville to take classes to transfer over to their university. Summer classes do not meet the entire day, so students would still have plenty of time to sit in the sun while hanging out with friends.

the roof of the library.

Start a campus demonstration. Go on a blind date. Get a picture with Archie the Eagle.

Crash a campus tour with the AMIGOs and maybe learn a few things about the campus you've been treading on for four years.

But most importantly, don't obsess over what you're going to do after graduation.

I'm not saying completely ignore it, but try to enjoy your last moments at USI because the next time you step foot on this campus after May 3, you'll be an alumni looking at it from a completely different point of view - the view of an adult.

Scary thought, I know.

SPEAK UP!

Write a letter to the editor at opinion@usishield.com

Eagles face 'intense' weekend



File photo/The Shield

Orlando Rutledge sat out the first few games of the season due to his academics standings.

By **SHANNON HALL**
Staff writer

With two road-game wins, the USI men's basketball team sits at a comfortable position with a 10-0 record. But this weekend may mix things up a bit.

"The games seem to get a little more intense," said Head Coach Rodney Watson.

"Missouri S&T beat us last time they came here, and Drury is the defending national champions," he said.

Watson said everyone wants to improve each week.

"We are working to fine tune a few things and give

our opponents something they haven't seen on film," he said.

One thing has been missing from the Eagles –

“The big thing for him was last semester gave him the most confidence academically, he’s ever had.”

-Rodney Watson

Men's basketball head coach

Orlando Rutledge. After a semester of working on his academics, he's back playing on the court.

"The big thing for him was last semester gave him the most confidence,

academically, he's ever had," Watson said. "That's a huge lift for him for finishing his degree."

Rutledge's first game

he said.

"Rutledge is a good teammate," Watson said. "He has an excellent basketball body. ... He can do

things to come back," he said.

Watson said playing in the Physical Activities Center in a room filled with USI students is always good.

"We're really excited to have our students back. They're been a huge part of our season. I hope they embrace our teams," he said. "I think the teams play really well together and I think it's a group of young men and women that our student body would really be proud of."

The men's basketball team face Missouri S&T at 7:30 p.m today in the PAC. The Eagles then tip off against the Drury Panthers at 3:15 p.m. Saturday.

USI announces Hall of Fame Class of 2014



Photo courtesy of Sports Information

Duncan Bray was one of the six individuals selected for the Hall of Fame Class of 2014. He played soccer at USI from 2001 to 2003.

By **SHANNON HALL**
Staff writer

USI's Athletic Hall of Fame Committee has selected its 2014 class, which will be inducted during homecoming week in February.

Six individuals and one team was selected by the USI Athletic Hall of Fame Committee – Gary Redman (baseball coach 1988-1993), Kim Boehmer Coffman (volleyball 2000-2003), Duncan Bray (men's soccer 2001-2003), Lori Leonard Swaim (softball 1996-1998), Mike Orban (men's cross country 1984-1987), Matt Vince (baseball 1992-1994) and the 1968-1969 men's basketball team.

"It was unexpected," said Duncan Bray, who played soccer at USI from 2001 to 2003. "After being gone for so long, it's a great honor to hear."

Before coming to USI, Bray played soccer in Scotland. He currently works as a yacht broker and has since 2005.

He hopes he can come up for the induction, he

said.

"I'll try to come up in February, but I'm not 100 percent sure," he said. "It will be a last minute thing because of work."

Bray was a midfielder during his time at USI. In 2003, he earned second-team All American honor, All-Region in 2002 and 2003. He was the NSCAA Scholar All-American in 2002 and 2003 and All-GLVC during those year as well. In 2003, he won the GLVC Paragon Award.

Any student athlete or team could be nominated by the public after the 10-year anniversary of their last season, or a coach/administrator who has departed from the Athletic Department after two years.

When Athletics Director Jon Mark Hall arrived at the athletic department in 2002, he felt the Hall of Fame was a tradition USI needed to keep.

"It was really a chance to honor those who helped build that tradition and keep connection (to) who made us what we are today," Hall said.

Stats

Men's basketball

USI @ William Jewell
88-66
fgm/fga
35-56
pct
.536
3fg/a
8-13
pct
.615
off
12
def
34
T/O
18
STI
5

USI @ Rockhurst

86-68
fgm/fga
30-65
pct
.462
3fg/a
5-14
pct
.357
off
18
def
32
T/O
13
STI
4

Women's basketball

USI @ William Jewell

84-81
fgm/fga
30-65
pct
.462
3fg/a
6-20
pct
.300
off
13
def
32
T/O
14
STI
7

USI @ Rockhurst

70-44
fgm/fga
24-59
pct
.407
3fg/a
7-19
pct
.368
off
11
def
34
T/O
12
STI
9

Each year, the USI's Athletic Hall of Fame committee goes through the 30-50 nominations.

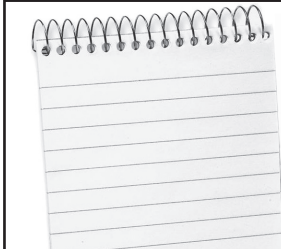
"We trim the list to a short list and then pick the Hall of Fame class from those remaining," Hall said.

The Hall of Fame keeps people connected.

"Fifty years from now, people will see these inductees and ask questions," Hall said. "It definitely helps connecting the past with the present and future."

Every year, each class is special, but this one stands out, Hall said.

"This class stretches from athletes from 10 years ago to the first sanctioned men's basketball team," he said. "This group spans a long gap in USI athletics. You bring people in, and some of the younger folks will learn about USI's history, while those who have been around for some time will have a change to see what happened more recently."



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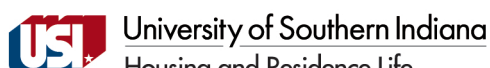
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Women's basketball catch up with old teams



File photo/The Shield

Carpenter dribbles the ball down the court during a last season game.

By **SHANNON HALL**
Staff writer

Not only did the women's basketball team win its first two games after break, but it won against teams it didn't play against last year.

"Even from year to year, you get a little consistency, but with both of these teams, we didn't see them last year, so we're working hard to get game film and watch them," said Head Coach Rick Stein.

The Eagles (8-2, 2-0) won against Rockhurst 70-44 and William Jewell 84-81.

Since the break, USI has bumped up its shooting percentage into the 40s the past two games after

going down to 33.8 percent before the break.

"First two conference games of the year and we came back 2-0," Stein said. "It's been good."

The Eagles will have another go at two more teams they missed out on last year - Drury University and Missouri S&T.

"Most of our preparation is about us," Stein said. "We have to keep getting better and take care of us."

On Thursday, the women's team goes up against Missouri S&T, followed by a face off with No. 10 Drury Panthers on Saturday.

"Both teams have been very good in our league since they came into the

leagues a few years back," Stein said. "Missouri S&T is a team that plays a little bit more of a power game. Drury plays a little bit outside in."

The Eagles have struggled to get a win on Missouri S&T for seven years.

"We'll have our hands full this weekend," Stein said. "We're excited to be back here. Our last four basketball games have been away from the PAC."

USI tips off at 5:15 p.m. today against Missouri S&T, then goes head-to-head with the Drury Panthers at 1 p.m. Saturday.

"We've had a lot of success here, and we just want to keep it going," Stein said.



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