

University Notes

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Trustees prepare for presidential search; review University Center expansion project

The USI Board of Trustees met in Indianapolis January 10 with an agenda that included plans for a presidential search, presentation of preliminary plans for the University Center Expansion/Renovation project, and review of the 10-year capital improvement plan. The presidential search schedule followed the announcement on January 7 that **President H. Ray Hoops** would retire as of June 2009.

In business related to the presidential search, the trustees approved the composition and purpose of a search and screen committee and a proposed timeline. The search and screen committee will be composed of trustees, a support staff member, a senior administrator, five faculty members representing respective colleges, an Extended Services representative, the chair of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, community representatives, and an alumni representative. **John Dunn**, chair of the Board of Trustees, also will serve as chair of the search and screen committee.

The search and screen committee will review applications as received next September and October, reduce the pool to semi-finalists, interview semi-finalists, and recommend five finalists for on-campus interviews. The finalists will visit campus in January 2009 and trustees hope to announce an appointment by March 1, with the new president taking office July 1, 2009.

In other business, Holzman Moss Architecture of New York City presented the design of the University Center expansion and renovation project. The design incorporates the building that was original library space. That space was vacated when the new Rice Library opened in 2006.

Architects using input from students, faculty, alumni, and community representatives considered these as some of the goals for the redesign:

- Improve entryway to the building
- Increase social interaction through new communal gathering spaces
- Easier access to space that serves community outreach functions

The first phase of the project is expected to be bid in fall 2008. The architects are developing a master plan for the facility in multiple stages, depending on funding.

The trustees also reviewed the 10-year capital improvement plan. The plan is divided into near-term, mid-term, and long-term segments covering 2009 to 2019. In the near term the University will request \$8 million from the state and \$7 million in contributions for a teaching theatre. The 350-seat theatre will replace the off-campus USI Theatre located at 3001 Igleheart Avenue. Replacement of the theatre is necessary in the near term due to a planned construction upgrade to State Highway 62 on property where the current theatre is located.

In the mid-term (2011-2013), the University will be asking for \$2 million for a manufacturing engineering laboratory; the long-term (2013-2019) request is for \$31 million for classroom renovation

and expansion and \$25 million for a new general classroom building.

A parking facility is planned for the mid-term. Bonding authorization for \$3 million was approved in 2003-05 toward construction of such a facility. The request is for an increase of \$4 million in bonding authorization for a total of \$7 million for construction of a parking facility, plus \$1.25 million for other parking facilities.

Plans also call for funding for a student residence building in both the mid-term and in the long-term. Cost is estimated to be \$8 million per structure.

Other funding is requested for the Physical Activities Center and for phase II of the campus roadway system. In the mid-term, \$7 million will be requested from the state and \$3 million in funding from other sources and contributions for the PAC and \$5 million will be sought from non-state sources for the second phase of the roadway system.

Lovasz-Kaiser receives USI Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching by Adjunct Faculty

Christine Lovasz-Kaiser's teaching so impressed **Dr. Tamara Hunt**, chair of the History Department, that Hunt asked Lovasz-Kaiser to teach an upper level course, History of England to 1600.

Lovasz-Kaiser is the recipient of the USI Foundation's 2007-08 Award for Outstanding Teaching by Adjunct Faculty. The award includes a \$500 one-time stipend and a \$500 professional development grant.

In nominating Lovasz-Kaiser for the award, Hunt wrote, "Although it is unusual for the history department to have a 300-level course taught by an adjunct who has not completed the Ph.D., we had no hesitation in asking Christine to teach this course. We know the quality of her work and teaching, and we believed that she would do an outstanding job in the course, just as she does in all of her other classes."

Lovasz-Kaiser said, "I appreciate the support I get here at USI. Getting this award has shown me that the University as a whole is very supportive."

She has been teaching in the History Department since 2002, shortly after her husband accepted a position as assistant professor of archaeology at the University of Evansville.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and anthropology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and a Master of Arts degree in archaeology from Boston University.

She also is an adjunct professor at UE. "I teach a full load - a total of four classes, six hours here and six there," she said. A dancer since the age of five, she also teaches adult ballet at Evansville Dance Theatre.

In addition to the upper level course, Lovasz-Kaiser is teaching World Civilization I this semester. Two years ago, she developed a new freshman level course, Age of the Vikings, based on a Viking Archaeology course she taught at Bates College in Maine.

"We read Viking sagas and looked at the material culture," she said. "I've taught it twice, and both times I've taught it it's been full."

I think it's something the students really enjoy taking."

At the end of the class, students watch "The Vikings," a 1950s film with Kirk Douglas, and analyze why Vikings still fascinate us today.

"I really appreciate that Dr. Hunt gave me the opportunity to do that," Lovasz-Kaiser said. "She has been very supportive of me and my teaching."

Her lectures are highly visual, with a collection of over 1,000 slides she created. "I felt it was important to have images with everything I talked about. They are pictures I took, or pictures from books. When PowerPoint came along, I scanned everything from my slides."

She notes the importance of classroom discussion and characterizes her exams as "hard."

"They have to take in a lot of information and synthesize a lot of material. I give a good review - they know everything they need to know before it's on the exam. And I offer writing assignments and other ways to help their grade if they're not good at taking exams. I try to learn as I go what is going to help the students do better."

When asked what makes her an outstanding teacher, Lovasz-Kaiser said, "I think my enthusiasm. I try and get that across on the first day. I am enthusiastic not just about the subject but about teaching something they can take with them, and I think that comes across. I truly enjoy talking about the places I talk about, so that can be infectious."

"I've had students coming in hating history, thinking it would be boring, and I got them excited, so I hope I can continue to do that."

Robinson receives USI Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching by New Faculty

If Dr. Shadow J. Q. Robinson had his way, more USI students would take physics to learn how the universe works. And those who do take physics would take more of it.

The assistant professor of physics is the recipient of the 2007-08 USI Foundation Outstanding Teaching by New Faculty Award. The award recognizes a faculty member who has been with the University less than six years. Since joining the faculty of the Pott College of Science and Engineering in 2003, Robinson has taught all levels of physics from introductory courses to independent topics.

His affinity for physics began in high school in Pike County, Kentucky, when he found it to be the most challenging subject he had encountered.

He continued with physics because of its widespread implications. "Your goal is to explain everything in the universe. If it happens inside this universe, physics is going to try to answer why that happened."

In his research, Robinson studies the structure of nuclei primarily through the use of shell model codes on high-powered computers. He is committed to teaching physics because he can share the secrets of the universe with more people.

Robinson encourages students in the classroom to interact.

"When they talk to each other and develop their ideas, I may see where they have a misconception. It is often difficult to see that as quickly when they are putting down line after line of mathematics," he said.

Robinson also wants physics students to develop skills in writing and speaking about scientific matters. In some courses, he includes assignments requiring students to write research papers and make class presentations. If he were responsible for hiring

employees or approving requests for grants, he would trust the person who could explain his or her ideas well.

"People can get far if they are good at explaining their ideas," he said. "If they can't talk to others about their ideas, it doesn't matter how good the ideas are."

Robinson continually updates introductory courses with new lectures and problems as well as laboratory exercises. He uses technology, including JavaScript animations, to help students visualize abstract concepts.

Students say Robinson's enthusiasm for physics is contagious.

During spring semester 2007, he offered a special topics course in Einstein's theory of general relativity at the request of three students. "This is HARD stuff," he says in capital letters in a course description on his Web site, "and it is no where near my specialty, but if you have the serious chutzpah to think you are up to it, I would love to offer it again."

He believes that motivated students who are willing to work should be allowed to pursue whatever topics interest them.

One student who completed the course last spring was Kyle Besing, a mathematics major with a minor in physics.

"I couldn't help but think that if he (Robinson) was excited about the material, then it must be worth learning," Besing said.

Besing praised Robinson's teaching style, personal interaction, and commitment to teaching as well as his accessibility. Robinson was never too busy to help class members understand a concept. The students met regularly on Monday and Wednesday evenings to study.

"During this semester, Dr. Robinson also was teaching a night class and would come by our study group after already having been on campus 12 hours and make sure we didn't have any questions before he went home." Besing said.

Often, the students posed questions that triggered involuntarily responses. Besing said Robinson stayed with them until they understood the concept or problem and often presented them with supplemental notes the next morning.

Robinson said he didn't recall staying longer than two-and-a-half hours at any of the group's study meetings.

Robinson earned bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physics at the University of Kentucky and a doctorate in physics at Rutgers University.

The USI Foundation Outstanding Teaching by New Faculty Award includes a \$1,000 cash stipend and a \$1,000 professional development grant. The award was announced at the spring faculty and administrative staff meeting on January 7. Responsibilities as a new parent kept Robinson from receiving the award in person. He and his wife Felicia welcomed their first child, a son named Elijah Quinn Robinson, into the universe on January 4.

Many people ask Robinson about his unusual first name. He legally added "Shadow" to his birth name, Jason Quinn Robinson, at age 20 after using it as a nickname for several years. The moniker developed in a couple of ways. He has used it as a pen name in writing poetry. He also became known as the "shadow" for his style as a high school basketball player.

Physics and poetry are not Robinson's only interests. He and his wife hold season tickets for concerts of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra. He also is learning to play classical guitar, an experience that he believes has made him more effective as a teacher.

"It helps me to see how hard I have to work at playing guitar to make progress," he said. "It has given me insight into having patience. I see my students working at physics and trying to get better. If you want to get better at something, you have to stick with it."

For more information about Robinson, visit his Web site at www.usi.edu/science/physics/robinson/index.html.

tact Academic Affairs at 812/461-5419.

Faculty receive grants for summer research

In addition to the Foundation's Outstanding Teaching Awards, it was announced at the Spring Faculty and Administrative Staff Meeting that 11 faculty members received 2008 Lilly Summer Research Fellowships and three received the new USI Foundation Summer Stipends for Research.

The Lilly recipients and their projects are:

Dr. Amelia Biehl, assistant professor of economics in the College of Business: "The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and Housing Demand."

Dr. John Donnelly, assistant professor of mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering: "Ruinous Sets, Weakly Ruinous Sets, and Thin Sets."

Dr. Vanessa Hunn, assistant professor of social work in the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services: "Spiritual, Psychological, and Socioeconomic Factors in the Decision to Marry in Black and White Mothers."

Dr. Melody Lee, assistant professor of mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering: "How Rational Numbers are Presented in U.S. and Japanese Mathematics Textbooks and the Possible Effects of Presentation in Excelling Performance of U.S. Students."

Dr. William Mack, assistant professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts: "Border Politics in a Post-9/11 World - The Influence of Informal Caucuses."

Dr. Aimee Mark, assistant professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts: "Putting Confrontation in its Place: The Influence of Social Norms on the Effectiveness of a Confrontation of Prejudicial Bias."

Rob Millard-Mendez, assistant professor of art in the College of Liberal Arts: "Creating and Documenting Two Life-Sized, Interactive, Figurative Sculptures."

Dr. Seungjin Park, assistant professor of computer science in the College of Business: "A MAC Protocol for Reliable Broadcast in Mobile Ad Hoc Networks."

Dr. Katherine Riedford, assistant professor of nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Professions: "College Students' Perceptions of Need for Mental Health Service and Access to Care."

Dr. Daria Sevastianova, assistant professor of economics in the College of Business: "MISs, WEIS, COPDAB, and VRA Events Data: A Comparative Analysis."

Dr. Patrick Shaw, director of composition and associate professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts: "The Theological Implications of Kenneth Burke's Rhetorical Theory."

Only three faculty are awarded the new USI Foundation Summer Stipend for Research. Those chosen for summer 2008 are:

Dr. Paul Parkison, assistant professor of education in the Bower-Suhrheinrich College of Education and Human Services: "Intertextuality in the Implementation of K-12 Academic Standards."

Dr. Shadow Robinson, assistant professor of physics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering: "The K Quantum Number in 50Cr."

Dr. Otis Stanley, assistant professor of health services/administration in the College of Nursing and Health Professions: "Childhood Health Literacy."

For more information about awards available for faculty, con-

Updated Career Services space includes Northwestern Mutual Interview Room

Greater interviewing capacity in the newly renovated and relocated Office of Career Services and Placement in the Orr Center includes a room equipped for mock interviews where students can polish their skills in preparation for actual job interviews.

The mock interview room was made possible by a gift to the USI Foundation from the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Evansville Group. **Norman B. Miller '77** is director and financial advisor.

The Northwestern Mutual Interview Room is among attractive new spaces available to recruiters and job candidates and provides videotaping capability that allows students to record and review their practice interviews.

Philip L. Parker, director of USI Career Services and Placement, and other professional staff in Career Services often conduct mock interviews to give students practice for actual job interviews. Some employers also volunteer time to conduct mock interviews for students nearing graduation.

Parker said, "Students need to polish their interview skills. They need to be able to tell the story of their accomplishments, skills, and experience to prospective employers."

The gift from Northwestern Mutual also funded new software that allows students to participate in a virtual interview through digital Web cam. The student's responses to interview questions are recorded. Students can then meet with a career advisor to review the recorded interview and receive feedback that will strengthen and enhance the way they present themselves and respond in an actual interview.

With a special code students can access the virtual interview software at their convenience from their personal computers and come into the Office of Career Services at a later time to review the tape with a career advisor.

Miller said, "The Evansville Group of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network is truly committed to higher education in Evansville and to USI. This gift was a way for us to show our long-term commitment to the University."

Miller said Northwestern has had USI interns since 1973. The company plans to use the new room for interviewing internship candidates and will provide professionals from its staff to conduct mock interviews.

Huse-Tooley '96, Pearl, and Stegemoller to be inducted into GLVC Hall of Fame

The Great Lakes Valley Conference will induct former USI softball All-American **Amber Huse-Tooley '96** and former USI men's basketball coach **Bruce Pearl** into its Hall of Fame during the spring meetings in May. USI Hall of Fame cross country coach **Bill Stegemoller**, who was selected for the hall shortly before his death last year, also will be inducted this spring.

They join **Stan Gouard '00**, **LeAnn Freeland '97**, **Elly Rono '98**, **Jim Nolan**, and **Dr. Charles Bertram** in the GLVC Hall of Fame.

Huse-Tooley guided the Eagles to two GLVC Championships while at USI. The Eagles posted a 107-80-1 overall record and made an appearance in the NCAA Division II Tournament in 1995.

An inaugural member of the USI Athletic Hall of Fame, Huse-Tooley was a first-team Academic All-American in 1994 and 1995, a first-team All-American in 1994, a second-team All-American in

1995, a three-time All-GLVC selection, and a three-time Academic All-GLVC honoree.

The recipient of the Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award in 1996, Huse-Tooley set five career records during her stint and remains USI's all-time leader in doubles and triples. Huse-Tooley lives and works in Noblesville, Indiana where she is a preschool teacher at Talking Time Learning Center.

Stegemoller created the USI men's cross country program in 1979 and proceeded to win nine straight GLVC crowns (1979-88). During his career at USI, the Eagles won 12 conference titles. He also directed the Eagles into the national spotlight with a third-place finish at the 1983 NCAA II National Championships and to 12 appearances in the championship meet.

The Eagles advanced to the national meet by winning the regional championship three times. Stegemoller coached 16 All-Americans, including Rono, who won three national championships in 1997-98 and was the NCAA II Runner of the Year in cross country.

Pearl served as head coach of the men's basketball program from 1992-2001 and developed the Eagles into one of the top basketball programs in the country. Considered one of the finest coaches in GLVC history, Pearl guided his teams to four GLVC Championships and into the NCAA Division II Tournament in each of his nine seasons at USI. Since leaving USI, he has gone on to success at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Tennessee.

Names in the News

Passings

James Fleck, husband of **Judy Fleck**, retired administrative assistant in Publishing Services, died on January 9. Services were held January 12 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1236 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714 or USI Varsity Club, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712.

Gerald Ruff, father of **Jeri Broshears**, senior administrative assistant in student development and father-in-law of **Don Broshears**, custodial services supervisor in the physical plant, died January 15. Services were held January 18 at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church of Christ. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's UCC, German Township, Evansville, IN 47720.

Gina Walker, library associate in the David L. Rice Library, died on January 16. Services will be held at 11 a.m. January 19 at Browning Funeral Home. Friends may visit from 9 a.m. to service time.

Accomplishments

Dr. Glenna Bower, assistant professor of physical education, has been selected by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Recognition Awards Committee to receive the Mabel Lee Award. Established in 1975, the Mabel Lee Award recognizes a young AAHPERD member who demonstrates outstanding potential in scholarship, teaching, and professional leadership. The award will be presented at the AAHPERD national convention in Fort Worth, Texas in April.

FYI

Take your USI spirit on the road

This year it's easier than ever before to tag your car with a red, white, and blue USI license plate. Now you can ask for your USI license plate at your local Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Beginning January 1, BMVs state-wide began collecting the \$25 tax-

deductible contribution in support of the USI Alumni Scholarship Endowment and forwarding it to the University. A separate authorization form from the University is no longer required. When you purchase or renew your USI license plate, you will pay the state assessed fees, a \$15 BMV processing fee, and your \$25 scholarship contribution directly to the BMV. You may request your USI plate from the BMV by mail, at your local license branch, or online through the BMV Web site at www.state.in.us/bmv. As a result of the BMV change, the purchase of a USI plate will no longer qualify alumni for active member status in the USI Alumni Association. (For more information about membership in the Alumni Association, go to www.usi.edu/ALUMNI/membership.asp.) For information about the USI license plates, call the Alumni Association at 812/464-1924 or your local license branch.

Hoops' presentation is online

An historical presentation about USI from 1994 to 2007 given at the Spring 2008 Faculty and Administrative Staff meeting by **Dr. H. Ray Hoops** is now available online. The presentation includes photographs, charts, and graphs full of useful information about the University's growth over the last 14 years, including comparisons of enrollment, conditional admission, appropriations, alumni giving, and more. Go to www.usi.edu/president/presentation.asp to view the pdf.

Employee Bible Study meets Wednesdays

The Employee Bible Study group will meet from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays beginning January 23 in University Center Room 214. Employees are welcome to bring a lunch and join group members as they study *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. For more information, contact Phil Orr, distance learning librarian, at 812/461-5328.

USI and Chamber offer Candidate School

USI and the Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana will lead a candidate school from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, February 1, at Innovation Pointe, 318 Main Street in downtown Evansville. If you've ever thought about running for political office, here's a chance to explore what it takes to become a successful political candidate. Candidate school will provide practical advice from experienced campaigners, public servants, political scientists, and party officials. Topics will range from why you should run for office to defining yourself as a candidate, election law compliance, and media relations. The registration fee of \$40 includes materials, breaks, lunch, and parking. To register using Visa, MasterCard, or Discover, call 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600. Send a check or money order payable to USI to USI Extended Services, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712. No employee fee waivers apply.

CareerLINK is for all students

The spring CareerLINK Internship/Co-op, Full-Time, and Graduate School Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, in Carter Hall in the University Center. CareerLINK connects seniors and graduates with employers and graduate schools, and undergraduates with employers seeking summer and fall internships and co-ops. For a list of recruiters that will be on campus, go to www.usi.edu/careersv. For more information contact Rene Kossell, recruiting supervisor in Career Services, at 812/464-1865.