

For immediate release
August 17, 2001

USI math instructor wins H. Lee Cooper award

Mr. Craig McCarron, instructor in mathematics, is the inaugural winner of the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award presented by University of Southern Indiana's University Core Council and Evansville philanthropist H. Lee Cooper.

The award, focusing exclusively on teaching, honors a faculty member whose work in University Core courses has been especially creative and successful in furthering UCC goals.

In nominating McCarron for the award, his colleague, Dr. Kathy Rodgers, associate chair of mathematics, wrote:

"Ninety percent of Mr. McCarron's teaching assignments are courses that satisfy the math component of the UCC; however, it is Math 108, Survey of Mathematics, that showcases Mr. McCarron's teaching techniques and enables him to make mathematical converts of even the least suspecting of his students..."

"His love of mathematics and his enthusiasm are contagious. As a result, his students complete the math component of the University Core Curriculum with a greater appreciation for scientific inquiry and logical thinking, a deeper understanding and appreciation for mathematics, and the realization that their instructor has sacrificed his personal time for their enrichment."

The H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award and a commemorative plaque will be presented to McCarron at USI's Fall Faculty and Administrative Staff Meeting, which will begin at 8:15 a.m. Monday, August 20, in the University Center's Carter Hall.

The award includes a \$1,500 stipend plus additional monies to support travel, professional development, or classroom needs.

As this year's winner, McCarron also will deliver a presentation to the University community during the 2001-2002 academic year. A date for the presentation has not been selected, but his general topic will be "learning from failure."

McCarron taught part-time at USI before joining the faculty full-time in 1997. He holds an A.B. in mathematics from Princeton University and a M.Ed. from Harvard.

Sent to: Henderson Gleaner, Mt. Vernon Democrat, Our Times, Evansville Courier & Press (Pat Swanson), Posey County News, Princeton Clarion, Warrick Newspapers, Evansville Living Magazine, Ferdinand News, Huntingburg Press, Indiana Business Magazine, Indiana Education Insight, Indiana Journal of Commerce & Industry, Indianapolis Business Journal, Indianapolis Star, Jasper Herald, Louisville Courier Journal (IN, KY), Madisonville Messenger, Message, Oakland City Journal, Odon Journal, Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Perry County News, Petersburg Press-Dispatch, South Gibson Star-Times, Spencer County Journal, Union County Advocate, Vincennes Sun-Commercial, Washington Times-Herald; local radio and television