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Employee Retirement Reception

A reception for retiring employees will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, in Carter Hall in the University Center. The reception will honor **Ann Hammers**, a custodial worker in the Physical Plant; **Dal Herring**, professor of communications and chair of the Communications Department; **Mary Ann McCulloch**, senior administrative assistant in Academic Affairs; **Charles Petranek**, professor of sociology; **Robert Rust**, staff engineer in the Physical Plant; and **Jerry Williams**, instructor in mathematics.

McCulloch has been with the University since 1989. "Mary is one of those rare individuals who manages to keep a busy office humming and still have a smile for everyone who comes by. Her knowledge of the institution, wisdom about dealing with people, and terrific sense of humor have been a tremendous help to me, and I will miss her next year," said **Linda Bennett**, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

Williams has been with the University since 1994. "Jerry spent a lot of time discussing algebraic thinking and how to teach students to think algebraically," said **Kathy Rodgers**, chair of the Mathematics Department. "In all of his classes, he emphasized conceptual understanding and continually challenged his students to think a little deeper. He has many interests other than mathematics, including trains, music, landscaping, recycling, and fine dining. While a member of our department, he organized many Christmas dinners, diagnosed the causes of numerous sick plants that appeared on his desk, and landscaped a lot of yards - always at no cost. He is a generous individual and I wish him a long and happy retirement."

Rust, a registered professional civil engineer who shared his expertise with staff architects and engineers, has been with USI since 1989. "Bob brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to us," said **Stephen Helfrich**, Physical Plant director. "He has been responsible for planning, designing, and administering many construction and renovation projects for USI. He is particularly interested in the preservation and restoration of the properties and facilities in New Harmony. Most of his work and responsibilities were for Historic New Harmony, including the renovation of the Doctor's Office, Murphy Auditorium, Cooper Shop, Schnee Ribeyre Elliott House, and many other projects. Bob also designed and helped design many projects on campus, including the tennis courts, Bennett Lane, renovation of the Wright Administration Building office area, multi-purpose building at the Broadway Complex, and campus roads and parking areas.

"Bob didn't need to work for USI, but he just wanted to work for USI," Helfrich said. "He loves working here and enjoys seeing the progress being made in New Harmony and on campus. He has accomplished a lot for USI."

Hammers started work at USI as a custodial worker in the Physical Activities Center in the summer of 1990. During the 15 years of her career at USI she has worked in several other buildings and areas, most recently in O'Bannon Residence Hall, where she functioned both as custodian and "house mother," Helfrich

said. "Ann will be missed by her co-workers and the USI staff and students," he said. "She performed very well in her job. I am sure she is planning her vegetable garden for next spring and anxiously waiting for warmer weather to start planting."

A tribute to Herring appeared in a previous issue of University Notes. A story about Petranek's retirement is in this issue.

Each of the honorees will be introduced by a colleague, and Bennett will emcee. Attendees will have the opportunity to sign a memento for each honoree, and refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Special Events at 812/464-1930.

Nursing professor plans Alzheimer's course

More than 20 years ago, **Martha Sparks'** mother-in-law was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 1993, her husband was diagnosed with the same disease; seven years later, her father - who also suffered from Alzheimer's - came to live with her, putting her in a position to care for two Alzheimer's patients at the same time.

"Living with two people with Alzheimer's was a good reason to keep learning about the disease," Sparks, associate professor of nursing, said. "It really gives you a new perspective."

Sparks is preparing to share that perspective with students, in a course developed for spring 2006. The course, which will be offered via the Internet, deals with assessing the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, knowing what to expect from the disease, and managing and knowing how to deal with the disease's symptoms.

It's a subject Sparks knows plenty about. Apart from her personal experiences, Sparks has been doing workshops on Alzheimer's since 1991, and developed a gerontology program at USI in 1999. She gave a presentation about the perceptions of caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease at the Oxford Round Table for Successful Aging in August 2005. The Oxford Round Table is held at St. Anne's College in the University of Oxford, England.

The course will be the first in the region to deal directly with Alzheimer's. The goal of the course - which will be offered to students of all majors - is to help people better understand and deal with the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

"I want to help give a feeling of the illness and not just cognitive information about it," Sparks said. "If we can understand what to expect, and know why we see the behavior, then our emotions don't get quite so involved, and we can use a more practical approach to caring for the patient."

A second, similar course also is being developed for people already practicing in the field. Those who take that course will be certified to deal with Alzheimer's, and they also will be able to educate fellow employees.

Sparks developed the course with an \$18,000 grant from the Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education. The grant program supports development of educational content delivered via technology.

Song Day to benefit tornado victims

The Foreign Language Department's annual holiday Song Day, to be held at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, in Forum I in the Wright Administration Building, will also function as a fundraiser for tornado victims this year.

"We usually have people bring desserts," said **Leslie Roberts**, acting chair of the Foreign Language Department. "This time I'm asking everyone to contribute \$1 for tornado relief."

Roberts said she plans to donate the money to Habitat for Humanity's Operation Home Again, a program to build homes for tornado victims.

Song Day is a multi-denominational celebration of the holidays. Roberts will open the program with a traditional Hebrew blessing, which she will sing while lighting a Menorah. Classes in each of the five foreign languages at USI – French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Latin – will perform three traditional holiday songs in their respective language.

"And then we sing one verse of 'Silent Night' in each language, and sing a verse all together – in English – at the end," Roberts said. "I think of it as a prayer for peace to the universe in general – for a good year for people, and more harmony."

About 300 people are expected to attend the event

Sociology losing two to retirement

The Sociology Department is losing two of its founding professors to retirement pursuits.

Charles Petranek has been with USI since 1973. He and his wife Diana plan to visit 50 countries in the next 10 years. The couple has already visited 51, as well as spending seven summers in Hawaii, where Petranek taught as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. They will return to Hawaii in January 2006 for a month's vacation.

Petranek plans to teach as an adjunct professor for a couple of fall semesters, and travel in spring.

"We'll be traveling together and seeing the world. We'll probably concentrate a lot on Africa and the South Sea islands. Another priority will be getting more involved with our seven grandchildren. They all live in Evansville, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati, so we'll be seeing them and also taking them on trips."

"It's going to be a phased-in retirement," he said. "It's all about process, not abruptly leaving one thing for another. It works better for me. I'm not going to retire from something, but to something."

In 1973, he left Cleveland State University and accepted the position at USI in large part because of the weather. "We wanted to stay in the Midwest, and this is the warmest place that made us an offer," he said.

Gardening is a key priority for the Petraneks. "The biggest project will be trying to keep the deer out of the garden. They come up for the Petranek buffet."

Petranek is nationally regarded for his scholarship in the field of experiential learning and social simulations. He has created 16 social simulations to enhance his courses. His simulations have been published and are used in high schools, colleges, and businesses. In 1996, the North American Simulation and Gaming Association presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

"Social simulations have been a big part of my life," he said. "I will try to expand them and offer them to different organizations, fraternities, sororities, and also to college professors."

He presented his latest social simulation, on spousal abuse, at a NASGA conference in New Hampshire. He found that women

were likely to report that they would leave an abusive relationship, but after participating in the social simulation, four out of six said they would stay in the relationship after being abused. Men participating in the simulation started to enjoy being abusive. "It's a powerful simulation," he said.

"I can talk all I want about spousal abuse, and all of [the women] will say they would get out, but in a simulation, 60 percent would stay. It gives them some insight so that hopefully, in real life, they would get out of it."

Petranek also specializes in marriage and family, and estimates he has taught 45 Marriage and Family courses during his career, both at USI and Cleveland State. In 1976, he and his wife published *Inside Marriage: You, Me, and Us*, available in Rice Library.

He has conducted more than 40 major community research projects to assist organizations in assessing and meeting public needs with areas of concentration in mental health, medicine, youth, addiction, abuse, welfare, and family.

In 1995, the USI Faculty Senate honored him as the Integra Bank Professor of the Year. He received the USI Alumni Association Faculty Recognition Award in 2002.

Petranek served as chair of the Sociology Department for 16 years and was actively involved with students beyond the classroom. He took students on two-week trips to Washington D.C. for several years, and led multiple Sociology Club trips to Chicago. He accompanied students from his Collective Behavior class to a Grateful Dead concert in the mid-nineties.

Students rewarded him with the USI Student Government Association's Spirit of the Eagle Award for Faculty in 1997 and Teacher of the Year in 1999.

He said the word that summarizes his USI experience is "gratitude."

"I'm pleased with the University for giving me the opportunity to teach, and also feel gratitude for the wonderful students. It's been a very pleasurable and enjoyable experience for me, and it's helped me to have a great family because of the great employment that was here."

Howard R. Gabennesch has been with the University since 1972. For his students, Gabennesch's name is synonymous with the term "critical thinking."

"Back in 1968 I read a book called *Invitation to Sociology* by an important sociologist named Peter Berger, and that really got me started in what I would later come to realize consciously, and articulate explicitly, as critical thinking," he said.

Though critical thinking has influenced his teaching from the start, he has specifically incorporated it into his teaching in the last 15 years. "I started off using a critical thinking approach to teaching sociology, and then I realized the biggest contribution I could make to my students' education was to use sociology as an instrument to teach critical thinking," he said. "That's how I've viewed my teaching goals ever since."

In a recent article, entitled "Critical Thinking: What Is It Good For (In Fact, What Is It?)" (*Skeptical Inquirer*, December 2005) he discusses his "no-holds-barred" approach to critical thinking, in which "everything is scrutinized and there are no sacred cows."

He would like to continue to teach a seminar in critical thinking after retirement. He also plans to do more writing on critical thinking, and reading in subjects outside of his own areas, such as the Civil War and classic American literature. "Those are subjects I've felt guilty reading, subjects that don't seem to have a direct bearing on my teaching. I have a list of books and areas that I want to educate myself in."

He and his wife Judy also plan to spend more time with their

combined 13 grandchildren, who range in age from 18 years to six months.

Honors Program forum explores genetics

The USI Honors Program will present its eighth annual public policy forum at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 6, in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center.

This year's topic is "Medical Research: Dollars, DNA, 'Dolly.'" Students in HONS 101: Issues for the 21st Century, have been considering genetic issues this semester and will lead deliberation in the forum, which is free and open to the public.

Perspectives on this topic include first, that science should be free to pursue genetic research, which could have enormous benefits to humanity; second, that genetic research's potential for treating disease is too great to ignore, but that researchers should draw the line at genetic engineering, which could have unforeseen and dangerous consequences; and third, that human life is sacred, and by trying to change our genetic makeup scientists are undermining the basic laws of nature and God.

A deliberative forum is not a debate, but rather a moderated discussion where the participants (the audience) work toward making choices involving the public policy issue.

During the forum, participants will consider how they can act on the problem and what policy they think is best for our society. Participants will weigh the costs and consequences of various options and what they are or are not willing to do in addressing this issue.

Renee Hitch, a 2005 Presidential Scholar majoring in international studies, is a student in the course. She said students have researched the issues surrounding genetics and meet twice a week for discussions led by Partridge and two group leaders.

"I've always been interested in genetics. The idea that through genetic engineering you could prevent diseases from happening in children before they are born, including extremely harmful diseases, or prevent bipolar disorder or depression through genetic engineering," she said. "We're not there at the moment, but it's interesting to think about possibilities and it opens up questions such as: should we, even if we can?"

"How far should we go in allowing cloning? Do we want to clone humans, or only animals, or do we want to clone, period? What if we could clone organs that could help keep people alive? It's a fascinating subject."

The USI Honors Program offers enhanced opportunities to students who show promise of outstanding academic achievement, to develop verbal and written communication skills, critical thinking, and investigative learning.

For more information, contact **Dane M. Partridge**, associate professor of management and director of the USI Honors Program, at 812/465-7085.

Honeymoon with Wilma

University Center supervisor **Emily (Allen) Lynn** and her husband Adam planned to spend an idyllic honeymoon in the "Riviera Maya," but instead were forced by Hurricane Wilma to spend a week sleeping on the floor with 250 other people.

"We had two days of honeymoon and had a blast," she said. "It was beautiful weather, until they told us there was going to be a hurricane. We had two really good days of beach time until we had to evacuate."

The couple was married October 15 and planned to spend a week in Mexico. They arrived October 17 and three days later were evacuated to a hotel built to withstand cyclonic winds. Lynn

said 800 people took shelter in three rooms.

"The hurricane stalled over Mexico for 36 hours, so it was over us," she said. "The ceiling started leaking and falling in. One of the interior windows blew in, hit a woman, and cut a man. That was the only time I was scared."

The hurricane was loud.

"It sounded like a roller coaster going around the hotel. After seeing Katrina, it made your mind wander and think of the worst."

She said people wiled away the hours playing games and talking.

"They provided some games, and we slept or tried to sleep. You meet a lot of interesting people in that situation, but when you're in there for three days there's only so much talking you can do. We played Jenga and Hangman for hours."

The Lynns were scheduled to return on October 23, but all commercial flights out of the Cancun area were canceled. They didn't make it home until five days later.

Obviously, Lynn's honeymoon was not what she envisioned.

"It wasn't fun by any means, but it wasn't that bad. We made it home safe, so that's all that matters."

O'Bannon Award

Historic Southern Indiana presented its first Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Enrichment Award at its annual members meeting November 1 in Vevay, Indiana.

The award was presented to **Maxine Brown** of Corydon, who led the effort to restore the Corydon Colored School and named the school for her aunt, Leora Brown, a long-time teacher there.

Built in 1891, the school was one of the first places to educate African Americans in Indiana. It closed in 1950. The national 50th anniversary celebration of the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* was held at the Leora Brown School in 2004.

"The restored school has become a valuable center for not only promoting knowledge of Indiana education in its segregated days, but also providing Corydon with a valuable social and cultural enrichment center," said **Darrel Bigham**, HSI director. "A number of solid applications were submitted, and that attests to the legacy of the O'Bannons in preserving and promoting southern Indiana resources."

HSI board member **Martha Bladen** hosted the event at the Schenck Mansion Bed & Breakfast in Vevay.

Wrestling club takes second place

The Eagles Wrestling Club took second place with 117 points in the Wildcat Invitational Wrestling Tournament on November 19 at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. Bowling Green State University came in first with 143, and USI was followed by University of Toledo with 68.5, University of Rio Grande with 68, and Indiana Wesleyan University with 50.

The student club has close to 50 members and supporters. The club's faculty advisor is **Paul Kuban**, associate professor of engineering.

"We are planning to compete in upcoming tournaments, but of course finances are always an issue because it's quite expensive to travel," said Kuban. "We have had generous support from the community. There are several members of our booster club who have been very generous."

Fifteen members of the club competed in the tournament,

which is divided into weight classes. USI took three first place wins, five second places, and two third places.

The club will compete in a tournament December 2-3 at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. The season ends with a national tournament in March.

For more information, join the Eagles Wrestling group on MyUSI or go to www.ncwa.net.

Names in the news

In sympathy

The University community extends sympathy to the family of **Renee Dugger**, instructor in nursing, whose father **Perry Brown Jr.**, died on Friday, November 25. Services were held on Monday, November 28 at Barnett-Strother Funeral Home.

Welcome

Dustin B. Smith, a 2004 USI graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, has accepted a position as program assistant in the Office of Student Development.

Shannon Hamilton has accepted a position as senior administrative assistant in Human Resources. She was formerly a school technologist with the Lubbock (Texas) Independent School District and was a member of the North Carolina Air National Guard.

Jennifer Singleton, a graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership in Higher Education and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, has accepted a position as an advisor in the University Division.

Accomplishments

Joseph Palladino, professor of psychology, has written an essay, "From the Streets of the Bronx to Academia," in the Society for the Teaching of Psychology publication, *The Teaching of Psychology in Autobiography: Perspectives from Exemplary Psychology Teachers*.

The Office of Residence Life received the 2005 Educational Benchmarking Commitment to Excellence Award – Gold Institution for its annual participation in the Association of College and University Housing Officers International/Educational Benchmarking Resident Assessment and commitment to continuous improvement.

Pam Doerter, internship and co-op coordinator in Career Services and Placement, was recently installed as president of the Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association (MCEIA). This professional organization is comprised of educators and employers within a nine Midwestern-state region who work with interns and co-op students. The nonprofit organization promotes the growth and advancement of cooperative education and internships.

Dr. Robert L. Reid, provost/vice president emeritus for Academic Affairs, was named an honorary trustee by the Indiana Historical Society's Board of Trustees in October. The honor was in recognition of Dr. Reid's service on the board from 1995 to 2003.

The Indiana Historical Society, established in 1830, is one of the oldest historical societies in the United States. It has become Indiana's storyteller, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and disseminating Indiana history. It maintains one of the largest collections of material on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. The Society opened new headquarters in downtown Indianapolis in 1999.

Carolyn Roth, instructor in art, has had her painting entitled "Compassion" accepted into the 13th Annual International Juried Exhibition "Crossing Borders" at The Laredo Center for the Arts, in Laredo, Texas. The exhibition will run December 1-January 21.

Library director **Ruth Miller** has been invited to give two workshops on library collection management and serve as a consultant at City University of Hong Kong the first week of December. Miller was employed in the library at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from 1990-1996.

Maggie Felton, instructor in psychology, **Cynthia Smith**, assistant professor of psychology, and **Tamara Wandel**, assistant professor of communications, gave a lecture November 17 at Willard Library dealing with national statistics on women, beauty and well-being, and portrayals of females in the mass media. The lecture was part of a series of community-wide events that will culminate in Lauren Greenfield's "Girl Culture" exhibition at the Evansville Museum of Art, History and Science in fall 2006. The exhibition also is sponsored by Deaconess Women's Hospital and the Girl Scouts of Raintree Council and focuses on the social and emotional lives of girls and how their well-being and self-esteem are often tied to appearance. The series addresses contemporary media as well as peer and parental influences.

In appreciation

"Dean, Sam and I would like to thank everyone at USI for their thoughtfulness with Scott's death. He was a wonderful young man who had accomplished much in his short life. The planter is absolutely beautiful. In times like this, it is always a great help to have supportive friends and colleagues." - **Jeanne Barnett**, professor of biology.

FYI

Lighting a Tradition

The Student Alumni Association cordially invites employees, students, alumni, and families to the 16th annual Lighting a Tradition at 4 p.m. Sunday, December 4, in the Orr Center Lobby. This tree-lighting event brings the holiday spirit to campus and features the USI Madrigal Singers, Santa photos with the children, and free refreshments. Admission to the event is one canned good or non-perishable food item to be donated to Archibald's Food Closet.

Christmas in New Harmony

The 21st annual Christmas in New Harmony festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, December 3-4, in New Harmony, Indiana.

The event will include family-friendly activities such as breakfast and photos with Santa, the Main Street Christmas Parade, an artisan craft fair, the Festival of Trees, ice sculpting, the Children's Nutcracker Ballet, a Signature School concert, a live Nativity, carriage rides, a children's carnival, an antique show, and much more.

Christmas in New Harmony is sponsored by New Harmony Business Associates. For a complete schedule of events and more information, go to www.newharmony.biz or call 800/231-2168.

Deadline approaching

Monday, December 12 is the deadline to register for the Spain and Morocco trip during spring break. Contact **Eric vonFuhrmann**, associate professor of English at 812/464-1749 for more information.