

Zach Weigand: "App"-lying himself

The idiom is "necessity is the mother of invention," but according to **Zach Weigand**, tedium can be the mother of invention, too.

Weigand, like all the graphic designers in Publishing Services, uses a Mac. In order to spare himself and other designers the task of manually searching through more than a decade of files, he wrote a bit of AppleScript code he calls "retriever." Retriever searches through thousands of past jobs and fetches the desired file in moments.

Chris Norrick, senior graphic designer, said, "We archive on average about 700 design jobs a year in our department, and it really speeds up the process of pulling those out of storage when it's time to do some changes to a previously designed job. Since we do lots of 'reruns' – things like date and location changes – it saves me countless hours over the course of a year.

Weigand's grateful coworkers have been sending retriever to find files for them for the past five years, and Weigand has continued to update the application, making it search more places in less time. Since then, he's created several applications to automate tasks within the graphics area, and recently sold an updaters client to OpenDNS, a free service that allows the user to increase Internet security and speed.

"Everything I've created has been something I've needed myself, and after learning how to do it, I've created non work-related applications at home and released them as freeware applications to help people who may need the same thing I do."

At last count, his applications have been downloaded more than 70,000 times from multiple sites, including macupdate and VersionTracker. And though he provides the apps for free, he also accepts donations on his website. "Over the years I've had three, maybe four people donate," he said. "It'll buy me a beer once every six months."

His most recent code for Publishing Services searches through text and automatically corrects it for University style, saving time for proofreaders in his office as well as designers. "That's probably one of the more useful ones I've made," he said.

Karen Altstadt, production coordinator in Publishing Services, agrees. "Try as we might, there are times when we miss things," she said. "I see the app as another accurate and consistent set of eyes to help us review the large amount of text that passes through our department."

Leslie Parker, director of Publishing Services, said, "Zach's technical knowledge and problem solving skills continue to improve Publishing's operations. This app is just one of many original contributions Zach has made that greatly benefit this department and its service to the University."

Weigand is a 2002 graduate of USI with a Bachelor of Science degree in graphic design. As a student, he worked as a graphic designer in Publishing Services. His wife Jennifer is a 2004 USI graduate and is employed as a graphic designer at Berry Plastics. The couple has two children: Adam, 5, and Natalie, 3.

His mother **Deborah Weigand** is assistant director of

Procurement Operations in the Office of Procurement Services; sister Heidi Fraser is senior distribution services clerk in Distribution Services; and aunt **Mary Alice Weigand** is administrative associate in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Weigand harbors no dream of becoming a Mac developer. "For the time being, it's just going to be a hobby," he said. And it spares him some effort at work. "Anything to keep from having to do those repetitive tasks."

Aurora resident receives Historic Southern Indiana's O'Bannon Award

James Waldon, a teacher at Saint Mary's School in Aurora, Indiana, is the recipient of the 2009 Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Enrichment Award presented by Historic Southern Indiana. The award is given to an individual who is an exemplary model of community education, especially in programs benefiting youth.

Nominated by **Karla Fry Schmeltzer**, executive director of Main Street Aurora, Waldon serves as an active member of the organization's design committee. "It's hard to know where to begin when it comes to talking about everything Jim does for heritage in our community," Schmeltzer said. "Jim is a teacher, but his teaching does not begin and end in the classroom."

Getting students involved with community projects is important to Waldon. He encourages his students to participate in a variety of area projects, including the development of a downtown walking tour brochure. For this project, Waldon asked his students to research the history of buildings in the downtown area. Students presented their findings in the classroom and discussed the architecture and historical significance of each building. This project created an opportunity for students to learn about the history of their community.

Waldon also encouraged a student artist to participate in the Windows of Aurora project, which involved several artists in painting turn of the century scenes on 21 boarded brick windows in the downtown area. "The student did the research for the window and selected an appropriate scene that had to be approved through the same process as all the windows painted by the adult artists," said Schmeltzer. "To get more students involved in the beautification of the downtown area, Jim invited student artists to paint panels for vacant storefront windows."

Waldon also has researched and written brochures about the churches of historic Aurora and the history and architecture on the Aurora alleys. He is the recipient of the Aurora Historic Preservation Award for the restoration of his home, the Herman Leive House. He also serves as a guide for the Hillforest Historic Victorian House Museum.

"Aurora is very fortunate to have someone like Jim who is dedicated to the preservation of the history of our community and to teaching this awareness to our young people," said Schmeltzer.

The Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Enrichment Award was presented to Waldon on October 2 in Aurora. The award includes a plaque, a \$1,000 cash prize, and an article highlighting his achievements in the Historic Southern Indiana newsletter.

The women's squad features **Mary Ballinger**, from Chesterton, Indiana, and a six-time All-American in cross country and track.

"It's a rare opportunity for your student-athletes to have a chance to run a national championship on their home course," Hillyard said. "We have a couple of good teams this year and are definitely excited about the possibility of that happening."

Children in A Christmas Carol cast

A Christmas Carol is a timeless story that appeals to all ages. USI Theatre's A Christmas Carol features a cast of 34 people ranging in age from seven years to 60-something. With 12 children from the surrounding Evansville area participating, USI Theatre is producing one of its largest productions.

Lenny Leibowitz, assistant professor of theatre and director of the production, said, "Working with so many people from different walks of life and of different ages is a real joy - we have a cast that encompasses USI students, children, siblings, and veteran performers in the community. I love that our production and our process will truly celebrate the spirit of Dickens' timeless story."

Theatre patrons who saw the USI Theatre production of Meet Me in St. Louis will recognize some of the young actors in A Christmas Carol. **Hanna Van Winkle**, a fifth-grader from Slaughters, Kentucky, is the Ghost of Christmas Past and **Jessica Bailey**, Henderson, is Young Fan and Belinda Cratchit.

Newcomers with USI connections are **Nadia Scharf**, daughter of **Amy and Ed Scharf**, USI web developer, and **Matlyn Macleod**, granddaughter of **Dr. Daniel Scavone**, professor emeritus of history.

Another returning performer, **Andi Conkright**, said, "This show is so different from Meet Me in St. Louis because I am playing more than one character. I get to be the cute little sister, Sara, but I also get to play the scary character, Want."

The children have been working for five weeks learning blocking, rehearsing lines, and discovering the "ins and outs" of theatre.

Several pairs of siblings are represented in the production. USI theatre majors **Erica Becker** and **Becky Fortner** are in the production with their younger siblings **Nicholas Becker** and **Sara Fortner**. Other young cast members are **Jessica and Matthew Bailey** and **Taylor and Reece McDaniel**.

Erica Becker said, "Even though I am from the Evansville area, my schedule gets crazy and it is hard to be home and to spend time with my family. Having the opportunity to work with Nicholas is so rewarding because I get to see him grow as an actor and hang out with my little brother."

A Christmas Carol runs through November 22 at the Mallette Studio Theatre in the Liberal Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 with discounts for seniors, students, and children. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 812/465-1668.

Toys for Tots accepting donations in Registrar's Office

USI Veterans Support Services and the Student Veterans Association are partnering with the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation to collect toys for needy children this holiday season. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted through Friday, December 18 and distributed to disadvantaged children in the Tri-state area. A donation box is located in the Registrar's Office, on the first floor of the Robert D. Orr Center. For more information, contact USI Veterans Support Services at 812/464-1857

Discover the rewards of worldwide education during National International Education Week

November 16-20 is National International Education Week. Throughout the week, events will explore international study and career opportunities, celebrate international students, and raise awareness about the importance of international education.

On Monday, November 16, the panel discussion "Why Study Abroad?" will be held at 3 p.m. in University Center Room 205.

Attend the International Faculty and Student Reception to meet faculty and students from around the world. Co-sponsored by Faculty Development and International Programs and Services, the reception will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday, November 16, in the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Pamila F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries.

The "Around the World" photo contest winner's display can be viewed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, November 17, through Friday, November 20, in the Eagle's Nest in the University Center.

An International Career Day Panel will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, in Carter Hall in the University Center, and will feature presentations discussing international careers in teaching, government and NGOs, business, and health professions.

The International Internship Presentation will take place at 3 p.m. on Friday, November 20, in the Health Professions Center Room 1079. An International Club meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in Ruston Hall. At 7 p.m. that evening, USI international students will provide dance lessons at a Latin Fiesta in Carter Hall.

The event is sponsored by Activities Programming Board (APB), the Multicultural Center, Student Development, the University Core Curriculum, the Vice President for Student Affairs, and International Programs and Services. For more information, call International Programs and Services at 812/465-1248.

Seasonal and H1N1 flu precautions

University of Southern Indiana offers these precautions against seasonal and H1N1 flu to its faculty, staff, and students.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you get the flu, it's recommended you stay home from work or school for seven days after symptoms begin, or until you are symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

If you experience flu-like symptoms, go online to the Student Health Center at www.usi.edu/studenthealth and self-report your illness so the occurrence of the flu symptoms at USI can be monitored.