Gordon honored for innovative research

An eight-year study of teaching and technology earned Dr. Scott Gordon, associate professor of biology, an Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology at the 13th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning earlier this month.

“It’s exciting, and it’s an honor,” said Gordon, who also serves as assistant director of USI’s Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence.

“It’s the kind of study that can be used to modify and improve what we do - instruction and student learning. From a teaching and learning aspect, I think it’s a very beneficial study.”

The award honors those “who contribute in the most highly creative ways to teaching, learning, and technology,” and nominations are accepted from colleges and universities throughout the world.

Part of the award process required Gordon to present an oral paper at the conference in Jacksonville, Fla. His presentation was entitled “Teaching, Learning, and Technology: A Comparison of Different Pedagogical Approaches.”

The ongoing research project, conducted at USI, involves teaching Biology 151 as a traditional course and a hybrid course and Biology 251 as a traditional course, hybrid course, and distance education course.

“To this point, my research has indicated increased teaching and learning effectiveness and more favorable student learning outcomes with hybrid courses,” Gordon said. “Courses taught via distance education and traditional pedagogies have shown similar outcomes that appear less effective than the hybrid courses.”

Unique in its duration and subject matter, Gordon’s research also recently attracted attention from the organizers of the Computer Awareness Workshop at Ohio State University in Columbus. Invited to deliver the keynote address at the workshop focusing on incorporation of various technologies in the classroom setting, he presented “Traditional vs. Web-based Pedagogies: Is One Superior?”

Gordon joined the University in 1994. He holds a bachelor’s from State University of New York at Cortland and a master’s from University of Tennessee, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1994.

President’s Medal winner announced

Rick A. Hudson of Patoka, Ind., is this year’s recipient of the President’s Medal, the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior at USI. He will receive the award at the Commencement ceremony May 5 at Roberts Stadium. More than 1,400 graduates will be eligible to receive degrees in the ceremony.

Hudson will graduate magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics. He holds a 3.9 grade point average. He was chosen because of his commitment to academic excellence and his service to the University and the community. He is the son of James and Marilyn Hudson.

For the past two years, Hudson has served as president of USI’s Student Government Association and has given leadership to several of its committees and new initiatives. He has been a member of the Student Alumni Association, serving as treasurer and chair for several programs. He also has served on many University committees, including the University Center Coordinating Council, the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee, and the USI Foundation Student Relations Committee. As an A MIGO orientation leader, Hudson has assisted incoming students in making the transition to college life at USI.

He is a recipient of the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award, the All-Campus Student Achievement Award, the Kinsey Memorial Scholarship, and the USI Alumni Association Scholarship. He also has worked in several USI offices, including the Mathematics Department and the Office of Career Services and Placement, and as a volunteer for the USI Alumni Phone-a-thon.

With the hope of ultimately becoming a university professor, Hudson has prepared himself to teach secondary school mathematics. Next year, he plans to enter University of Louisville’s graduate program to pursue a master’s degree in mathematics, and then to obtain a high school or middle school teaching position before going on for his Ph.D.

Other finalists for the President’s Medal were Amy J. Clement, Jamie R. Cutter, and Anna M. Green.

Alumni Association presenting awards

A generous donor, an expert educator, a dedicated board member, and a distinguished civil servant will be honored by the Alumni Association at the Class of 2002 Reception and Dinner at 6 p.m. May 4 in Carter Hall.

Tickets for the event, $12.50, are available from the Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services, and the reservation deadline is Wednesday, May 1. For more information, call extension 1294.

USI Alumni Association 2002 award recipients

Dr. Henry W. Ruston - Special Recognition Award

The University is living testimony to the magnificent progress that can be achieved with teamwork and the generous support of friends. One special friend who has assisted in securing USI’s development is Dr. Henry Ruston.

Ruston has provided $1.6 million in contributions to benefit the University. His contributions include charitable gift annuities with proceeds to be used for the University’s greatest needs; an endowed Presidential Scholarship for USI students; and, in memory of his late wife, the Helen N. Ruston Terrace at the Liberal Arts Center.

In recognition of his achievements in business and civic affairs, and for his generous estate plans benefiting USI, Ruston received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University in 1995. He has been a member of the USI Foundation Board of...
Directors since 1995 and was an active volunteer for Campaign USI. He zealously tells the story of the University's value to the community, and the Foundation honored Ruston last year for his past service by electing him to life membership on its board of directors.

For more than three decades Ruston managed a thriving florist business in Evansville. He and his wife, Betty Jane, live in Evansville.

Dr. Charles F. Petranek - Faculty Recognition Award

Dr. Charles Petranek, professor of sociology, began teaching at USI in 1973 and has been responsible for helping shape the University's sociology program. He is a dedicated educator whose warm personality, combined with his expertise as a teacher and author, have gained the respect of his students and colleagues. He is nationally regarded for his scholarship in the field of experiential learning and social simulations.

Petranek received his bachelor's from Aquinas College, his master's from Western Michigan University, and his Ph.D. in sociology from Florida State University. Believing students learn by experience, he has created 14 social simulations or games to enhance his courses. Three 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.

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 Student Government Association's Spirit of the Eagle Award for Faculty in 1997 and was voted Teacher of the Year in 1999 by USI students.


Harolyn G. Torain '71 - Alumni Service Award

Harolyn Torain's service to USI and the USI Board of Trustees is extraordinary. She personifies the association's mission to serve and develop a committed body of alumni dedicated to promoting and enhancing the excellence and reputation of the University.

A member of the University's first graduating class, Torain graduated in 1971 with a bachelor's in biology. She earned a master's in secondary education from Indiana University. For the past 30 years, she has been a teacher, department chair, and assistant principal in Indianapolis, where she currently is an assistant principal at Ben Davis Junior High School.

Appointed by Gov. Evan Bayh to the USI Board of Trustees in 1990, Torain has served as a trustee during USI's most rapid period of growth - both in enrollment and physical facilities. She brings a special perspective to board issues as a former teacher and now an administrator. During her tenure on the Board, she served on the 1993 USI Presidential Search Committee. She is a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee and served as committee chair from 1996-97. She served as vice chair of the Board from 1996-97 and as chair from 1997-98. Torain was the first alumna, first woman, first African-American, and the first person living outside the immediate Evansville area to hold the post of trustee chair.

She has spread the word of USI and its programs to Indianapolis-area students, especially to students who might not otherwise have considered higher education. Keenly aware of the needs of students coming out of middle and high school, she is able to translate that understanding into ways USI can serve its students better. Torain lives in Indianapolis with her husband Stephen and son, Stephen Jr.

J. Brad Ellsworth '81 - Distinguished Alumni Award

Conferral of the Distinguished Alumni Award provides recognition to a graduate who has made outstanding achievements in career or in public service. This year's recipient, Brad Ellsworth, has distinguished himself in his efforts for humanity as a civil servant.

A 1981 USI sociology graduate, Ellsworth was elected sheriff of Vanderburgh County in 1999 in his first attempt at public office. He has tirelessly worked to enhance the quality of life for area citizens. He has risen through the ranks to his present leadership position, beginning as a patrolman in 1982. While a sergeant supervising the Narcotics Section, he instituted the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in Evansville-Vanderburgh County public and parochial schools.

He has been honored by many civic organizations for his work and volunteer activities. He was selected president of his Indiana Law Enforcement Academy class, received the FBI Community Director's Award, and twice received the Sheriff's Silver Merit Award. He also won the Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity Friend of Education Award, the 1999-2000 USI Student Government Spirit of the Eagle Award for Alumni, the 1999 Smoke Free Indiana Outstanding Volunteer Award, and the 2000 Westside Improvement Association Environment Award. He also was named the Sons of the American Revolution Police Officer of the Year.

His numerous community involvements include Operation City Beautiful, Carver Community Board, American Heart Association, City Beautiful, Carver Community Board, American Heart Association, United Way of Southwestern Indiana Cabinet, and Youth as Resources Board. He is president-elect of the Indiana Sheriff's Association.

Sheriff Ellsworth, his wife Beth, and daughter, Andrea, live in Evansville.

NHT season subscriptions on sale

The New Harmony Theatre summer season offers comedy, drama, and musical entertainment; and season subscriptions are now on sale.

Noel Coward's sharp and witty comedy Private Lives opens in June. Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama Anna Christie will be on stage in July, and the season will end with the down-home fun of the musical, Pump Boys and Dinette.

Performances will be held Thursday through Sunday during the summer season. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; and a special Saturday matinee is scheduled at 2 p.m. A august 10.

Private Lives will run June 7 to 23; Anna Christie, July 5 to 21; and Pump Boys and Dinette, July 26 to August 11.

All productions will be performed in Murphy Auditorium in New Harmony, Ind. The facility on Tavern Street offers space for wheelchair patrons and an infrared-assisted hearing system.

Season subscribers receive a 10-percent savings over single-ticket prices and enjoy the same reserved seats for each production. Subscription prices are $50 for adults; $45 for seniors/students; and $41 for groups of 20 or more. USI employees qualify for the group rate. Call extension 1668 or 812/682-3115 for tickets. For a season brochure, call extension 1668.

Read Notes ONLINE:
www.usi.edu/newsinfo/newnotes.asp
Names in the news

Achievements

Several members of the USI faculty and staff served as presenters for “Expanding Your Horizons” in Science, Mathematics, and Technology, a career conference for young women, A pril 13. The presenters and their topics included: Dr. Jeannie Collins, assistant professor of chemistry, “It’s a Chemical Attraction;” Joan Kemp, assistant professor of graphic design, “Draw It and Animate It on the Computer;” Dr. Edie M CcClellan, assistant professor of psychology, “Getting Psyched;” Dr. Saxon Reasons, program manager in Instructional Technology Services, “Dventures in Marine Biology;” and Judith Townsend, instructor in mathematics, “Mathematics: Peering into a Crystal Ball.” The Evansville Branch of the American Association of University Women presented the conference on campus.

David LeRoy, Distance Learning producer/director, was promoted to second lieutenant in the 380th Quartermaster Company based in Evansville and is expected to attend the Officer Basic Course at Fort Lee, Va., in May.

Dr. Raymond Leung, assistant professor of physical education, presented the paper, “A Perspective on Two Perceived Exertion Rating Scales among Hong Kong Children,” at the annual conference of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance in A pril. The research resulted from collaborative efforts with Dr. Mee-lee Leung, Hong Kong Baptist University, and Dr. Pak-kwong Chung, Hong Kong Sports Development Board.

Dr. Kent Scheller, assistant professor of physics, presented a paper, “Racial Bigotry and the Electromagnetic Spectrum,” to the Indiana Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers A pril 20 at University of Indianapolis. He also recently received a Research Opportunity Award from the National Science Foundation to continue nuclear astrophysics studies of element formation in stars at the Notre Dame Nuclear Structure Laboratory this summer.

Phyllis Toy, associate professor of English, has been nominated for and will be cited in the seventh edition of Who’s Who Among American Teachers.

Alumni

Former USI All-American and NCAA Division II champion Elly Rono placed 16th in the Boston Marathon A pril 15, leading after the 10k, 15k, 20k, 13.1 miles (the half-way mark), and at the 25k point. Rono graduated from USI in 1999 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. He resides in Chapel Hill, N.C.

In appreciation

“I cannot express enough gratitude for the comfort and support you have shown me in my time of loss. My family and I have been deeply moved and encouraged by your many acts of love. It reminds me that although Jeff is no longer with me, but in Heaven, I have family here on this earth and in this town. Thank you. I wanted to share with you the truth I am leaning on in this hard time. Athough I grieve the loss of my partner, lover, and best friend, I do not grieve as one with no hope. My hope comes from the Lord.”

- Gretchen Landon,
  senior administrative associate in Advancement

To cancel your print subscription to Notes, contact kaltstad@usi.edu.
Little Tykes Climb & Slide - for ages 18 months to 3 years; lightly used; has been stored outside so colors may not be as vibrant as when new; free to the lucky person who is willing to come get it off my deck. E-mail mburch@usi.edu.

Need stamps? Have several hundred 34-cent postage stamps to sell before postage increase June 1. Stamps in rolls of 100, but willing to sell in any quantity. Contact malbin@usi.edu, O C 3033, or Ext. 7030.

Two-weekend plant sale - April 26-27, May 3-4; 545 Roesner Road, only one mile from USI. Locally-grown flowering perennials, 30 varieties (aster, hosta, bee balm, coreopsis, gaillardia, etc.). Take Eickhoff north, turn left (west) onto Hogue, turn right onto Roesner.

For rent

Serene one-bedroom apartment in historic area of Evansville - hardwood floors, claw-footed tub, window treatment, some furnishings. Veranda and fenced, well-treed yard. Includes water, heat, and refuse: $390/month. Call 423-8859.

Near Mater Dei High School - completely remodeled historic home built in 1820; 2,200 sq. ft., three large bedrooms, two full baths, laundry hook-up; walk-out deck overlooks woods; 9.4 acres of ground; $1,200/month. Contact 468-8477 (day), 204-1021 (any time), or josse@qhaclaims.com.

Hillcrest Apartments - newly remodeled, one-bedroom apartments in Evansville's west side. Neutral carpet, drapes, stove, refrigerators, garbage disposals. Water, sewage, and trash pickup furnished. Apartments are cable ready. Rent starts at $325/mo. with a one-year lease and security deposit. Call Barker A partsments, LLC, 476-3411 or e-mail llisk8@yahoo.com.

Free pet

Free cat to loving home - beautiful white, long-hair, declawed cat with great personality needs a good home (looks like Silver Tip Persian). For more information call Teresa Grisham, Ext. 1207 or 401-7285 evenings.

Calendar

**Wednesday, May 1**

- Final exams - May 1, 2, 3. Information: kkdupont@usi.edu.

**Thursday, May 2**

- Take Your Son to Work Day - ages 9 to 14, beginning at 8 a.m. on campus.

**Friday, May 3**

- Softball at GLVC Tournament - May 3 through 5, Romeoville, Ill.
- Women's golf at NCAA II East Regional - May 3 and 4, Perry Park, Ky.
- Men's tennis at NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional - May 3 through 5, TBA.
- Women's tennis at NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional - May 3 through 5, TBA.

**Saturday, May 4**

- Class of 2002 Reception and Dinner - 6 p.m., Carter Hall. Information: njohnson@usi.edu.
- USI Alumni Association Annual Meeting - 5:30 p.m., Carter Hall. Information: njohnson@usi.edu.
- Baseball at Mercyhurst College - May 4 and 5, Erie, Pa.
- Track and field at Butler Twilight - Indianapolis.

**Sunday, May 5**

- Commencement - 3 p.m., Roberts Stadium.
- Men's golf at NCAA Super-Regional Tournament - May 5 through 8, Union, Ky.

**Monday, May 6**

- Open Registration for Summer I 2002 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., office of student's major. Information: kkdupont@usi.edu.
- Arson Awareness Week display and activities - May 6 through 11, presented by the Vanderburgh County Juvenile Firesetter Task Force at Eastland Mall.

**Tuesday, May 7**

- First summer session classes begin. Information: kkdupont@usi.edu.

**Thursday, May 9**

- Eighth Annual Case Management Conference, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., University Center. Cost: $75 after April 25. Information/registration: extserv@usi.edu.
- Baseball at Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament - May 9 through 12, TBA.
- Men's tennis at NCAA Division II Championship - May 9 through 12, Kansas City, Mo.
- Women's tennis at NCAA Division II Championship - May 9 through 12, Kansas City, Mo.

**Friday, May 10**

- Softball at NCAA II Regional Tournament - May 10 through 12, TBA.

**Saturday, May 11**

- Track and field at Billy Hayes Invitational - Bloomington, Ind.

**Wednesday, May 15**

- Women's golf at NCAA II Championship - May 15 through 18, Allendale, Mich.

**Thursday, May 16**

- Softball at NCAA II National Tournament - May 16 through 19, TBA.

**Friday, May 17**

- Fourth Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium, 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Carter Hall. Cost: $65 until May 1; $75 after May 1. Information/registration: extserv@usi.edu.

**Sunday, May 19**

- Men's golf at NCAA II Championships - May 19 through 24, H owey-in-the-Hills, Fla.

**Thursday, May 23**

- Track and field at NCAA Division II Championships - May 23 through 25, San Angelo, Texas.

**Sunday, May 26**


**Monday, May 27**

- Memorial Day - No classes. University closed.