

UIS Weekly

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Groundbreaking ceremony marks new chapter in UIS' evolution

A groundbreaking ceremony was held July 6 for Lincoln Residence Hall, future home of students enrolled in Capital Scholars, UIS' first four-year baccalaureate program, which will admit first-year students to campus in fall 2001.

"This groundbreaking marks the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in the evolution of this campus," said Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn. "We eagerly anticipate the arrival of first-year students with the construction of this residence hall." Lynn referred to the building as a major step in the direction of creating a richer and more diverse campus life for all UIS students.

James Stuart, director of the Capital Scholars Program, said the residence hall will be the site of many social and intellectual activities such as seminars, lectures, chamber music concerts, parties, and movies. "Student services and life will expand and grow as we incorporate Capital Scholars students into the campus, adding to the 500 students who already reside in UIS housing," Stuart reported that more than 4,000 inquiries have been made about the program and that

applications are available and will be accepted beginning September 1.

The 59,200-square-foot residence hall will be located just southwest of the PAC and will accommodate 226 students. "Students will live in four-person clusters, with two shared bedrooms and a semiprivate (shared) bath," said Jim Korte, UIS housing director. Rooms will be wired for cable TV access and access to the campus computer network, although students will be expected to provide their own computers, he said.

Korte added that the three-story, L-shaped building will include lounges, seminar rooms, a fitness room, laundry areas, office space for the building management and the Capital Scholars Program, plus a café and convenience store with extended hours.

The hall is tentatively scheduled for completion in July 2001 at a cost of about \$10 million.

UIS currently has more than 100 apartment-style units that accommodate more than 400 students and a new four-bedroom townhouse complex that houses about 100 students.

Lezli Austen is named EOM for June

Even though one of campus relations' main functions is to disseminate information, staff members are also pretty good at keeping a secret, as was clearly demonstrated by the look on Lezli Austen's face when she realized she had walked in to her own employee of the month party on June 27. The selection had been made nearly a month earlier, but a variety of circumstances delayed the presentation until late June. Still, no one had let even a hint drop. So when special events director Joan Sestak asked Lezli to tag along to a meeting (one that didn't happen) and then stop to check out a conference room on the way back, Lezli didn't suspect a thing. Not until Sestak opened the door and shoved her in, that is.

After the initial shock and applause died down, Cheryl Peck, associate chancellor for public affairs, made the presentation, saying, "Lezli is a wonderful ambassador for campus relations and for the entire UIS campus. She projects a positive image with her infectious enthusiasm, can-do attitude, and strong sense of school spirit."

Adding that Lezli's organizational skills are "phenomenal," Peck went on to list some of her responsibilities, including helping plan recruitment and image advertising campaigns, serving as the department's resident expert in homepage and web matters, and serving on the board for the Women's Center and the Commencement Committee. In addition, she noted, Lezli coordinates all of the campus' State Fair activities, including planning and staffing the UIS presence in the U of I tent and coordinating construction of the UIS float (which won awards four years in a row) for the Twilight Parade.

Looking over the official packet of goodies, Lezli observed, "I always knew if I won this it'd be during nice weather." (EOM's receive a reserved parking space of their choice for a month.) Then she related how, when she and her husband, Doug, moved from Champaign to Springfield because of his career she came "kicking and screaming. I really liked my own job at UIUC. But then," she added, "the neatest thing happened - I found the perfect job here."

A publicity/promotions specialist, Lezli has worked on campus for five years. She and Doug are the parents of one-year-old twins Ally and Zach. Though the twins were noticeably absent from mom's celebration, their dad and grandparents Fran and Alan Harris (Lezli's mom and dad) were able to join in.

Employee Vern Solomon and wife killed

It is with sadness that we inform you that UIS employee Vern Solomon and his wife died Wednesday, July 5, in a motorcycle accident in Yellowstone National Park. Vern had been employed at UIS since December 1986 as a building service worker. His wife was employed by Dickey-John Corporation. Vern and his family lived in Palmyra.

Surviving are a son, daughter, and two grandchildren. Funeral arrangements and other details were not available at press time.

Social work program receives accreditation

The undergraduate social work program at UIS has received accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the only accrediting body for social work programs in the nation.

"We've asked the CSWE to accredit all degrees retroactively to include all course work from spring 1995," said Don Yohe, professor emeritus of social work.

Yohe added that one advantage of attending such a program is that an accredited degree is required of anyone who wishes to be licensed in the state. Another is the shortened program of study for students pursuing a master's degree.

"Social work students at UIS are people who care about people, who want to make things better, who want to relieve suffering, and who want their work to make a difference," said Larry Stonecipher, dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

SWK students and graduates work in public agencies, private businesses, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, private practices, police departments, and courts. They serve as managers, supervisors, administrators, educators, therapists, and researchers. They can be found at all levels of government and, increasingly, are elected political leaders and legislators.

The social work program has two full-time faculty, two full-time faculty who teach part time in social work, and four part-time faculty.

Brookens Library will be open
Special Exam Hours
8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
July 10-13 & July 17-20