IUS veteran retires after 30 years

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Photo by Tamara McDaniel

After 30 years at IU Southeast, Frank Thackeray, former professor of history, has retired. Born and raised in Pittsburg, Penn., he is no stranger to the experience and adventures college life presents to students.

Thackeray's wife Kathy also retired in August. She was a Montessori teacher in Louisville. He said they are currently going through a "decompression period."

The couple is going to spend some time vacationing in North Carolina before deciding on what's next. Thackeray plans to continue working on unfinished research projects.

For the last ten years at IU Southeast he taught European History. His current interest is in 19th century Russian-Polish relations. He started out specializing in 19th century Russian communism.

Before coming to IU Southeast in 1977, Thackeray was just another student looking to experience the world around him. He met his wife at Temple University in Philadelphia.

After getting married and completing his Masters, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to go to communist Warsaw, Poland for two years to do doctoral research.

Once his research in Warsaw was finished, the couple bought a new VW bus from a factory in Germany and lived in it and at camp grounds while traveling throughout Europe. The couple wanted to travel and live free before starting a family.

During this time they met many people from all over the world. When he came back to the states in 1975 Thackeray went to work finishing his dissertation.

"We had friends in D.C. so we moved in a group house in the NW area," Thackeray said.

His wife maintained a job as a receptionist while he worked on his doctorate dissertation for almost two years. When he finished, Thackeray was hired at IU Southeast and moved to Indiana.

One highlight of his time at IU Southeast, he said, was the general growth of the college. When he began there were fewer than 4000 students, and most were part-time.

Thackeray said the dorms will significantly change the environment at IU Southeast and create a maturing campus atmosphere. He said he believes after this change the campus will become the focal point of many students with an increase of on-campus activities.

Another great turning point, he said, was the building of the new library.

"I was so happy when we got a free standing library," he said. "To me that is the most essential part of a university. The library contains the knowledge of the universe. If you as an individual are curious enough, we can't make you be curious but if you are, you don't need us, you need a library."

Thackeray believes that from a historical perspective, the electronic library resources are one of the greatest transitions within the last 500 years.

"The informational resources are endless with just the click of a button," he said. "It's a tremendous revolution."

Students get involved with Greek life

By JOSH BARBER
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IUS students had a chance to get in touch with their Greek side at McCullough Plaza Sept. 14. Greekapalooza, sponsored by the Student Program Council, provided a chance for students to meet with local sororities and fraternities.

At IU Southeast, female students can choose from several sororities including Alpha Phi, Phi Sigma Sigma, Sigma Kappa and Zeta Phi Beta. Male students have the option to become a member of Pi Kappa Alpha or Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Photo by Patrick Emmert

A student plays cornhole at the Greekapalooza event held at McCullough Plaza Sept.14. Sponsored by the Student Program Council, the event gave students an opportunity to learn more about Greek life at IU Southeast, participate in games and have some free food.

Alpha Phi is a social sorority that promotes scholarship and sisterhood.

Phi Sigma Sigma's objective is to promote high scholastic, social and cultural pursuit among its members.

Zeta Phi Beta is currently the only historically black sorority on campus. Its principles are scholarship, service, sisterly love, and finer womanhood.

Pi Kappa Alpha is an organization that challenges its members to advance their interests in any and every endeavor they choose, and Tau Kappa Epsilon wants to help each of its members through their academic career.

Amy Stark, freshman, said she wants to be in a sorority because she saw how much fun her sister had when she was in a sorority at the University of Louisville.

"I don't know if I can fit it into my schedule, but I want to try," she said. "It's hard because I work so much, but it seems fun."

Stark said she is shy and enjoys talking to other students because it helps her open up.

"I'm not sure which sorority I want to join yet but I think this has helped me with my decision," she said.

The event was a good chance for sororities and fraternities to meet new members and recruit more students. Information packets about formals, sports and other Greek life events were available. More than 60 students attended.

Some of the activities at Greekapalooza were flag football and cornhole, or students could listen to the radio and get to know each other. Sorority members provided food, including burgers and chips. Students could also enjoy cold drinks and good company.

After the games, attendees mingled and learned more about Greek life.

What's My Professor Reading?

Peggy Cummins adjunct professor history

"The Swallows of Kabul" By Yasmina Khadra

'There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.'

– Oscar Wilde

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