

LAStory

Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts

Vol. 1, No. 1

Tom Wilhelmus named acting dean

Iain Crawford accepts vice presidency at Wooster

A longtime faculty member and associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts has been named acting dean. Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus, professor of English, will assume the additional responsibilities July 1.

Dr. Iain Crawford, dean of the school since July 2000, has been named vice president for academic affairs at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. A committee will be appointed to conduct a national search for his successor.

Crawford said, "While I am thrilled to have this new opportunity, I know I will also miss the wonderful atmosphere at USI. I am very pleased to leave Liberal Arts in Tom Wilhelmus's very capable hands as it searches for the next dean."

Wilhelmus joined the University of Southern Indiana in 1970 and was named associate dean in 1989.

"It's been my pleasure," he said, "to have served the school in a number of capacities over the last several years, to have worked with two talented deans, an excellent group of department



Wilhelmus

chairs, and a faculty full of interesting and dedicated people, people who are sensitive and want to know something, to discover something, or to create something — good people to be around. I look on this as one more opportunity to serve the students and the citizens of southwestern Indiana."

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Wilhelmus holds a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame. He is a founder of the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, a national conference sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts in New Harmony, Indiana, and has provided service to the community and to the profession through a number of activities.

He is a former chair of the Indiana Humanities Council and was the Mayor's Arts Award recipient in 2001. He has served on the boards of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Vanderburgh Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation Alliance.

Crawford's appointment at Wooster is effective July 1. He will be the chief academic and operating officer for the nationally ranked liberal arts college.

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McNaughton is 2003 Distinguished Professor

John McNaughton, professor of art, has been named the recipient of the 2003 Distinguished Professor Award. This prestigious award recognizes McNaughton's excellence in teaching, his superior creative work and professional accomplishments, his outstanding service to the University, and his significant contributions to the community.



McNaughton

Nominated by his colleagues and selected by the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee, McNaughton is described by his colleagues as "a thoughtful and caring teacher who combines extensive technical expertise with patience and innovation to inspire his students." Through faculty and student research grants he has worked with students to create several artworks that are on permanent display throughout the USI campus. A wood sculpture titled "Visions" stands in the Orr Center lobby and impressive steel sculptures welcome visitors to Governors Hall and the Technology Center.

McNaughton - cont. on page 5

Dean's Message

LA Story

by Iain Crawford, Dean of Liberal Arts

"You know, you're really nobody in L.A. unless you live in a house with a really big door." So says Steve Martin's character, Harris K. Telemacher, in the 1991 film that inspired the title of our new newsletter. If Harris' comment is true, everyone in our LA must really be somebody: the front door to our building is the biggest on campus, as is only fitting for what is the largest and most diverse of the University's five schools in the range of its programs, faculty, and students. And our *LA Story* is intended to be a metaphorical doorway for the school; it will tell the many stories of Liberal Arts as the school continues to grow and develop, and this founding edition includes features on new programs, our faculty, and events.

New programs that will increase the educational opportunities for students and alumni in the Tri-State and beyond include a Master of Public Administration degree, a major and minor in international studies (subject to final approval by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education), and minors in anthropology, classical studies, criminal justice, and gender studies. As we go to press, our majors in communications have recently received provisional accreditation from the national accrediting body, and we are studying the feasibility of offering programs in areas ranging from arts management to environmental studies, religious studies, and to public history.

The energy that drives such new programs comes from our faculty, now almost 100-strong in the full-time ranks and supplemented by almost 120 adjunct teachers. Hiring is often said to be the most important thing a university does and, if that is indeed true, then the school's departments have good reason to be pleased with their work—the addition of a number of outstanding faculty and two new department chairs bodes well for the future of the educational quality of the programs we now offer

and those we will introduce.

While we celebrate the arrival of these new faculty, we also pay tribute to those who have left us: for new positions, into retirement after decades of service, or, more sadly, through untimely loss. Professors Michael Waitman and Keith Wicker passed away this last year and are much missed. We honor their memory in this issue.

The school also is an active participant in the wider life of the University and the community beyond USI, especially through its many outreach programs. Recent academic conferences hosted by the Departments of English and Psychology show the professional activity of the school's faculty. The recent highly successful Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, guided by the theatre faculty, focused on the Region III festival that USI has hosted here in Evansville these past two years. While events such as these take enormous work by the school's faculty and staff, by bringing new visitors to Evansville they also enrich teaching and learning here on campus and help us tell USI's story to a wider audience.

As our cover story tells, I will soon be passing through our front door myself and moving on to a new opportunity at The College of Wooster. I leave USI and the school after three wonderful years and am very proud to have been associated with both. I look forward to reading future newsletters and following the school's progress. So, in parting, I invite you to read on and learn about USI's School of Liberal Arts, where the door is indeed "really big" and always ready to welcome you in.



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www.usi.edu/libarts

The *LA Story* logo was designed by USI graphic design student, M. Eric Hill.



MPA program prepares managers for government, nonprofit agencies

by Charles Barber, professor of political science

Growing out of a 20-year arrangement in which Indiana State University professors drove to Evansville to teach students on the USI campus, USI has now introduced its own Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree—the first discipline-based graduate degree in the School of Liberal Arts. Graduates of the MPA program will qualify for a wide array of positions in public and private employment.

The initial program has been geared toward regional professionals who can take two night courses per semester and complete the 36-hour degree in two or three calendar years. Students without professional careers will take an additional internship course.

Courses will be relevant to current or future managers in government agencies as well as administrators in not-for-profit organizations. The curriculum includes courses in budgeting, fund raising, organizational communication, volunteer management, personnel administration, computer technology, legal issues, and other topics related to public sector management.

The program is housed in USI's Department of Philosophy and Political Science. To meet its curricular and staffing needs, the MPA program is cooperating with the School of Business and the Department of Communications. It also will bring in qualified professionals from the community as part-time lecturers.

Political science alumnus makes gift

Joe Blackburn '92, political science, and his wife Ann Marie Ladner have made a generous gift to the Department of Philosophy and Political Science for the second straight year. Their gift has helped to fund a speakers program, mock trial, student travel costs for academic activities, student and faculty research, student membership fees in a national honor society, and teaching materials.

Communications receives provisional accreditation

by Robert Carroll, professor of communications

Representatives of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) visited the Department of Communications in February to evaluate the department's activities and records. As a result of their visit, the department has received provisional accreditation from the Council. The good news follows a year-long departmental self-study preceded by five years of preparation.

During their February visit, the five-member team spoke with faculty and students in the department, as well as other faculty, Dean Iain Crawford, and President H. Ray Hoops. They also visited communications classes. They reviewed the department's classrooms, laboratory facilities, and resource room, and examined records of current students and recent graduates.

"The review for accreditation is a very thorough process," commented Communications Chair Dal Herring. Currently, only about 100 of the more than 400 journalism and mass communications programs in the country are accredited. That includes only two in Indiana: Ball State and Indiana University.

To become accredited, a program must meet the following 12 standards:

- Governance and administration that supports its overall teaching, research, and service goals, and provides the strongest possible program for students.
- A budget that supports the department fairly when compared to other academic programs on the campus.
- A curriculum that provides broad exposure to the liberal arts and sciences, as well as providing up-to-date instruction in the skills and in the theories, history, functions, procedures, law, ethics, and effects of journalism and mass communications.
- Student records and an advising process that is systematic, orderly, and up-to-date.
- Instruction and evaluation with high standards that are monitored carefully.

- Full-time and part-time faculty who are academically and professionally qualified for their respective responsibilities.
- Internships and work experiences that provide a significant and realistic component to students' education.
- Equipment and facilities necessary for carrying out the educational mission of the department.
- Scholarship, research, creative and professional activities of the faculty appropriate to the mission of the department.
- Public service to the public and to the journalism and mass communications profession to train students for work in a diverse, multicultural society.
- Graduates and alumni should have a distinct advantage in their first employment and with a depth of educational experience that contributed positively to their career development.
- Diversity and the roles of women and minorities must be emphasized in teaching students to understand, communicate about, and relate to a multicultural society.

"The process leading to accreditation actually began in 1997 when the departmental faculty voted to work toward achievement of this significant standard for our programs," said Herring. "Shortly thereafter, President Hoops signed a letter of intent on behalf of the University."

Visiting teams can make one of three recommendations: accreditation, provisional accreditation if deficiencies can be satisfied within one year, or no accreditation. The team's report went to the ACEJMC Committee that met in March. The recommendation of the Committee is then reviewed by the ACEJMC Council, which meets in May. In receiving provisional accreditation, the department has accomplished most of its goals for accreditation but still has more work to do. Nonetheless, the department was "pleased that we received a favorable review," according to Herring.

New interdisciplinary programs round out schools' curriculum

by Marjorie Jones, instructor in anthropology, Althea Rhodes, instructor in English, and Michael Dixon, assistant professor of history

Responding to interests from an increasingly diverse group of students, faculty, and members of the community, faculty members of the School of Liberal Arts have been busy developing plans for new curricular programs. Three of the programs—a minor in classical studies, a minor in gender studies, and a major and minor in international studies—are outlined here.

International Studies. The new program in international studies reflects a necessity to prepare students for life and work in an increasingly global community. USI's own student body includes students from 31 different countries, and the regional economy depends heavily on exports to other countries. The workforce in the southern Indiana area is becoming multi-ethnic and multi-lingual. As students graduate into this world, they need the knowledge and skills the international studies program will provide them.

A 39-hour, interdisciplinary major, with courses from 10 departments in liberal arts, business, and science and engineering, the program requires majors to take a common 18-hour core from anthropology, economics, political science, geography, and world history, and to complete their major by choosing one of three tracks—International Relations, Europe, or Latin America. Many majors also will take advantage of the opportunities to study or take internships abroad. Graduates should be particularly attractive candidates for public and private sector employment and for admission to graduate schools.

Gender Studies. Students will be able to add a gender studies minor beginning fall 2003.

This program will provide the opportunity for students to examine how society is gendered, and how gender is affected by race, class, sex, and nationality. Students will gain insights into human difference and diversity. Employers will find graduates of the program thoughtful about equity and fairness and the impact of gender on knowledge and social policy.

Overall, 61.3 percent of current students indicated positive interest in courses if they fulfilled a Core Curriculum requirement, while 24.2 percent would take the course even if it did not fulfill a core requirement. Students commented that the study of gender roles is a substantial part of understanding the social environment and that gender studies would lead to a more well-rounded education.

Courses in the minor will be offered in numerous departments and schools. Introduction to Gender Studies and Theory of Gender Studies will be required of all students and will be team-taught by a group of faculty engaged in the program. Faculty from the departments of communications, philosophy, psychology, and sociology will teach Theory of Gender Studies. The remaining 12 hours will be chosen from existing courses in economics, English, history, the liberal arts synthesis course (LIBA), management, philosophy, psychology, sociology, social work, and speech. Seminars on selected topics of current interest will be added at a later date.



Classical Studies. Starting spring semester 2003, USI students are able to earn a minor in classical studies, one that will provide them with a knowledge and understanding of all aspects of Greek and Roman antiquity. Development of the minor became possible after Latin was offered at USI for the first time in fall 2001.

Like the other new interdisciplinary programs, this one will bring together faculty from art, English, foreign languages, history, and philosophy. Students who choose to pursue a minor in classical studies will take two years study of Latin, three courses in Greek and Roman history, and additional courses from Greek and Roman art history, classical mythology, Greek tragedy (in translation), and history of philosophy.

The concept of a liberal arts education was first developed in ancient Rome, where students studied a curriculum comprised of the "seven liberal arts." These included grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Like its ancient predecessor, USI's program will provide students with a diverse background useful for any career.

Also, like all of the other new programs now under development, the Classical Studies minor will add substantially to the diversity of programs already in place in the school.

English Department mourns two

by *Randy Pease, instructor in English*

The University of Southern Indiana's Department of English lost two valued faculty members last year. Dr. Michael Waitman, professor of English, died April 27, 2002, at Deaconess Hospital following complications from surgery. Keith Wicker, an instructor in the English Department, died March 26, 2002, at Jewish Hospital in Louisville following a heart attack.

I first met Michael in 1996 when I started teaching at USI. He immediately offered his friendship, and he accepted me from day one at face value. I have never forgotten that. After the faculty made the move to the new Liberal Arts Center in 1999, most of the conversations Mike and I had were either in the LA elevator or waiting for the elevator. We talked about sports (he was a knowledgeable sports fan, especially college sports), television (he was a Seinfeld fanatic), the news of the day, sometimes even work. He was always cheerful, friendly, and helpful.

Eric vonFuhrmann, Michael's colleague for 34 years, expressed similar sentiments in the eulogy he delivered at Mike's funeral: "We had occasional differences. We disagreed sometimes on how to teach, how to evaluate, how to deal with students, supervisors, colleagues, even with sin and God.

"But what is so memorable, so wonderful, Mike never angered, never dismissed me, never strained our relation-

ship. I did! I must have caused him great distress at times. Yet his mental and emotional equilibrium never wavered."

I met Keith about the same time as Mike. Keith and I were both adjunct instructors at the time. Keith was the guy who showed me the ropes. We had lots of spirited conversations, often after working hours, occasionally over a cold beer. He enjoyed a good joke, a good story, a good game of chess, a good battle with a largemouth bass, and a good argument. Despite our frequent disagreements, we shared one common passion: the acoustic guitar and the craft of songwriting.

My fondest memory of Keith involves a trip we took to Nashville. After spending two nights playing various writers' nights around town, we kicked back on the terrace with our guitars one afternoon to try to co-write a song. We quickly managed to disagree. In the occasional e-mails we exchanged in the months prior to Keith's death, we pledged to make another excursion to Nashville, maybe even make another stab at collaboration.

On the way to Keith's funeral, Robert York and I popped one of Keith's cassettes into the tape player and listened. True to form, even under the grimmest of circumstances, Keith managed to keep us laughing.

Five Liberal Arts graduates elected to Alumni Council

Five of seven recently elected members to the Alumni Council of the USI Alumni Association are Liberal Arts graduates.

Elected for three-year terms to expire in 2006 are Jacob (Jake) Fulcher '99, political science, attorney, Kahn Dees Donovan & Kahn; Milinda (Mindy) Middleton '01, sociology, investigator, Hi-Tech Investigative; and Dianne Baughn Wies '95, political science and German, bilingual contact representative, Social Security Administration.

Re-elected for three-year terms to expire in 2006 are Shelly K. Kleiman '96, communications, stay-at-home mother, and Donna M. Mesker '86, psychology, treatment coordinator, Evansville State Hospital. Mesker is a past president of the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Council includes 21 alumni representatives who coordinate the activities and programs of the USI Alumni Association.

With the inclusion of the May 2003 graduates, the number of alumni tops 20,000.

McNaughton - cont. from page 1

Commenting on the creation of these works, McNaughton said, "College should be a laboratory of creative thought."

McNaughton has been a member of USI's art faculty for more than 30 years. His leadership, dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm have shaped the art area into the high-quality, regionally recognized, and dynamic program of today. He has shared his expertise with many local groups and organizations including the Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences, the Arts Council of

Southwest Indiana, and high schools and elementary schools throughout the Tri-State area. His public sculptures are seen by thousands daily in Evansville and on the USI campus, and his work has delighted visitors to the Evansville Museum for years.

Recognized nationally, McNaughton has participated in numerous national and international conferences, exchange programs, exhibitions, and fellowships. He has received two National Endowment Awards and two Indiana Arts Commission Master Artist

Fellowships and has served as a Visiting Artist to over 20 universities and art centers.

His artwork has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States in numerous one-person and group gallery exhibitions including the Smithsonian Institute's Renwick Gallery, the Ohio Craft Museum, Leo Kaplan Modern in New York, and the SOFA International Exposition in Chicago. His work is in over 300 museums, corporate and private collections, and is part of the Smithsonian's permanent collection.

USI brings professional theatre to southwestern Indiana

Liberal Arts produces shows at two professional theatres each summer, one in Lincoln State Park and one in New Harmony. Together they bring over 200 professional actors, technicians, and designers to work and live in Southern Indiana during the summer months.

The New Harmony Theatre, under the direction of USI Director of Theatre Scott LaFeber, will present three shows at Murphy Auditorium in New Harmony, Indiana.

The Foreigner by Larry Shue, a comic romp that won two Obie Awards during its long Off-Broadway run, opens June 13.



The *Eccentricities of a Nightingale*, Tennessee Williams' story of Alma Winemiller, a Mississippi spinster, runs Thursdays through Sundays July 11-27.



The New Harmony Theatre has received special permission to produce the play.

The season ends with *A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine*, a hilarious comedy by Dick Vosburgh and Frank Lazarus, which runs Thursdays through Sundays August 1-17.



The New Harmony Theatre actors and designers have credits from Broadway, film, and television. For more information or to order tickets to any of the

shows at The New Harmony Theatre call 1-877-NHT-SHOW or visit www.newharmonytheatre.com.



Lincoln Amphitheatre is home to the outdoor drama *Young Abe Lincoln*. Now in its 17th season, this energetic

musical depicts the life of Abraham Lincoln as a young man living with his family in the Indiana territory from 1816 to 1830. This year *Young Abe* will be accompanied on alternate nights by the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* which runs July 11– August 16. Both shows are directed by USI associate professor of theatre, Elliott Wasserman.

For more information or to order tickets to any of the shows at Lincoln Amphitheatre call 1-800-264-4ABE or visit www.lincoln-amphitheatre.com.

RopeWalk continues to attract nationally known faculty/students

The 15th annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat is scheduled for June 14-21 in New Harmony, Indiana. What began in 1988, when faculty members Tom Wilhelmus and Matthew Graham envisioned a setting where creative writers could meet and work in association with professional authors and poets, has become one of the most respected writers' conferences in the Midwest. During 15 years more than 50 professional authors have served as RopeWalk faculty for the 64 workshops and have given public readings in New Harmony. Over the years, 561 participants have traveled from 36 states plus Canada and the District of Columbia to RopeWalk workshops in New Harmony.

RopeWalk's success is measured through the enthusiasm of the participants and faculty who come to read, write, relax, and share their solitary habit of writing. Novelists, short story writers, and poets send manuscripts of work in progress to share with other workshop participants. They also receive a private, one-on-one conference with their workshop leader.

In the last 10 years RopeWalk has spawned three additional outreach programs. *The Southern Indiana Review* began in 1994, publishing works of writers, poets, and artists from the Midwest. Now, submissions come from all over — from professionals as well as novices. The RopeWalk Reading Series began in 1998, bringing six to eight authors to campus for public readings each year. And, in March 2000, the RopeWalk Winter Weekend, a condensed version of the conference, made its debut appealing to today's busy writers unable to schedule a full week away in the summer.

Why has RopeWalk been so successful? It has a solid support base — a dedicated team, generous friends, and a loyal following. Why New Harmony? "It's the artistic and intellectual atmosphere," commented Tom Wilhelmus. "Its rich tradition of scholarship and creativity sets exactly the right tone for what we want to achieve."

Leslie Roberts wins award for Civil War translation

Dr. **Leslie J. Roberts**, associate professor of French, and her co-editor, Dr. Michael Chesson, professor of history, University of Massachusetts-Boston, have won the International Founders Award presented by The Museum of the Confederacy for the book, *Exile in Richmond: the Confederate Journal of Henri Garidel*.

Given every two years for the best edited edition of primary materials from the American Civil War or Reconstruction periods, the award is adjudicated by a panel composed of three senior scholars of Civil War history selected by the museum in Richmond, Virginia. The book by Roberts and Chesson was the panels unanimous choice for the award from a field of 30 books submitted by publishers. This is the first time that a professor of modern languages has received the award.



Exile in Richmond is a translation from French to English of the 800-page journal of Henri Garidel. Leaving New

Orleans when it was occupied by Union forces, the French-Catholic man spent 1863-65 in Richmond, Virginia, keeping a diary that reveals his impressions of domestic and political life there during the war.

Roberts learned of the diary's existence from a former colleague who had met a descendant of the journal writer. Through family members she tracked the diary to the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California, and obtained a copy.

Roberts and her co-editor attended an awards ceremony in Richmond in late May and participated in a booksigning, a presentation, and other festivities.

The book was published by University Press of Virginia in 2001 (hardcover, 466 pp. ISBN 0-8139-2018-3).



Roberts

Marjorie Jones wins Berger Award

Recognized for her protection, preservation, interpretation, and study of regional archeological and historic sites, Marjorie Jones of the sociology faculty is the winner of the Sydney and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award in 2003.

Nominations for the campus-wide award are made by faculty, and the winner is chosen by the University's Faculty and Academic Affairs Committee. In addition to the recognition, the selection is accompanied by an honorarium made possible by a gift from Charles and Leslie Berger as a memorial to Charles' parents.

According to the citation for the award, Jones has spent most of her adult life working to preserve Indiana's heritage and has helped establish USI as a repository for important archeological artifacts. Since 1992, when she was appointed by the governor, she has served as a representative for the Indiana Heritage Trust Program which recommends lands to be bought and preserved for posterity. In addition, her thousands of volunteer hours over a 22-year career were an important consideration in her selection.

Let us hear your LA Story. We welcome comments from our alumni and friends.

Name _____

Student Record Name _____

Class of _____ Major _____ Minor _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____

Home Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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Company Name/Address _____

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Upcoming Events

July

- 11 ***Eccentricities of a Nightingale***
opens at The New Harmony Theatre
- Fiddler on the Roof***
opens at Lincoln Amphitheatre

August

- 1 ***A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine***
opens at The New Harmony Theatre

September

- 25 ***RopeWalk Reading Series***
Patty Aakhus

October

- 8-11 ***Waiting for Godot***
USI Theatre
- 15-19 ***RopeWalk Reading Series***
Pat Carr

November

- 3 ***RopeWalk Reading Series***
Gary Gildner
- 12-15 ***A...My Name is Alice***
USI Theatre

December

- 4-6 ***Madrigal Feaste***

For more important dates, check the Web site at www.usi.edu/libarts/calendar.

Short Notes

Gift from Liberal Arts alumna increases awards for student art

University of Southern Indiana's 33rd Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition showcased roughly 170 artworks, about 60 more than in years past, and awarded twice as much prize money as last year.

A \$10,000 gift from the Misook and Harry Doolittle Foundation enhanced the number and dollar amount of awards presented. Misook Pang Doolittle '85, art, designs the Exclusively Misook line of women's clothing which is marketed nationally at retailers such as Nordstrom and amazon.com. She has stayed in touch with Leonard Dowhie, USI professor of art, since graduation. Joan Kempf, acting chair of the Art, Music, and Theatre Department, said that more than 50 awards totaling approximately \$18,750 were presented. Including the Doolittle Foundation, more than 70 donors provided scholarship, merit, or pur-

chase awards in 2003. In 2002, total award money was about \$9,000.

Juror Dick Hay, professor of art at Indiana State University, selected the featured works from more than 400 entries. The exhibit was held in April.



Dr. Robert Reid, left, USI provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, congratulates Chuck Pate for receiving the Best of Show Award of \$2,500 for his piece "As of 09/17/02 at 8:29:38 pm EST" in the student art show. The top prize was sponsored by the Misook and Harry Doolittle Foundation.

LAStory

Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts

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