

LAStory

Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts

Vol. 2, No. 1

Career, personal goals motivate MPA students

New master's program appeals to professionals from many walks of life

Probation officer, community resources director, manager of an historic site, office manager for a nonprofit organization, and Internet services coordinator in higher education—these are just a few of the jobs held by students in the new Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. They find that classroom learning in the graduate program has plenty of practical application in their present positions and will make them more highly skilled and knowledgeable for opportunities in the future.

Kimberly Hinton, a probation officer with Juvenile Court in Vanderburgh County, enrolled in one of the first available MPA courses in fall semester. With Juvenile Court for 15 years, she has been assigned for the last two years as coordinator of the Start II program housed at the Henry Reis

Alternative High School. All students in the Start II program have been placed on probation by Juvenile Court.



Kimberly Hinton, left, a probation officer in Vanderburgh County Juvenile Court, talks with USI instructor Mary Morris about the course in fundraising and volunteer administration, one of the first curriculum offerings in USI's new graduate program in public administration.

Hinton earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Indiana in 1979, majoring in sociology with an emphasis in criminal justice. She served on the Evansville Human Relations Commission as an undergraduate and now is a member of the mayor's Commission on the Status of Black Males. She is a former member of the USI Alumni Council.

Earlier in her career Hinton worked as an insurance claims representative in Indianapolis and Evansville and then took a position with Job Corps in Morganfield, Kentucky. A Job Corps student inspired her to seek work with the court system by telling her that she would "make a great probation officer." Hinton was state

MPA - cont. on page 3

Search committee seeks dynamic leader for dean

The review of applications for dean of the School of Liberal Arts began in November. Dr. Thomas Pickering, dean of the Bower-Suhrheinrich School of Education and Human Services, is chair of the search committee which will make recommendations to Dr. Linda Bennett, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. The committee is seeking a dynamic leader with proven talents in teaching, administration, research, and service to the community; commitment to academic excellence; experience with diversity issues; and the ability to interact with the private sector.

Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus is acting dean. Dr. Iain Crawford, dean of the school from July 2000 through June 2003, was named vice president for Academic Affairs at The College of Wooster.

In addition to Pickering, search committee members are Dr. Julia Galbus, Dr. Dal Herring, Dr. Tamara Hunt, Joan Kempf, Dr. Richard Mussard, Dr. Joseph Palladino, Dr. Leslie Roberts, and Dr. Stephen Zehr. All are faculty members in the School of Liberal Arts. Ex-officio members are Kimberly F. Greenlee, employment manager, and JoAnn LaMar, administrative associate in the School of Liberal Arts.

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Dean's Message

Trusting in Liberal Arts

by Tom Wilhelmus, Acting Dean of Liberal Arts

As acting dean of the School of Liberal Arts, I've been impressed with the number of times I've been called upon to give "the talk" to students, parents, alumni, faculty, and friends about what the liberal arts are, their history, and their value today and into the future. The business of being a dean is at least in part ceremonial, and part of the ceremony is to remind oneself and others about the time-honored features of one's calling.

Much of "the talk" centers on jobs, especially for parents but also for trustees and for legislators, i.e. persons charged with the responsibility of paying for a student's collegiate life. This is an important issue since it has to do with the necessity of maintaining a livelihood, and it is why we direct so much of our energy toward assuring that our students have a shot at some specific type of future employment.

Nonetheless, it's often wise to remind even these worthy people that the job market is uncertain and that an education that emphasizes flexibility and imagination is a valuable commodity in a marketplace that is ever changing—better the utility infielder, in that respect, who can fill a number of positions rather than the highly trained specialist who can fill just one. Today, people often have more than one career, and it's important to remind them that reading, writing, thinking, analyzing, researching, understanding oneself and others and one's place in the world constitute the best resource to a successful career.

Still, it's not all about jobs, and in some versions of "the talk" I tend to drift off to dwell on (what to call them?) more lasting values, like the service a liberal arts education provides to the whole individual and to society in general. Along with the sciences, history, art, spoken and written communication, literature, languages, other cultures, philosophy, ethics, the intricate workings of human societies and

the human mind are important to all human beings. For the individual, they provide assistance in addressing a lifetime of complex needs, goals, and concerns (including the important concern of parenting the next generation). For the citizen, they provide similar support in choosing a better future for one's own country and for all humankind.

And because the acquisition of such knowledge is potentially endless, I go on to talk about the need for everyone to acquire the lifelong habit of learning, gain good critical thinking skills, and make the pursuit of knowledge into a way of life. Ideally, a liberal arts education creates living, breathing, thinking, imaginative individuals, people who are broad-minded, tolerant, interesting to be around, people whom you can believe in, people you would trust.

All those platitudes, are they just part of the ceremony? I hope not, for they have very real consequences in how one looks at and values others. At the fall meeting of the Liberal Arts faculty, I described my vision of the faculty as "people whose character empowers them to make the 1001 decisions their work requires" without a lot of intrusive supervision—people "who are, as we urge our students to be, responsible to themselves for the worthwhile work they do, not because they are addicted to a set of rules or procedures or guidelines" but because they are worthy of our belief in them.

I guess you could say that's where my version of "the talk" concludes, with a belief in a good liberal arts education as a creator of character and of people you can trust.



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runner-up in the Miss Black Expo competition in 1975. A talented gospel singer, she is involved in her church with youth and other activities.

Hinton said that earning a master's degree has long been a goal for her but that she has put it off for various reasons, some health-related. "I'm not putting it off any longer," she said. "When I heard about the MPA program at USI, I thought this would be an excellent base—to add on to what I know and weed out those things that I think I know."

Her career with the courts has given her front-row awareness of issues important to the region. She wants to position herself to do more, particularly in the area of administration.

Another MPA student is Stephanie Dunn Norrick '97, political science. She is back at USI because earning a master's degree is a personal goal. She also feels that it will enhance her management skills. "You never stop learning," she said.

Norrick joined the Tri-State Food Bank as bookkeeper/volunteer coordinator in July 1998 and was promoted to assistant director in 2000. In August 2003, she was named director of community resources for the United Way of Southwestern Indiana, where one of her responsibilities is coordination of a new 211 telephone service line known as First Call for Help, an information and referral service that is part of a statewide initiative. Implementation in the Evansville area should be complete in 2004 or early 2005.

"I was meant to work for nonprofits," Norrick said. "I enjoy helping people and connecting them with the resources to better their lives."

A 10-year veteran of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources

(DNR), Mike Linderman is site manager for the Angel Mounds state historic site in Evansville. He supervises the staff of the property, site programming, preservation, and restoration efforts for

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Kimberly Hinton
Probation Officer
Vanderburgh County
Juvenile Court

the 600-acre site. As a student in the MPA program, he is formalizing the knowledge he has gained through years of experience in management, gaining new knowledge, and preparing himself for continued advancement with DNR.

Susie Carney '03 is an office manager at Evansville Coalition for the Homeless and previously served as secretary to the director at a family shelter.

"Working with the homeless is something I love to do so I went back to school to get my bachelor's and now my master's in hopes of being able to better serve this population. I would like to be a director of a shelter eventually," she said.

Carney's undergraduate major was organizational communications in USI's General Studies program, a customized degree program designed for working adults.

Jon Reidford '92, is computer and Internet services coordinator for the School of Nursing and Health Professions at USI. He earned an

undergraduate degree in psychology and also has completed a number of courses at USI in the computer information systems field.

By broadening his education in the MPA program, Reidford said, "I want to put it back to use at the University in an area that would benefit from it. I'm finding out new things with the master's and finding out if I'm good at them. I want to determine my strengths and add to them."

One reason the MPA program appeals to Reidford is that it includes some curriculum from the School of Business. The Department of Communications also is contributing to MPA staffing and curriculum.

The Master of Public Administration is the primary graduate degree sought by current and future administrators in government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and heavily regulated private corporations. The Department of Philosophy and Political Science has added two faculty members—Mary Morris and Dr. Jeffrey Scott Granberg-Rademacker—to teach courses in the 36-hour degree program. Students without professional careers also must complete an internship.

Courses in leadership skills, research methods, and process analysis are scheduled for spring semester. The curriculum also includes courses in budgeting, fund raising, organizational communications, volunteer management, personnel administration, computer technology, legal issues, and other topics. Graduates are qualified for a wide array of positions in public and private employment.

Courses are offered at times convenient for working professionals.

For information contact Dr. Paul Raymond, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Political Science, at 812/465-7132 or praymond@usi.edu.

Funding, eating, warming, streaming — all are topics of faculty research

The breadth of interests among School of Liberal Arts faculty is evident in the range of research projects under way for spring semester. Government funding, eating habits, global climate change, and the Internet are topics of exploration by faculty members in English, communications, and political science. The following Faculty Research Awards have been awarded for spring:

Karen Bishop, assistant professor of English, will explore the impact of government funding (federal, state, and local) on philanthropic projects. She will use the research award to continue her study of a comprehensive campaign at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, including how campaign discourse reflects the relationship between the institution and the community.

Leigh Anne Howard, associate professor of communications, will be editing and revising her dissertation, "Beauty and the Feast: A Performance-Ethnography of Eating and Body Image," for publication. Her work identifies the eating practices of a group of

college-aged men and women, including what, where, how, and why participants ate. Part of the project explores what participants learned about their personal eating practices and how they correlated those personal practices to cultural standards.

Steven Zehr, associate professor of sociology, is analyzing what readers learn about global climate change (GCC) in the U.S. popular press. "Because GCC is such a complex and multifaceted problem area, knowledge about it has been generated from many different sources including scientific, economic, lay, and political. As these knowledges merge in different settings, they may take the form of hybrid concepts or discourses that serve as sensitizing tools and may help stabilize social relations and decision-making across diverse communities," Zehr said.

The study will cover the development and translation of hybrid concepts that involve some combination of economic analysis of and policy toward global climate change in the popular press since 1986.

Dr. Wayne Rinks, associate professor of radio and television, will undertake a project designed to determine how and to what extent television news departments utilize the Internet to disseminate information. The project will conduct an e-mail survey of 580 stations randomly selected from the 1,200 commercial television stations in the United States to gather data on streaming, types of content offered, outside links, financial projections, effects on the TV news audience, and other issues. He will be assisted by co-author Dr. Julie Evey, assistant professor of psychology, and research assistant Patricia White, a senior majoring in radio and television.

Faculty Research Awards in the School of Liberal Arts support work on a specific project and relate to the applicant's broader scholarly agenda. Faculty members have a reduced teaching load during the semester in which they pursue the research. The project must have a defined outcome such as a conference paper, publication, or creative product.

Graduate journal accepts articles by two MALS students

A discussion of Charles Darwin's impact on psychology and an imagined meeting with Don Quixote have caught the eyes of editors of the *Journal of Graduate Liberal Studies*. Articles on these subjects by two students in the Master of Liberal Studies program have been accepted for publication.

Linda Brown's manuscript, "Psychology in a New Light: Darwin's Influence in the Century after *The Origin of Species*," will appear in the spring 2004 issue. She wrote the paper for an MALS course called *After Darwin*, taught by Dr. Tom Wilhelmus, acting dean of the School of Liberal Arts.

Brown said, "In the 1860s and 70s, psychology was emerging as an independent, scientific discipline, having previously existed only as branch of philosophy. At the same time, the revolutionary ideas of Charles Darwin were turning biological science upside down, following the release of *The Origin of Species* in 1859. This paper surveys Darwin's great influence on the nascent discipline of psychology."

An Evansville resident, Brown is vice president of human resources at River Valley Behavioral Health in Owensboro, Kentucky. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Spalding University.

Brett Alan Sanders of Leopold, Indiana, wrote the article, "History of the Knight and the Sophist," published in the spring 2003 issue of the journal. He said he was inspired to write the story while taking the course *Contemporary Issues in Rhetoric* taught by Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, director of the MALS program.

In the story Don Quixote and a wandering sophist—each of whom is trying to revive his respective ancient art: knight-errantry and rhetoric—discover that, to a large extent, they are after the same thing. Sanders teaches English and Spanish at Perry Central Junior-Senior High School in Perry County and has had other original prose and translations published.

School of Liberal Arts welcomes 17 to faculty

The School of Liberal Arts has welcomed 17 new faculty members.

Dr. Katharine A. Anderson, instructor in history, came to USI from the University of Toronto, where she had served as a graduate teaching assistant since 200. She completed an M.A. at Toronto in 1997 and a Ph.D. in 2003.

John R. Berst, instructor in theatre, was most recently associated with the Rochester Summer Music Theatre in Rochester, New Hampshire. He earned an M.F.A. from Purdue University in 1999.

Adriana M. Brodsky, assistant professor of history, served as an adjunct professor of history at Ohio State University in 2003. She is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Duke University.

Dr. Gael L. Cooper, professor of public relations, was formerly professor of communication at Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia. He earned a Ph.D. in journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1996.

Dr. John R. Fitzpatrick, assistant professor of philosophy, earned a Ph.D. at the University of Tennessee Knoxville and was a lecturer there from 1996 until joining USI.

Kenneth M. Gillam, instructor in rhetoric and composition, was formerly an instructor at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. He earned an M.A. from Southwest Missouri State University in 1995.

Dr. Jeffrey Scott Granberg-Rademacker, assistant professor of political science, was formerly visiting professor and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Northern Iowa. He earned a Ph.D. in political science at University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2002.

Dr. Kristina L. Hochwender, assistant professor of English, was most recently an independent tutor for students at Poughkeepsie Day School in Poughkeepsie, New York. She earned a

Ph.D. in English and American literature at Washington University in 2002.

Dr. Tamara Hunt, associate professor of history and chair of the Department of History, served for 10 years as an associate professor of history at Loyola Marymount University. She holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Mikel Imaz, assistant professor of Spanish, served as a Spanish teaching assistant at Arizona State University from 1998 until joining USI. He holds a Ph.D. from Arizona State.

Dr. David L. Jones, instructor in English, was a graduate assistant in English at Morehead State University, where he earned an M.A. in English in 2003.

William E. Kirtley Jr., instructor in graphic design, earned a B.S. in marketing at USI in 1987 and has served as a lecturer in the School of Liberal Arts since 2002.

Jim McGarrah, assistant professor of English, has taught English at USI as an adjunct faculty member since 2001. He earned an M.F.A. from Vermont College of Norwich University in 2001.

Amie R. McKibban, instructor in psychology, was formerly program director for the Flint Hills Community Health Center in Emporia, Kansas. She earned an M.S. in psychology at Emporia State University in 2002.

Mary Morris, instructor in political science, was a faculty fellow at Indiana University-Southeast from 2002 until joining USI. She earned an M.A. in political science from Antioch University in 1997.

Dr. Tamara L. Wandel, assistant professor of public relations, was formerly an instructor at Florida Atlantic University. She earned an Ed.D. at Argosy University in 2002.



Anderson



Berst



Brodsky



Cooper



Fitzpatrick



Gillam



Granberg-Rademacker



Hochwender



Hunt



Imaz



Jones



Kirtley



McGarrah



McKibban



Morris



Wandel



Wooden

Dr. Shannon R. Wooden, assistant professor of English, was formerly visiting assistant professor of English at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. She earned a Ph.D. in English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001.

Tuckers to chair 13th Annual Toast to the Arts

Bidders at the 13th Annual Toast to the Arts might be taking home a piece of antique jewelry, a Russian icon from the late 1800s, or a painting or sculpture by a local artist. Or they might be inviting several of their closest friends to dine in the homes of some of the area's best-known home chefs and party-givers.



This porcelain table by Adam Egenolf '02, art, won a Merit Award in the 2003 USI Student Art Show. It is one of many auction items that will benefit arts and humanities programs through the 2004 Toast to the Arts.

These items and more will go to successful bidders February 6 at the event sponsored by the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. Kristen K. Tucker '99 M.A.L.S., publisher and editor of *Evansville Living* magazine, and Todd Tucker, president of Tucker Publishing Group, are chairs of the event. The couple founded Tucker Publishing Group in 1999.

Toast to the Arts will begin at 7 p.m. with silent auction items on display at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science. Dinner will be served at 8 p.m., followed by the live auction. Tickets are \$125 a person or \$250 a couple. Tables of eight and 10 also are available.

Barbara Blevins, chair of the Society for Arts & Humanities, said the purpose of the event is to support programs of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities program with special grants to New Harmony Theatre, RopeWalk Writers Retreat, the student development fund, and the Southern Indiana Review. Founded in 1986, the USI Society for Arts and Humanities supports artistic and academic programs in the School of Liberal Arts.

Jack Schriber, a member of the Society's board, chairs the collection of items for this year's auction.

Auction items may be viewed online at www.usi.edu/libarts/society/toast.asp. For additional information contact Mary Jane Schenk at 812/465-7149 or mjschenk@usi.edu.

Travel programs: ticket to learning

"It's time for students to immerse themselves in another culture," says Eric vonFuhrmann, associate professor of English and veteran leader of travel/study opportunities offered by the School of Liberal Arts. In the coming months, students and other members of the University community have several opportunities to travel through programs offered by the school.

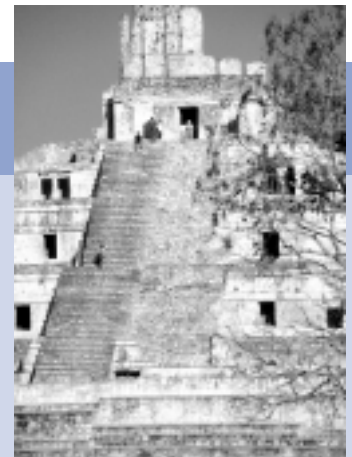
- Spain and Morocco are the destinations May 20-June 3 with Dr. Margaret Skoglund, associate professor of art, as tour leader. The trip will include visits to Madrid, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez, Cadiz, Tarifa, Malaga, Valencia, Barcelona, Tangier, and Fez. Contact Skoglund at 812/464-1023 or skoglund@usi.edu for a complete itinerary.

- The eighth annual spring study tour to Mesoamerica led by Michael Aakhus, professor of art, will take participants to Veracruz March 6-13 during spring break. The group will land in Mexico City and then travel to sites of cultural and artistic interest. They will see the Nahuatl Pahuatlan market in Pahuatlan, learn about traditional papermaking in San Pablito, study the distinctive architecture of El Tajin, visit the colonial center and Museum of Anthropology in Jalapa, and explore attractions near Mexico City's central

square. Contact Aakhus at 812/464-1853 or maakhus@usi.edu

- Italy is the place of choice for spring-break travelers led by Eric vonFuhrmann, associate professor of English. The group will see the cultural and historic points of interest in Milan, Verona, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Pisa, Rome, Naples, Sorrento, and the Isle of Capri. The trip is March 5-14. In spring 2005, vonFuhrmann will lead a trip to Greece. Make reservations by September. For information contact him at 812/464-1749 or evonfuhr@usi.edu.

- VonFuhrmann and Sherry Darrell, professor of English, lead a trip each fall to the famous Stratford Festival of Canada in Stratford, Ontario, to see Shakespearean plays. The trip is set for September 30-October 3. Contact Darrell at 812/464-1754 or sdarrell@usi.edu or vonFuhrmann at 812/464-1749 or evonfuhr@usi.edu.



USI travelers visited Mexico's Temple of the Five Stories in spring 2003.

Darrell, Dowhie honored for 25 years

An English professor known for endless energy, high standards, and her veneration of Greek poetry and drama and an art professor with a national reputation were among eight University employees honored at the annual Founders Day Reception in September for 25 years of service to the University of Southern Indiana.

Sherry Darrell, professor of English, joined USI as a part-time assistant professor of English in 1975 and became full-time August 21, 1978. She also has served USI as Academic Skills coordinator, Honors Day coordinator, and inauguration writer as well as founding sponsor of Alpha Chi Honorary Society. The Owensboro, Kentucky, resident is the recipient of a Faculty Research and Creative Work Grant, an Alumni Association Faculty Recognition Award, a Kentucky Women's Foundation Grant, and a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar in Greek tragedy at Dartmouth College.

She is a board member for Hospice and Palliative Care of the Ohio Valley in Owensboro.

In remarks at the reception, Dr. Hilary Braysmith, associate professor of art

history, said that Darrell's teaching stands out because "her standards reflect her conviction that students can rise to the challenge."

"She devotes herself to the long-term transformation of students into educated and self-confident citizens," Braysmith said.

Leonard E. Dowhie, professor of art, joined the University as an assistant professor of art August 21, 1978. He also has served USI as chair of the Art Department. A resident of St. Philip, Indiana, he is trustee emeritus of the American Craft Council in New York City, fellow to the council of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, and a partner in SOFA Art Expos in Chicago and New York. His artwork is displayed in many museums, including the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery.



Sherry Darrell



Lenny Dowhie thanks colleague Katie Waters.

Katie Waters, acting associate dean of Liberal Arts, introduced Dowhie at the reception, noting that "he has taught several thousands of students to center clay on the wheel, throw pots of fantastical shapes and dimensions, prepare chemical glazes, load and fire innumerable kilns, and create highly original and expressive objects in the ceramic medium."

She said, "He treats each student as an individual and through a combination of expertise, energy, bluster, and a wacky imaginative sensibility—he pulls the best and most creative efforts from each of them."

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) _____

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Employment/Title _____

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Coming Events

January

29 RopeWalk Reading Series
James McGarrah

February

18-21 Loot
25-29 USI Theatre

March

9 High School Media Day
sponsored by Department of
Communications

17 St. Patrick's Day Readings and Music
sponsored by creative writing
and music programs

22-25 Honors Week

April

**2-3 Mid America Undergraduate
Psychology Research Conference**

14-17 Charley's Aunt
21-25 USI Theatre

**18-25 34th Annual USI Juried
Student Art Exhibition**
opening reception, April 18, 2-4 p.m.

22 Dr. Wolfgang Mieder
School of Liberal Arts Distinguished
Scholar lecture, 7:30 p.m.

May

9 USI Commencement

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

Short Notes

New Stephen Pace painting in Liberal Arts Center

Brent Pace and his wife Suzie Fox Pace '90 have found just the place for a large painting completed in 1960 by Brent's great-uncle, internationally known New York artist Stephen Pace. The painting is a gift to the University from the couple.

"We wanted to keep it local, and we thought there's no better place than the Liberal Arts Center," Brent Pace said. He grew up on the family farm on Pace-Morton Road in New Harmony, Indiana, where his great-uncle lived and painted for a time. The Evansville couple has several of the prominent artist's smaller works.

Margaret Skoglund, associate professor of art, selected the painting in the artist's New York studio for its location in the Liberal Arts Center. The work is an example of Abstract Expressionism, an American art movement in the 1950s. Pace's monumental abstraction has a field of bright, warm colors punctuated by cool, dark shades evoking cycles of nature and the earth. The USI art collection includes three paintings by Pace and three black-and-white prints. The artist, born in 1918, lives in New York City, and continues to paint and exhibit his work regularly.



The recently acquired Stephen Pace painting hangs in the central stairwell of the Liberal Arts Center. Pace's art is in the permanent collections of major museums, universities, and corporations.

LAStory

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