

# LAStory

Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts

Vol. 3, No. 2

## Gallery to honor benefactor Ken McCutchan Liberal Arts Center to add 6,000 square feet of exhibit space



Joan Kempf-USI

The new Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Gallery will be a one-story addition to the Liberal Arts Center between the Hamilton Music Studio on the left and the Helen Mallette Black Box Theatre on the right. The foyer of the new gallery will overlook Reflection Lake.

**P**lans are in progress to build an art gallery that will showcase the work of art students and provide educational opportunities in the visual arts to the University com-

munity and the general public. The 6,000 square-foot gallery, an addition to the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center, will be a dedicated exhibit space having four distinct exhibition areas with movable wall partitions. A foyer overlooking Reflection Lake will provide space for opening receptions and gallery information. The new construction also will provide a hallway for access to the Liberal Arts Center and a workroom/storage area.

The project was approved by the USI Board of Trustees at its January meeting. It must go to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the State Budget Committee, and the governor for construction approval.

The estate of Kenneth P. McCutchan, longtime art patron and Evansville resident, has provided a large portion of the funds for the project, estimated

McCutchan – cont. on page 3

### ‘School’ is out; ‘College’ is in

Look for a change of wording in the blue box above this story in the next issue of this newsletter. No longer will *LA Story* be the “Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts.” The “School” is becoming a “College.”

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees approved changing the designation of the University’s five academic schools to colleges at its January meeting. Effective July 1, the School of Liberal Arts will be the College of Liberal Arts.

### Michael Aakhus named associate dean

Michael Aakhus, associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts as of January 1, is comfortably settled in his office in the Liberal Arts Center, where he is surrounded by his own artwork and artifacts from decades of travel in Latin America.

Aakhus - cont. on page 2



Reminders of his travel and study in Mexico and other countries enhance Michael Aakhus’ office in the Liberal Arts Center.

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## Dean's Message

### LA Story

by David Glassman, Dean of Liberal Arts

What's in a name? A whole lot!

Beginning July 1, the School of Liberal Arts will officially be renamed the College of Liberal Arts in line with similar changes in the other four academic schools at USI.

Although it appears simply as a small change in name, what stands behind it is profound. At the heart of the name change is the change in the institution itself. Once a small, local, undergraduate commuter university, USI has grown quickly in its short 40-year history to

**“A ‘school’ becomes a ‘college’ when it matures to a level of excellence, when it provides a comprehensive, broadly-based curriculum, and when its faculty members demonstrate and are recognized for important scholarly contributions to the many disciplines they represent.”**

become today's comprehensive, residential university offering undergraduate and graduate programs to students who come from throughout Indiana, the Midwest, and even beyond our nation's borders.

Our “College” of Liberal Arts offers two graduate programs, one in liberal studies and the other in public administration, 29 specialized majors, and 36 program

minors. Over 200 full-time and part-time liberal arts faculty members now provide excellent instruction for the University Core Curriculum and to our 2,138 student majors.

A “school” becomes a “college” when it matures to a level of excellence, when it provides a comprehensive, broadly-based curriculum, and when its faculty members demonstrate and are recognized for important scholarly contributions to the many disciplines they represent. This definition accurately describes the “College” of Liberal Arts at USI. And it's not simply because the name better reflects our mission and structure. The name change is important to us in many ways. It will assist us in attracting highly qualified students to our programs, help the faculty in securing external grants to fund their important research, increase the marketability of our students in their chosen career paths, and allow our students to better compete for entrance into prestigious graduate schools around the country.

We have come a long way from our humble beginnings, but we're not about to stop here and rest on our accomplishments. Our “College” of Liberal Arts will continue, as always, with our commitment to achieving an ever-higher level of accomplishment.



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[www.usi.edu/libarts](http://www.usi.edu/libarts)

*Aakhus - cont. from page 1*

Dr. David Glassman, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, said that Aakhus brings strong administrative experience to the post, having chaired the art department for five years and served on the University Core Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate, and other liberal arts and department-level committees.

Aakhus joined the USI art faculty in 1977. He was promoted to associate professor in 1987 and professor in 1997. He will continue an annual spring break Maya Art and Culture tour he has led since 1996 and will teach Ancient Art of Mexico and Printmaking I courses.

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

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McCutchan – cont. from page 1

to cost \$1.1 million. The gallery will be named to honor his memory. A local historian, McCutchan also left the University approximately 150 pieces of his well-documented collection of works by Indiana artists.

Additional funding for the Kenneth P. McCutchan Gallery will be raised by the USI Foundation and by the sale of art prints donated by Michael Aakhus, associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts and professor of art.

In addition to student shows, the McCutchan Gallery will provide professional exhibit space for faculty and alumni exhibits, traveling art exhibits, the University Art Collection, and other exhibitions that will enrich the cultural life of the campus and community.

Joan Kempf, interim chair of the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre, said the exhibit space is the shared vision and commitment of art students and faculty. Enrollment in the art program has doubled from 150 to more than 300 students in the past five years. "This rapid growth has further increased

the need for a dedicated gallery space on the USI campus," Kempf said. "At this time, students have a limited opportunity to present and exhibit their creative efforts and little or no opportunity to exhibit a body or even a series of work."

She said the gallery is important to USI, the art program, and the community for the following reasons:

- It will provide an opportunity for students to share their work with USI and the greater Evansville community.
- It will create a sense of focus and recognition of the importance of the work produced by student artists, thereby building self-esteem and personal responsibility.
- It will provide a professional opportunity for students to intern and experience all aspects of gallery exhibition, presentation, publication, and public relations.

## County's 'Top Cop' presents Alumni-in-Residence program



*Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth '81 chats with students while on campus March 22 for an Alumni-in-Residence program, "From College Classroom to Top Cop." Ellsworth discussed his journey from student in USI's Department of Sociology to top law enforcement officer in the county and talked about crime patterns, the new county jail, and the challenges of the sheriff's office.*

## Don Pitzer honored for New Harmony scholarship

Harmonie Associates of Indiana, Inc., a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the history of New Harmony, has presented Dr. Donald Pitzer, director of the Center for Communal Studies and professor of history, with its Golden Rose Award.

Dr. Martha Raske, director of the USI Master of Social Work program and president of Harmonie Associates' board of directors, said, "The Golden Rose is a symbol of the Harmonist Society of George Rapp that settled in New Harmony in the early 19th century. Dr. Pitzer was selected for the award in recognition of his years of service to the University of Southern Indiana and to the Center for Communal Studies, and for his scholarly work related to the history of New Harmony."

## Literature Award honors Everett

Clinton D. Omohundro, a junior majoring in English, is the first recipient of the Walter K. Everett Literature Award recognizing outstanding performance in literature courses.

The \$100 cash award was established this year by colleagues and former



*Walter Everett, left, and Clinton D. Omohundro*

students to honor Everett, professor of English, upon his retirement in June. The award was presented March 20 on Honors Day.

## Essayists split \$500 award

A sophomore and a graduate student are co-winners of an essay contest on the topic "Why Americans Don't Read."

Craig Fehrman, a sophomore majoring in English and psychology from Dillsboro, Indiana, and Brett Sanders, a graduate student from Tell City, Indiana, each received a \$250 award. Sanders is enrolled in USI's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program.

Presented March 20 on Honors Day, the prize was sponsored by Louis Schewe, an avid reader and a resident of the Solarbron Pointe Retirement Community near the USI campus. Schewe has given many books from his personal collection to USI students over the past years.



*From left, Craig Fehrman, Louis Schewe, and Brett Sanders*



# First graduates earn MPA degree

by Wendy Knipe Bredhold, USI News and Information Services

The first three graduates of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) graduate program were eligible to participate in Commencement in May. Susie Carney, office manager for the Evansville Coalition for the Homeless (ECHO); Janet Johnson, career coordinator for USI Career Services; and Pamela Van Vorst, administrative assistant for USI Human Resources, will each complete their course work at the end of Summer Session II.

The MPA is a graduate degree aimed at current and future administrators in governmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and heavily regulated private corporations. The majority of MPA students are working professionals attending school part time, so most courses meet one evening each week during fall and spring semesters. About 15 students were enrolled in the program in spring 2005.

Indiana State University faculty, who had for years offered MPA courses in an off-campus program at USI, asked USI political science faculty to consider assuming responsibility for the MPA program in Evansville. Surveys of area corporations and organizations confirmed a demand, and the program was approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in August 2002 and implemented in spring 2003.

While working at a shelter for homeless families, Carney, 54, decided to complete a bachelor's degree she had begun years before. After she completed a degree in general studies with a concentration in management at USI, she decided she wanted to go into the administrative field. "I absolutely fell in love with the homeless population and realized that with the MPA I could work to better their lives," she said.

All of the courses have been applicable to her current job at ECHO. "I can equate each one of my classes, such as budgeting, strategic planning, and fund raising, to my work at ECHO," she said. "I would have really done myself an injustice if I'd taken any other master's program. It's been a very good program and it's definitely been worth my time, effort, and money. I'm anxious to get out there and put it to work."

Johnson, 47, holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from the University of Evansville and has been employed by USI for five years, starting as an administrative assistant in Human Resources.

"I really like my job," she said. "Career Services is a great department and the work is fulfilling because you can see how it helps the students advance their career goals. Having the MPA will help me in my career advancement, but my



*Susie Carney, office manager for the Evansville Coalition for the Homeless, wants to use the knowledge and skills she gained in the MPA program to better the lives of others.*

plans are to remain at the University. It's an exciting place to be."

Students can complete the MPA program in two years at graduate tuition rates that are among the lowest in the country. The program offers a component for students who already are employed and a component for students without professional careers. The latter are assigned to a semester-long internship program.

For more information, call Dr. Paul Raymond, director of the MPA program, at 812/465-7142, or go to [www.usi.edu/libarts/philpolsci/MPAV](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/philpolsci/MPAV) online.

## Sneak a peek at The New Harmony Theatre season including world premiere

Scott LaFeber, artistic director for The New Harmony Theatre, provided insights into the coming summer season.

Thom Thomas' *A Moon to Dance By* is NHT's first world premiere. A Los Angeles screenwriter with *Hotel* and *Hill Street Blues* among his credits, Thomas also has had two plays produced off-Broadway. *Moon* was developed at the famous Actors Studio in Los Angeles and received a backers' audition/staged reading directed by LaFeber at Circle in the Square theatre on Broadway in April 2004. The premiere has national interest with producers and potential investors from New York and Washington, D.C., planning to attend.

Evansville native Paula Leggett Chase is slated to appear in a featured role in *As Thousands Cheer*, the Irving Berlin/Moss Hart musical revue. A graduate of Harrison High School, she went on to appear on Broadway in *Kiss Me Kate*, *Crazy for You*, and *A Chorus Line*.

In *The Odd Couple*, Matt Landers is slated to play the role of Oscar. He was in the original company of *Grease* on Broadway as well as in the original company (and cast album) of *Working*, for which he received a Drama Desk Award nomination for best actor in a musical.

For additional information: 877/NHT-SHOW or [www.usi.edu/nht](http://www.usi.edu/nht)

### School of Liberal Arts welcomes new faculty

The School of Liberal Arts welcomed 18 new faculty members in the fall. The paragraphs that follow introduce those from four departments. New faculty from other departments were featured in the fall issue of *LA Story*.

#### Foreign Language

**Dr. Julio Noriega**, visiting assistant professor of Spanish, was previously an assistant professor at University of Wisconsin-Parkside, University of Notre Dame, and Indiana University South Bend. He earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. from Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. He is a recipient of the Letras de Oro Literary Prize and is a member of the Center for Latin American Studies.

**Dr. Oscar Romero**, visiting assistant professor of Spanish, was formerly a visiting assistant professor at University of Kansas and a graduate student instructor at University of California-Berkeley, where he earned a Ph.D. in 2002. He also holds a B.S.E.E. from University of California-Los Angeles.

#### History

**Dr. Jason D. Hardgrave**, assistant professor of history, earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Wyoming. In 2004, he completed a Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, writing his dissertation on the topic "Gendered Justice: Women's Access to the Legal Systems of Fourteenth Century Venice." In his work he continues to explore the construction of women's legal identity in late medieval Italy.

#### Philosophy and Political Science

**Dr. Marc E. Bobro**, assistant professor of philosophy, was formerly a visiting professor at University of Southern Maine and at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. He earned a Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 1998 and holds an M.A. from King's College, London, and a

B.A. from University of Arizona. His book, *Self and Substance in Leibniz*, was published in April 2004.

**Maurice Hamington**, assistant professor of philosophy, has worked as instructor and Learning Community coordinator at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon; an instructor at Western Oregon University, Portland State University, and Oregon State University; and an assistant professor at Mount St. Mary's College. He earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at University of Oregon in 2001 and a Ph.D. in religion and social ethics at the University of Southern California in 1994. He also holds an M.A. in philosophy from University of Oregon, an M.A. in religious studies from Mount St. Mary's College, an M.B.A. from University of Southern California, and a B.A. from Loyola Marymount University. His publications include the book, *Embodied Care: Jane Addams, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Feminist Ethics*, released in September 2004 by University of Illinois Press.

**Dr. Roger Richardson**, assistant professor of political science, was formerly director of development at the Alabama A&M Economic Development Center. He holds a Ph.D. in public administration from Auburn University, an M.A. in regional planning from Alabama A&M, and a B.A. in political science from Tuskegee University. Richardson teaches introductory courses in political science as well as courses in the graduate program in public administration. His research interests include nonprofit planning, public sector management, fund raising, the U.S. public policy processes, parties and elections, urban/rural economic development, and organization theory.



Noriega



Hardgrave



Bobro



Hamington



Carter



Smith

#### Psychology

**Kenneth L. Carter**, assistant professor of psychology, was visiting assistant professor at Emory and Henry College in Emory, Virginia, from 2002–04. He also has served as an adjunct professor and instructional technology coordinator at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, and as an assistant instructor at University of Kansas. Carter earned a B.A. degree in psychology and philosophy at Rockhurst and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in cognitive psychology at the University of Kansas. In November he presented his dissertation "Investigating Semantic Inhibition Using a Modified Independent Cue Task" at the 45th annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Cynthia J. Smith**, assistant professor of psychology, previously worked as an assistant professor at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia. She earned a master's and Ph.D. in psychology at University of South Florida and a bachelor's in psychology from Indiana University Southeast. She is a member of the American Psychological Society and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. A recipient of a School of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Award, Smith is conducting a Central Appalachian alumni research project to study the measures of post-college success.

*Colloquium - cont. from page 8*

ram and other artifacts from Ur. She said, "This interdisciplinary colloquium will examine inherited shared cultural motifs from the Cradle of Civilization, their origins and manifestations from the time of the Ram in the Thicket to the present."

Topics will include the Epic of Gilgamesh; Sumerian mythology; the goddess in Sumerian, Akkadian and early Hebrew traditions; the first poet, Enheduanna, 2300 BCE; French and English influence in the Middle East; contemporary journalism in the Middle East; veiling practices and gender issues; father/son relations in patriarchy; sacrifice in the Old Testament; and belief in the afterlife.

Thirteen Liberal Arts faculty members will give 20-minute lectures and poetry and prose readings. In addition to Patricia Aakhus, presenters will include Dr. Richard Mussard, philosophy; Dr. Steven Williams, sociology, director of Gender Studies; Dr. Sherry Darrell, English and humanities; Dr. John Gottcent, English and humanities, director of the University Core Curriculum; Eric vonFuhmann, English and humanities; Dr. Maurice Hamington, philosophy; Dr. David Jaquess, psychology; Dr. Chad Tew, journalism; Dr. Leslie Roberts, French; Dr. Charles Barber, political science; John Gibson, Latin; and Jim McGarrah, English.

Paintings by Michael Aakhus, associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts and professor of art, and Carolyn Roth, instructor in art, will be exhibited as will Patricia Aakhus' photographs of the objects from Ur.

The interdisciplinary colloquium is designed to create dialogue and expose the campus community to the international culture. Last year's event, The Parthenon Project, attracted more than 2,500 persons.

## Artistic collaboration creates reliefs for University's new Rice Library

### Longtime patron Dorothea Schlechte provides gift

All who enter the new Rice Library from the entrance facing the Liberal Arts Center will have the opportunity to view the lasting work of faculty and staff from the School of Liberal Arts.

John McNaughton, professor emeritus of art, and Kathryn Waters, professor of art, have designed limestone reliefs for the new building, scheduled for opening in August 2006.

McNaughton and Waters completed clay models of the designs early in the spring semester. David Huebner, art workshop supervisor, then cast the models in plaster as a reference for stonecutters at Evans Limestone in Bedford, Indiana, where the reliefs are being carved in limestone.

Huebner said, "My involvement began with doing a bit of touch up and refinement from a mold maker's point of view, anticipating any potential problems with undercutting."

Huebner made a second set of plaster casts which will be displayed in the new library along with a plaque recognizing Dorothea Johnson Schlechte, whose major gift funded the project.



*This clay model of a limestone relief for the new library features an array of objects familiar to the college experience and a representation of the Liberal Arts Center as the viewer looks "through the window."*

Schlechte, 97, is a longtime Evansville resident and patron of the arts. McNaughton recalled that in 1970, when he was a new faculty member, she arranged for a student art show at the Washington Square Branch of Old National Bank. Her husband Walter was chairman of the bank.

The original idea was to have three limestone reliefs mounted on the exterior of the building but engineering

and construction issues made it cost prohibitive. One relief will be mounted on the exterior of the building and the other reliefs will be used at other building locations.

The \$27.5 million library will be the largest building on the USI campus.



*David Huebner brushed the clay models with shellac and a mold release agent before casting them in plaster.*



## Theatre program up for Leadership honor

The theatre program in the School of Liberal Arts was nominated for an award in the 10th annual Celebration of Leadership awards program sponsored by Leadership Evansville.

The program in the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre was nominated by Tri-State Alliance Board of Directors in the organization/arts category for providing high-quality theatre in the region and for collaborating with numerous organizations to address social issues important to every community through theatre.

## Rusts' support includes programs in liberal arts

Bob and Carole Rust '77, of Mount Vernon, took advantage of the Lilly Endowment matching challenge gift in 2003 to establish two scholarships totaling \$50,000, including corporate

matching gifts. One of the awards, the Rust Foreign Language Scholarship, benefits a student studying a foreign language. A former USI trustee, Carole Rust majored in French at USI. The other scholarship, the Rust Engineering Scholarship, reflects Bob Rust's career and interests. He is a staff engineer with USI.

The Rusts more recently initiated funding for the Bob and Carole Rust Endowed Presidential Scholarship.

The Rusts also fund the Rust Travel Scholarships for students. They have traveled to Italy and Spain on tours led by Dr. Margaret Skoglund,



The Rust Travel Scholarship was awarded to Jason Thomas, second from right, a senior majoring in art, for his planned trip to Greece and Italy with a group led by Dr. Margaret Skoglund, right. The educational tour of USI students, faculty, and friends was scheduled for May 20 through June 4. Donors Bob and Carole Rust, left, presented the travel award March 20 on Honors Day for the School of Liberal Arts.

associate professor of art, and believe strongly that "travel benefits a student's education."

## Help strengthen the School of Liberal Arts and support USI students

Make a tax-deductible gift. No gift is too small.

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*A contribution of \$25 or more to any USI Foundation fund makes graduates "active" members of the USI Alumni Association.*

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## Upcoming Events

### June

**10 *As Thousands Cheer***  
opens at The New Harmony Theatre

**17 *Young Abe Lincoln***  
opens at Lincoln Amphitheatre

### July

**1 *South Pacific***  
opens at Lincoln Amphitheatre

**8 *A Moon to Dance By***  
opens at The New Harmony Theatre

**15 (through August 2) *Tour of Turkey***  
Open to students, faculty, friends of USI  
Contact Eric vonFuhrmann, 812/464-1749

**29 *The Odd Couple***  
opens at The New Harmony Theatre

### September

**1-4 *Trip to Shakespeare Festival***  
Stratford, Ontario, Canada  
Contact Eric vonFuhrmann, 812/464-1749

**23 *The Ram in the Thicket:*** International  
Interdisciplinary Colloquium

### October

**5-16 *The Birthday Party***  
USI Theatre

### November

**9-20 *Metamorphoses***  
Mallette Studio Theatre

### December

**1-4 *Madrigal Feaste***

For more important dates, check the Web site at  
[www.usi.edu/libarts/calendar.asp](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/calendar.asp).

## Ram in the Thicket

### Colloquium to explore cradle of civilization

The second annual interdisciplinary colloquium sponsored by the School of Liberal Arts will investigate the rich heritage of the Middle East from its earliest beginnings, including the creation of writing, urban life, Western religion, poetry, metallurgy, science, and medicine.

The colloquium, titled *The Ram in the Thicket: the Cradle of Civilization*, will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 23 in Carter Hall of the University Center. The public is invited.

Patricia L. Aakhus, instructor in English and director of the interdisciplinary major in international studies, said the gold and lapis Ram in the Thicket has been chosen as a symbol for this year's colloquium. The object was made circa 2600 B.C.E. in Ur, the legendary birthplace of Abraham. Aakhus recently traveled to the University of Pennsylvania to take photographs of the



Patricia Aakhus

*The Ram in the Thicket is one of many stunningly beautiful art objects made of gold, lapis, and shell circa 2600 B.C.E. at Ur.*

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Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts  
**LAS** Story

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