

LAStory

Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts

Two hundred years ago, the first ropewalks were conducted in New Harmony, Indiana. The utopian settlers of the area stretched hemp fiber to dry and then twisted it into rope at a spot near what is now the Harmonist cemetery.

Twenty years ago, the late poet Liam Rector observed that New Harmony, with its artistic heritage and gorgeous natural setting, was the perfect place for writers to retreat. Matthew Graham and Tom Wilhelmus, the founders of USI's writing conference, drew an



Dr. Thomas A. Wilhelmus (left), professor of English, and Matthew Graham, professor of English and director of Creative Writing, are the founders of RopeWalk Writers Retreat.

analogy between the historic social ritual—twisting raw material into something stronger and more beautiful—and the craft of writing. As a result, they christened the annual conference the RopeWalk Writers Retreat.

Since 1988, RopeWalk has given hundreds of participants the opportunity to attend workshops and confer privately with prominent writers in New Harmony, the site of two nineteenth-century utopian experiments with a history of creative and intellectual achievement. Over the years, the retreat has improved and expanded, and now includes the

RopeWalk Reading Series, RopeWalk Press, and USI's literary journal, *Southern Indiana Review*.

The 20th annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat will be held June 14–21, 2008.

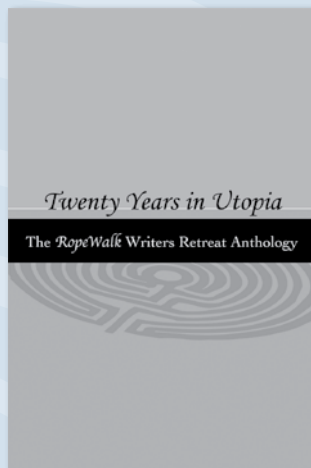
In celebration of the anniversary, this year's conference offers additional workshops, a master class, a publishing symposium, an alumni reading, a concert by singer/songwriter David Broza, and a community-centered day of "random acts of poetry and guerrilla prose."

Faculty are Stephen Dobyns, Brigit Pegeen Kelly, and Dave Smith,

poetry; Lee Martin and Elizabeth Stuckey-French, fiction; and Susan Neville, creative nonfiction. Master classes will be led by Ingrid Nunez and Bob Schacochis. The public is welcome to attend free readings and craft lectures throughout the week.

For the complete schedule and registration availability, go to www.ropewalk.org or call 800/467-8600.

RopeWalk Celebrating 20 Years in Utopia



Last year, the RopeWalk staff created its own publishing house, RopeWalk Press, in anticipation of the 20th anniversary of RopeWalk Writers Retreat. The first two releases from RopeWalk Press were poetry collections—Matthew Guenette's *A Hush of Something Endless* and Jeffrey Thomson's *Celestial Emporium of Benevolent Knowledge*—leading up to the publication of *Twenty Years in Utopia: The RopeWalk Writers Retreat Anthology*. The anthology contains poems, short stories, and essays by writers who have participated as faculty for the conference over the years and is available for purchase at the retreat and at www.ropewalk.org.

Dean's Message

Excellent Faculty: The backbone of our mission to educate students

In recent issues of *LA Story*, I've shared with you stories about our state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, the wonderful accomplishments of our students, the reorganization of our college's departments, and the aesthetic new architectural developments of the labyrinth that graces the entry to the Liberal Arts Center and the McCutchan Art Center and Pace Galleries, now very close to completion. What's missing from this list of great students, excellent facilities, and a beautiful and encouraging environment for learning in the College of Liberal Arts? It's the backbone of the college: our excellent faculty.

Liberal Arts is the largest college on campus with 110 full-time and 114 part-time faculty. And although the faculty teach an extremely wide variety of subjects from art to neuropsychology, they share one common goal, and that is to achieve a classroom experience that results in learning excellence for their students. To succeed, our faculty work endless hours organizing materials and preparing for their presentations. They use classroom techniques that encourage excitement, student engagement, and critical thought. And, even in the process of grading assignments and exams, the faculty use this activity as an additional opportunity to provide encouragement and instruction.

The College of Liberal Arts is well known for its teaching excellence and our faculty have been recognized by receiving numerous teaching awards within the University, the region, and the nation. Here are some highlights of the many special recognitions that occurred during the past couple of years. **Michael Dixon**, associate professor of history, was named co-recipient of the Indiana Classical Conference Post-secondary Teacher of the Year. **Susanna Hoeness-Krupshaw**,

associate professor of English, was named Educator of the Year by the Indiana College Teachers of English.

Kristine Lovasz-Kaiser, adjunct instructor in history, received the USI Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Part-Time Faculty Member.

Dine Moeller-Sahling, associate professor of German, received an Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology by the International Conference on Teaching and Learning.

Charles Petranek, professor emeritus of sociology, received the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award. **Robert West**, assistant professor of advertising, received the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Participation by the Kentucky Communication Association.

Elliot Wasserman, professor and chair of performing arts, received the high distinction of Directing Fellow at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This recognition was eclipsed by an even higher distinction when Mr. Wasserman was selected to receive the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion Award for Excellence in Theatre Education. And finally, **Shannon Wooden**, assistant professor of English, became the first recipient of the USI Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching by a New Faculty Member.

The college is proud to have such an outstanding group of full-time and part-time faculty. Their dedication to teaching excellence has enriched the lives of thousands of students and will continue to be our highest priority in the future.



Dr. David Glassman



College of Liberal Arts

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The LA Story logo was designed by USI graphic design student M. Eric Hill '03.



McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries open in September

The Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center and Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries will open in September 2008—almost exactly a year after ground was broken for the 5,000 square foot addition to the Liberal Arts Center—with an exhibition of artwork from the University's McCutchan and Stephen S. Pace collections.

The construction of the McCutchan Art Center is due in large part to a generous gift from Kenneth P. McCutchan, who died in 2002. One of the area's leading historians, he wrote more than a half-dozen local history books. He painted for pleasure and collected the works of Indiana artists. His collection was one of the largest private collections of Hoosier art in Southern Indiana. During his lifetime he gave a large portion of his collection

to USI for display and for use as a teaching collection.

Stephen S. Pace was a prominent member of the New York Abstract Expressionists. His work has been exhibited in the nation's most important galleries and museums. The recipient of many honors and recognitions, Pace was awarded an honorary degree from USI in 2002. Pace and his wife Palmina recently retired to Indiana from homes in New York and Maine. A portion of their \$1.5 million gift is establishing the Pace Galleries.

The Paces and representatives of the McCutchan family will participate in a ribbon cutting for the Art Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 4, followed by a tour. At 3 p.m. that afternoon, Katharina Rich Perlow of

the Perlow Gallery in New York City will present an art lecture. Perlow has represented Stephen Pace for 25 years.

Events that day also include the premiere of a film documenting the Paces' move to Indiana produced by Richard Kane and Melody Lewis-Kane '73. The Maine-based filmmakers are currently raising funds that would help distribute copies of the film (working title: "Stephen Pace: Indiana Painter") to southwestern Indiana high schools, create a curriculum guide companion to the film, develop a workshop for teachers, and raise regional awareness about Pace's work and history.

An open house for the public will be held from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, September 7, with docent-led tours from noon to 3 p.m.

Center for Communal Studies has a new director



USI's Center for Communal Studies, a clearinghouse of information about historic and contemporary communal societies, has a new director. Dr. Matthew

Grow, an American religious historian, will join the University in fall 2008 as assistant professor of history.

Grow holds a Ph.D. in American history and Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Notre Dame, where he was an Edward Sorin Postdoctoral Scholar. His Bachelor of Arts degree in history is from Brigham Young University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*.

His specialization is the history of the Mormon church, with special emphasis on its 19th century origins and development. His dissertation, "*Liberty to the Downtrodden: Thomas L. Kane, Romantic Reformer*," will be

published by Yale University Press in 2009. He is co-author of *Parley P. Pratt: A Cultural and Intellectual Biography*, which will be published by Oxford University Press.

He will teach a variety of courses in American history at USI, including classes that examine communal societies in American history, religion in America, the history of reform movements in American society, and memory and war in American history.

"I am thrilled to be joining USI and the Center for Communal Studies," Grow said. "The center is a unique institution and I look forward to building on the foundation laid by Dr. Donald Pitzer. The attempts by various groups to build communal societies are not only historically significant, but also relevant to contemporary debates about the building of communities in modern society." Pitzer, founding director of the center, retired in 2007.

Grow will oversee the operations of the center, including its lecture series and annual prize for the best undergraduate

or graduate paper on any aspect of communal societies. He will work closely with the staff of the David L. Rice Library to expand and enhance the world-class collection of communal studies materials currently held in the Special Collections area.

Dr. Tamara Hunt, History Department chair, said, "I'm pleased that such an accomplished and promising scholar as Dr. Grow will be joining USI. His expertise will allow us to expand the course offerings in our department, while his knowledge of communal societies will be a definite asset to our plans to grow and expand the activities of the Center for Communal Studies. His interests in communal societies extend beyond historic communities to embrace modern communal movements such as eco-housing and cooperative communities for seniors, and we hope to see that interest lead to new outreach programs for the local community. Dr. Grow brings a lot of enthusiasm with him to USI, which should benefit the University and the community as a whole."

Forgotten Harmonist artifacts rediscovered



Josh Orem (pictured above), a USI history major from Wadesville, Indiana, has worked as a museum aide for Historic New Harmony for two years, giving guided walking tours of New Harmony to the public. This year, his responsibilities include handling artifacts from a decades-old excavation of Harmonist sites.

Dr. Michael Strezewski, assistant professor of anthropology, was tipped off to the existence of 80 boxes of Harmonist artifacts by his predecessor, Marjorie Jones. The artifacts were uncovered in the 1970s by Dr. John B. Elliott, a USI archaeology professor. Strezewski said, "They were moving some Harmonist houses around in

New Harmony because they wanted to put them in a centralized place for visitors to see. Elliott did excavations on the foundations and the yards to recover artifacts."

Most of the artifacts are from the Keppler House and the Harmonist kiln, where a type of pottery called redware was manufactured. The artifacts were never washed or analyzed, and nothing was ever written about them. "I thought it would be an interesting project for myself and my students," Strezewski said. "The Harmonist period is one of the first large occupations by Europeans and there has been no archeological analysis of what day-to-day life was like for the Harmonist people."



The public is invited to visit USI's Field School in Archaeology in New Harmony, Indiana, May 13-June 13. Students in Dr. Michael Strezewski's first summer session class will be excavating a site at Community House No. 2 on Main Street from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Before that analysis can take place, the artifacts will be washed and catalogued by Orem and students in Strezewski's senior-level independent study course. Working in the USI archaeology lab, the students have found broken pottery made by

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Bonnell receives first Bigham award for "Snapshots"

Dr. Karen H. Bonnell, professor of communications, is the recipient of the first annual Darrel Bigham Historic Southern Indiana Faculty Research Award. Bonnell will receive a \$4,000 grant for her proposed project, a second installment of "Snapshots of Southern Indiana," a 30-minute television program she researched, wrote, and produced in partnership with WNIN-TV during her fall 2007 sabbatical. The program, which aired on WNIN in February, focused on New Harmony, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, O'Bannon Woods State Park, and Wyandotte Caves. The second program will cover Indiana's original territorial capitol at Vincennes, the state's first capitol at Corydon, and the Native American settlement at Angel Mounds in Newburgh. It will be broadcast on WNIN-TV and offered for broadcast to other PBS affiliates in Indiana. The award was named for Dr. Darrel Bigham, founding director of Historic Southern Indiana and professor of history, to honor his legacy as a USI pioneer in regional engagement, and his service to the University and the region. Bigham retires from the University effective June 2008.



Forgotten artifacts continued...

the Harmonists or imported from Europe, bottles, spoons, and toothbrush handles. Orem said, "Sometimes I find myself struck by the fact that so much has happened here and there's so much we'll never understand. I'll pick up a piece of pottery and there's only so much I can tell about it. I can tell it's a piece of redware. I know where it came from, but while I know where it is made and how it is made, I am in awe of the fact that it has a story behind it. I'll never really know more than that it's a little piece of pottery." Strezewski said there is a story to be

told with the New Harmony collections. "Of course we'll never have the complete story, but archaeology is all about getting the information that isn't available in the documents. There's a lot about daily life in Harmonist-era New Harmony that we don't know about, and I think the artifacts have the potential to tell us a lot about it." For instance, records indicate that most of the pottery made on site was distributed to the various Harmonist households for their daily use. "There is a lot of this pottery at the Keppler house and quite a bit from the kiln excavations," Strezewski said. "This is

one of the most interesting parts of the analysis as we can be sure that this type of pottery was actually made by the Harmonists."

A gift of music

William and Janet Leggett of Evansville have donated a 1911 Steinway grand piano to USI. The mahogany piano, valued at \$10,000, will be used for concerts on campus.



On-the-job training in the arts

USI junior Brittany Gray, an art history, Spanish, and international studies major, inflates one of Andy Warhol's *Silver Clouds*. Gray is a student worker at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, the first gallery in the state of Indiana to host the Warhol exhibition. The gallery's student workers and unpaid interns gain valuable on-the-job training in the arts and provide the gallery with much-needed assistance in preparing for exhibitions and running its consignment shop. Gray has been employed by the gallery since spring 2006. In spring 2008, she studied abroad in Spain.

Communications, *Courier & Press* announce internship program

Dr. Wayne Rinks, chair of the Communications Department, and Mizell Stewart III, editor of the *Evansville Courier & Press*, announced a partnership in spring that provides regular internships for USI students at the daily newspaper. "This is a terrific opportunity for our journalism students to get some real-world experience with a quality publication," Rinks said.

The *Evansville Courier & Press* and USI have a long-standing relationship. Over the past 10 years, the University has placed 17 students in internships at the newspaper. With this new

partnership, two students will intern with the newspaper each fall and spring semester.

The first two students selected for the program were junior Sabria Dughaish and sophomore Lindsey Ziliak. Dughaish worked in the sports department and Ziliak, features.

"We're excited to be able to establish this partnership with the University of Southern Indiana," Stewart said. "The first students who have come through the program this semester have been outstanding and we look

forward to maintaining and enhancing our working relationship so that we can really put students to work before graduation, giving them practical experience in the field."

Student interns are expected to work 20 hours per week for the newspaper. Their duties include writing, copy editing, online journalism, and design and layout. The students receive dual benefits from the program: they enhance their journalistic skill, and they are rewarded with a scholarship equivalent to 15 hours of tuition reimbursement.

New Harmony Theatre's 2008 season opens with "Othello"



New Harmony Theatre's 2008 season (June 13– August 17) includes productions of *Othello*, William Shakespeare's thrilling drama about the jealousy, lust, and betrayal that surrounds Othello, the great Moorish warrior of Venice, and his young bride, Desdemona; *Crimes of the Heart*, Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy

about three Mississippi sisters seeing each other through mid-life crises, dashed career hopes, a failed marriage, and an attempted murder charge; and *My Fair Lady*, Allan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's beloved musical about Eliza Doolittle, a poor cockney flower seller who works to change her fortunes by learning to speak like a "proper lady." The musical is based on George Bernard Shaw's play, *Pygmalion*, and includes the well-known songs, "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Wouldn't It Be Lover-ly?" and "On the Street Where You Live." Lenny Leibowitz, New Harmony Theatre's artistic director, calls *My Fair Lady* "the greatest musical of all time." For tickets, call toll free: 877/NHT-SHOW (877/648-7469) Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Broadway singer and actor Susan Derry performed with Lenny Leibowitz, director of New Harmony Theatre, at USI in February. Derry plays the lead role in NHT's *My Fair Lady* this August.

Subscriptions are \$55. Single tickets are \$22 for *Othello* and *Crimes of the Heart* and \$24 for *My Fair Lady*, with discounts for seniors, students, and groups.

Two liberal arts faculty win advising awards

Two College of Liberal Arts faculty members received the recently established USI Outstanding Advisor Awards: Margaret M. Felton, instructor in psychology, and Robert W. Jeffers, instructor in advertising. The award comes with a \$1,000 prize. Winners were selected by the Faculty Senate's Faculty Awards for Service, Teaching, and Research Committee.



Mooney art installation adorns quad

John David Mooney, an internationally recognized artist for his large-scale, public sculptures, was the college's artist-in-residence in spring 2008. While at USI, Mooney presented the 2008 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture and created an art installation on the new quadrangle with the help of USI students. The installation, to be implemented in phases, began with a large-scale drawing created with natural materials native to the area. The artist will return to campus in the fall for the final phase, and also will work with students in New Harmony. Mooney is the founder and artistic

director of the John David Mooney Foundation in Chicago, an organization which provides a postgraduate study program for international artists and architects. His work has been showcased from Chicago to Australia to the Vatican Observatory at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, and has included a 133-foot-long rooftop light sculpture in Los Angeles; an aluminum and Waterford crystal work hanging in the atrium of the John Crerar Library at the University of Chicago; and light sculptures in the Chicago Tribune Tower and Adler Planetarium.

The Shield to host 40th anniversary reunion

The Shield student newspaper will commemorate its 40th anniversary with a reunion on Saturday, October 18, at Carter Hall in the University Center. The event will include dinner and a program honoring former advisors and editors-in-chief and celebrating USI's support of freedom of the press. If you worked at *The Shield* or *Transitions Magazine* and would like to receive an invitation to the event, e-mail your name and mailing address to Erin Gibson at emgibson@usi.edu. Include the years you were involved, the publication(s) you worked for, and your role (for example: editor, writer, photographer, cartoonist, graphic artist, advertising sales). Gibson, instructor in journalism and advisor to *The Shield*, also is looking for photographs, video, and other memorabilia to include in a special tribute.

Aakhus planning final spring break tour to Peru

Michael Aakhus will lead his last spring break tour next year with a trip to Peru, "the Land of the Incas." Up to 25 people will join Aakhus for the March 7–15, 2009 tour, with stops at Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, and Lima. Aakhus, professor of art and associate dean of Liberal Arts, has traveled throughout Latin America since the 1970s and led an annual spring break Maya Art and Culture tour starting in 1996. He led his first trip to Peru in spring 2007. Contact him at 812/464-1853 or maakhus@usi.edu for an itinerary and details. Travel arrangements may be made from any location.



Aakhus at Machu Picchu in 2007

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- Chamber Choir/Madrigal Feaste
- RopeWalk Writers Retreat
- Southern Indiana Review*
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2008 Calendar of Events

MAY 11

Commencement

MAY 12-20

USI Chamber Choir *Emerald Isle Tour*
with Daniel Craig

MAY 12-22

Travel Study Trip to China with Xinran Hu

MAY 22-JUNE 4

Travel Study Trip to Spain and Morocco
with Dr. Margaret Skoglund

MAY 30-JUNE 8

European Cathedral Tour with
Robert Jeffers

JUNE 8

Alumni Family Picnic

JUNE 13-29

Othello
New Harmony Theatre

JUNE 14-21

RopeWalk Writer's Retreat
New Harmony

JUNE 19-20

5th Annual Lincoln Institute for Teachers

JUNE 21

USI Day at Churchill Downs

JULY 11-27

Crimes of the Heart
New Harmony Theatre

JULY 19

USI Night with the Evansville Otters

AUGUST 1-17

My Fair Lady
New Harmony Theatre

AUGUST 16

Wabash Heritage Paddlefest
New Harmony

AUGUST 23

USI Day at Holiday World &
Splashin' Safari

Summer Gallery Stroll, New Harmony

AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 8

Welcome Week

SEPTEMBER 4

Art Center Ribbon Cutting

SEPTEMBER 7

Art Center Public Opening

SEPTEMBER 12

Alumni Fun Golf Scramble

SEPTEMBER 18

RopeWalk Reading Series

SEPTEMBER 20-21

Kuntsfest
New Harmony

SEPTEMBER 25

The Great Wall International Studies
Colloquium

OCTOBER 6

RopeWalk Reading Series

NOVEMBER 22

Fall Gallery Stroll
New Harmony

DECEMBER 4-7

USI Madrigal Feaste

College of Liberal Arts
University of Southern Indiana
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Evansville, Indiana 47712



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Michael Aakhus
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