**University of Southern Indiana** 



SURVEYING SURVEYING CHARGED CH

> Kim Litkenhus, clerk treasurer of the town, led the effort to build the library, and the community rallied, donating land and raising \$80,000. Through a substantial grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and numerous smaller grants, more than \$500,000 was raised.

> The library, designed by **Bill Brown**, a Spencer County native and director of sustainability for Indiana University, is powered by a solar pavilion built by Morton Solar and Wind's **Brad Morton**, a 1992 USI graduate. It also utilizes geothermal technology, and many of the materials, including carpet, siding, and shingles, are recycled.

Litkenhus knew that Chrisney had a great story to tell, so she sought help through the USI Center for Applied Research, which reached out to the Communications Department. Mary Beth Reese, instructor in public relations, volunteered her Strategic Writing class to help promote the library as a service learning project. "It was a great project and a perfect match for a strategic writing class."

Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts

Reese's students developed projects to help Chrisney receive the recognition on the local, state, and national level. "We operated like a public relations department," she said. "Each student volunteered for a different segment of the deliverables, and we began our work, starting with researching things like net zero, solar panels, geothermal, and recyclables, and determining the strategic message for the specific audiences of this project."

One group contacted "The Late Show with David Letterman" and other network television shows. "They dealt with putting a whole media package together and preparing the client for that kind of media attention," Reese said.

After researching what national magazines would be appropriate for the story, one student submitted an article titled, "Small Town, Big Dreams: Southern Indiana Goes Green to Achieve Dream" to *Reader's Digest Magazine*. Another examined how the library should utilize web sites like Facebook and Twitter. A student group aggressively lobbied a local television news program to do a story, preparing sample interview questions and making multiple calls to the station. They were ultimately successful and provided media training for Litkenhus prior to the interview.

Spring 2010

Litkenhus also wanted to educate local children about sustainability, so a group developed a brochure and lesson plan for third grade students. Reese said, "The students researched appropriate messages for that age group and packaged it to meet the needs of the students and the school system."

Though the class ended with the fall semester, many of the students remain engaged in public relations efforts to promote the library.

Some students are communicating with Indiana Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman's office on a possible media event surrounding the library's first anniversary in April 2010. Another student is pursuing a grant that would allow him to produce a documentary and YouTube videos about the project.

"These students have a tremendous amount of passion for this project," Reese said. "Their talent and desire to meet their goals is exceptional."



### Dean's Message

# "The times they are a-changin'" ...at least in teaching methods.

Teaching practices and student learning are dynamic processes, and oh, how they have changed. I remember sitting in my classes as an undergraduate student at the University of Minnesota during the early seventies. Students were stoically quiet and attentive, and most professors lectured non-stop, seemingly in one long sentence after another and often at the same monotone pitch and tempo throughout. Back then, classroom technology was limited to chalk and a blackboard, with the occasional use of a slide projector.

From the 1970s through today, substantial research has been conducted on how to best maximize the learning environment for university students. The College of Liberal Arts has followed this literature closely and has implemented several changes considered best practices for student learning. The most noticeable changes involve student engagement activities that divide the class period and the use of sophisticated classroom technology such as digital projection, smart boards, specialized learningdesigned software, and audience response clicker systems that allow for real-time digital interaction between students and the professor.

Recently, another teaching strategy known as service learning has been found to be highly effective. Service learning classes



Dr. David Glassman

call upon students to gain knowledge and experience outside of the traditional classroom through applied activities coordinated with a community partner. In this model of student learning, students engage in projects with community businesses, organizations, and agencies. Among the many benefits of service learning, students observe first-hand how their university studies can be used in real-world application.

In this issue of *LA Story*, I invite you to read about several service learning classes that are being offered in the College of Liberal Arts. You'll notice how they benefit students in a wide range of majors and in a variety of applications.

Be assured the College will continue to seek out the best techniques and methods to ensure our students receive the very best education.

Best wishes for the New Year, Dean Glassman

### Modern and Classical Languages Department adds Spanish course for heritage speakers

Beginning in fall 2010, USI will offer a Spanish for Heritage Speakers course that will help heritage speakers of Spanish transition into Spanish studies at the university level. According to Dr. Silvia Rode, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, USI has seen an increase in heritage speakers who wish to pursue degrees in Spanish.

"Many of these students have grown up in a bilingual Spanish-English environment, and while they have strong familiarity with spoken Spanish and the nuances of Latino culture, they often need support in Spanish reading, writing, and historical perspectives," Rode said. "Spanish for Heritage Speakers allows these students to incorporate their existing knowledge of Spanish into an academic context that will help them succeed in a Spanish degree program."

Rode said only one state university in Indiana offers such a course. "While helping Latino students succeed in a university setting, we want to encourage them to bring their wealth of knowledge to the campus community," she said.

For more information, call Rode at 812/465-7026.



### **College of Liberal Arts**

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





# International Politics students learn that poverty is relative

Students in International Politics courses taught by **Dr. Oana I. Armeanu**, assistant professor of political science, learned about poverty and housing issues in the U.S., Africa, and the Middle East while working on a service learning project for Habitat for Humanity in fall 2009.

Each Habitat for Humanity affiliate is required to donate 10 percent of its income to sister organizations. Habitat of Evansville wanted to know more about its partners in Botswana and Jordan, and Armeanu offered to have her students do research on them.

"Habitat of Evansville sends these organizations money every year. Because we offered help, Habitat welcomed the opportunity to learn more about how their affiliates work," Armeanu said. "It was a good experience for the students because it gave them the opportunity to learn about an international nonprofit organization and another country. And it was challenging research. It wasn't easy to find the information on the web."

Armeanu divided the classes into groups, and each group focused on a particular research topic. Using Skype, a software application that allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet, the students interviewed Habitat staff in Jordan and Botswana, and learned about the challenges they face – from working with local governments to raising money. As Habitat organizations, they also are expected to donate 10 percent of the funds they raise.



International Politics students work on a Habitat house.

One student group's research focused on the relativity of poverty. They found that while Habitat homes are sometimes unwanted in U.S. neighborhoods, in Botswana, where most people live in mud huts, the homes are highly desirable. Habitat homes in Botswana are made of cement blocks with concrete floors and corrugated iron roofs.

Other groups compared and contrasted spirits of volunteerism, perceptions of entitlement, and financial structures used to help homebuyers in the U.S. and the affiliate country.

Armeanu and her students also volunteered at a Habitat construction site during the semester.

## **Interpreting Utopia**

Utopia, a 400-level history course taught by **Dr. Matthew Grow**, assistant professor of history and director of the USI Center for Communal Studies, examines the theme of utopia in literature and in history, focusing on attempts to implement utopias and communal societies in America – particularly New Harmony, site of two utopian experiments in the early 1800s.

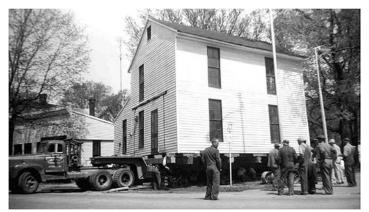
Students in the course studied the history of preservation in New Harmony, Indiana, through a single historic structure, the David Lenz House, in a service learning project during the fall of 2009.

The Lenz House dates from the Harmonist period in the 1820s. It was the first New Harmony site opened for tours, in the early 1960s. "The Lenz House illustrates the story of preservation in New Harmony because it tells us the different ideas that have gone into preservation there," Grow said.

Grow dubbed the service learning project "Interpreting Utopia." Through oral interviews and archival research, students compiled a report on how New Harmony has been remembered, interpreted, and preserved in the 20th century. The report will be posted on the Center for Communal Studies web site at *www.usi.edu/libarts/ communal*.

"There's value in these oral interviews, recording unique moments in the history of New Harmony, creating this report on the history of this local landmark, and providing it online," Grow said.

The class found that many of New Harmony's historic structures were moved from one place... *continued on page 6* 



The Lenz House was relocated in 1959.



# Reid's "wonderfully creepy" GIRLS



"Someone Like Me," one of two stories in Nicole Louise Reid's new chapbook *GIRLS* (RockSaw Press), was inspired by another writer's story.

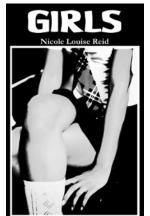
"I wrote 'Someone Like Me' after reading Russell Banks' story 'Sarah Cole: A Type of Love Story," Reid said. "I was so taken by the idea of a character falling in love with someone who was—and he was

fully aware of it—absolutely physically ugly. I imagined what Sarah Cole's daughter's life would be and wrote a story from the perspective of a fellow third-grader who meets this daughter, Perry Cole."

*GIRLS'* other story, "Glimpses of Underthings," is different in tone from the majority of Reid's work. "It's sarcastic and funny, and my writing is rarely either. The story is about a teenage girl flirting with sexual desirability. She has little interest in sex herself, but lives for others' sexual interest in her, including her father's."

Lee K. Abbott, author of *All Things, All at Once,* called *GIRLS* "wonderfully creepy" and "the richest sort of reading."

"Nicole Louise Reid is a witchy writer, unafraid of the desires and fears that animate our doomed kind," he said. "She embraces shame and the transgressive, the untoward and lies we beguile ourselves with."



Copies of *GIRLS* are available from Reid at 812/464-1916 or the publisher at *www.rocksawpress. com/girls.html.* 

Reid, associate professor of English, is the author of the novel *This One Last Thing*, which took second prize in the Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Awards, and *In the Breeze of Passing Things* (MacAdam/ Cage). Her stories have appeared in *The Southern Review, Quarterly West, Meridian, Black Warrior Review, Confrontation, turnrow,* 

*Crab Orchard Review,* and *Grain Magazine*. She is recipient of the Willamette Award in Fiction.

She serves as fiction editor of *Southern Indiana Review,* faculty advisor to the Student Writers Union, and co-director of the RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series.

### Morris produces radio series on local WWII veterans

John Morris, communications instructor and general manager of WSWI, has always been intrigued by the stories of the "Greatest Generation." When WNIN-TV interviewed local veterans for a series on World War II, Morris saw an opportunity to showcase the veterans and their experiences by merging the interviews with radio drama. The result is the series "Heroes of the Tri-State: Stories of Area Men That Served in the War."

Produced by Morris, the series consists of five episodes, each featuring a World War II radio drama intertwined with a recorded account of a local World War II veteran. The radio dramas were created by faculty and students in USI's communications and theatre departments. The project was funded by a College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Award (CLAFDA), which is awarded twice a year to provide support for Liberal Arts faculty research projects.

The first episode featured Evansville native and Bosse High School graduate **Benjamin "Eddie" Newman**, who fought in the Battle of Saipan, where 3,000 American soldiers lost their lives. Other local veterans in the series include **Guy Stephens**, who was involved in the Battle of the Bulge and became a POW; Frank Moll, who served as a tailgunner on a B-17; P.G. Williams, who was part of a group that helped liberate Jewish slave laborers; and Chris Nix, who was in Japan at the end of the war and served as a guard outside of General McArthur's home.

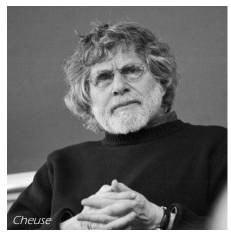
"As an instructor of college students," Morris said, "I just can't separate how many of the soldiers were the age my students are now. That somehow makes it more personal. World War II soldiers were put in unbelievable circumstances. It's amazing any survived, and for those that did, that they could return to the post-war society and still be able to function. They saw things that no one should have to see. I want their stories told. They really are heroes to me."

"Heroes of the Tri-State: Stories of Area Men That Served in the War" will air at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of the month through April on WPSR 90.7 FM. Previous episodes can be heard online at www.820theedge.com/WW2Stories.htm.

For more information, contact Morris at 812/461-5201 or jmmorris@usi.edu.



### NPR personality is 2010 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar



Alan Cheuse will present a public lecture at USI in April as the 2010 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar. Cheuse is a fiction writer, journalist, and the book commentator

for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

Cheuse will present "Reading to Live" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 9, in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center. He will discuss readings from major poets and fiction writers whose work has influenced his own, and read a new short story. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In the afternoon he will present a lecture for students, "Reading and Writing in a Digital Age." Cheuse is the author of the novels *The Grandmothers' Club* and *The Light Possessed*, the short story collections *Lost and Old Rivers* and *The Tennessee Waltz*, and a memoir, *Fall Out* of Heaven. His latest novel, *To Catch the Lightning*, won the Grub Street National Prize for Fiction for 2009, and *A Trance After Breakfast*, a collection of travel essays, was published last June. With fellow novelist **Nicholas Delbanco**, he wrote the newly published *Literature: Craft & Voice*, an introduction to college literary study. Since the late 1980s, he has taught in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at George Mason University and at the summer conference of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers.

The 2010 College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture is sponsored by the English Department, the University Core Curriculum, and RopeWalk Visiting Writers Series. For more information, call 812/465-7128.

### Student newspaper wins Hoosier State Press Association awards

The Hoosier State Press Association (HSPA) honored *The Shield* with three college division awards at a December 5 luncheon at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

*The Shield* won first place in the Editorial/ Opinion Writing category for the piece "Staff Editorial: Our assessment of the USI Board of Trustees and Linda Bennett." An HSPA judge said, "The editorial clearly and powerfully critiqued the university's leadership and the selection of a new president. I was impressed by the simple, concise writing on a complicated matter."

Senior journalism student Lindsey Ziliak received third place in Sports Writing for her story "Tyson inspires USI student." The piece was praised by judges for its "strong, captivating, anecdotal lead." Ziliak interned at the *Evansville Courier & Press* for three semesters and served as a Scripps Howard intern at the *Knoxville*  *News Sentinel* last summer. She is a former news editor and sports editor at *The Shield*.

*The Shield* also received four awards in March from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association, and opinion editor Lana Kunz won third place in the 2009 Thomas R. Keating Feature Writing competition sponsored by the Indianapolis Press Club Foundation. Kunz graduated in December.

## Psychology conference founded at USI returns for 29th anniversary

The 29th annual Mid-America Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (MAUPRC), founded at USI by **Dr. Joseph J. Palladino**, professor of psychology, returns to campus on Saturday, April 10.

Designed to recognize and encourage research by undergraduate psychology students, the MAUPRC has become one of the oldest and most successful conferences of its kind. Palladino requested funding to establish the conference two weeks after arriving at USI in 1981.

The conference was originally called the Tri-State UPRC, and Palladino hoped to attract participants from Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. The 1982 conference included participants from all three states, representing seven institutions, with 20 paper presentations. Today, the MAUPRC regularly attracts up to 37 institutions from several states and students deliver more than 100 paper and poster presentations.

The MAUPRC is hosted by a consortium of schools including USI, Franklin College, Thomas More College, Eastern Illinois University, University of Indianapolis, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

The conference was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, to reduce the cost of participation for students and institutions. For more information, go to the MAUPRC web site at www.eiu.edu/~psych/mauprc/.



### Mexican short stories are The Big Read selection

Jorge Hernandez wrote, "Perhaps literature is the best lens through which to observe Mexico's soul." His words introduce *Sun, Stone, and Shadows: 20 Great Mexican Short Stories, an* anthology of stories by Mexican writers.

His directive illustrates why *Sun, Stone, and Shadows* is Southwest Indiana's selection for The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts to help restore reading to the center of American culture. The effort will span March through May.

**Dominic Micer**, assistant professor of English, and **Anne Statham**, director of Service Learning and professor of sociology, applied and received a \$12,000 NEA grant to sponsor The Big Read in Southwest Indiana. Community partners are joining USI in The Big Read. Statham said, "With our strong partnership with the HOLA community group, The Big Read is a way to extend the work. The Evansville Public Library and others are partners in the effort to educate many in our community about this growing population, our newer community members."

The stories represent a sample of the best Mexican fiction published the first half of the 20th century, featuring some of the most important writers of Hispanic-American literature.

Community partners are planning book discussions, art exhibitions, and children programs surrounding the reading of the Mexican short stories. A schedule of the events will be published on the USI web site at www.usi.edu in February.



## USI Theatre's True West invited to theatre festival

USI Theatre was invited to present its production of *True West*, directed by **Elliot Wasserman**, chair of the Department of Performing Arts, at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) at Saginaw State University in Saginaw, Michigan, in January. The Sam Shepard drama launched USI Theatre's 2009-10 season in October.

The cast includes USI students **Brandon Eck** of Jasper and **Jeff Dumond** of Evansville as the brothers, Austin and Lee; **Joshua Smith** of Indianapolis as Saul; and Emily Kirk of Evansville as Mom. In addition to Wasserman, the artistic team for *True West* includes USI Department of Performing Arts faculty members Robert Broadfoot as scenic designer and Craig Young as lighting designer and USI students Anna Kysar of Indianapolis as costume designer and Michael Frohbeiter of Haubstadt as sound designer.

"This was our first time entering our work as a participating production, and we are thrilled by the resulting recognition, and the chance that we might be invited to take the play to the national festival held at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.," Wasserman said. "Any play selected is considered first and foremost an example of the finest university theatre produced that year in its region."

KCACTF is a national theater program involving 18,000 students and a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country. Region III includes Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and parts of Ohio.

### Interpreting Utopia (continued)

to another from the 1950s to the 1970s. The Lenz House was moved closer to the Atheneum/Visitors Center.

"There was a period in the seventies when New Harmony's buildings were being moved on a regular basis," Grow said. "That was a different era with different ideas about historic preservation. People would be very reluctant to move structures like that now."

Grow's students also examined the motivations of the first New Harmony residents to get involved in preservation. "Initially, it was done by private individuals. There was minimal involvement by the state." They interviewed **Tish Mumford**, whose family donated the home to the Colonial Dames of America in the late 1950s. Mumford was instrumental in making the home available for tours in the sixties and seventies. They also interviewed **Jim Sanders**, former director of Historic New Harmony, and others who were instrumental in preserving the house.

Grow joined USI in 2008. He said that New Harmony is an underutilized resource for faculty and students. "It can relate to a lot of disciplines. For history, it's great to have a historic site nearby where students can get a sense for how life might have been in the 1800s. It's good to get students out of the classroom and engage them in different ways."



### Comedy opens New Harmony Theatre's 2010 season

The 2010 season of New Harmony Theatre, the Tri-state's only professional Equity theatre, opens Friday, June 11, with *The School for Scandal*, a comedy by **Richard Brinsley Sheridan**. In the lusty, back-biting world of 18th century London, Lady Sneerwell and Joseph Surface scheme to break up two lovers they want for their own. *The School for Scandal* runs through June 27.

The season continues with *The Glass Menagerie* July 9–25. Lenny Leibowitz, New Harmony Theatre's artistic director, describes Tennessee Williams' most lyrical, personal play as "luminous, poetic, haunting, and full of yearning." The summer season concludes with the forties-era musical *Finian's Rainbow* July 30–August 15. Finian and his daughter Sharon arrive in the fictional state of Missitucky, pursued by a leprechaun whose pot of gold Finian has stolen.

All plays are performed at Murphy Auditorium, 419 Tavern Street, New Harmony, Indiana. Show times are on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Subscriptions are \$55 for adults and \$50 for seniors (60 and over). For more information, call 812/682-3115 or toll free 1-877/NHT-SHOW (648-7469). In addition to the summer season, New Harmony Theatre joins with USI Theatre to offer The Repertory Project, featuring two classic plays in rotating repertory at the Mallette Studio Theatre at USI. The 2010 Repertory Project season features two masterpieces of 19th century dramatic literature: A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, and Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw. The two plays run March 18–April 4. New Harmony Theatre subscribers can add The Repertory Project productions for an additional \$25, or call 812/465-1668 for individual tickets.

# Help strengthen the College of Liberal Arts and support USI students by making a tax-deductible gift.

Apply my gift to the following fund(s).

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LASTORY

#### January 9-February 20

*Brave New World: Emerging Artists from USI,* New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, New Harmony, Indiana. Reception and Art Stroll 4–7 p.m. February 13. 812/682-3156.

#### January 11-March 15

Stephen Pace: The Early Years, National Postcard Exhibition, and Selections from the Kenneth McCutchan Collection, Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries. Reception 2–4 p.m. February 21. 812/228-5006.

#### January 18

Martin Luther King Day Luncheon with Special Guest Juan Williams, 11 a.m. Carter Hall, University Center. 812/465-7188.

#### January 21

RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series: Aaron Gwyn, 5 p.m. Kleymeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center. 812/464-1916.

#### January 29

USI Society for Arts & Humanities Toast to the Arts, 7–10 p.m., Carter Hall. 812/461-5223.

#### February 19

International Food Expo, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Carter Hall. 812/465-1248.

#### February 24

University Core Curriculum Lecture Series: Global Economist Noreena Hertz, 7 p.m. Carter Hall. 812/464-1712.

#### February 27-April 3

*Feminist Art of Indiana: A Juried Exhibition,* New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Reception and Art Stroll, 4–6 p.m. February 27.

#### March 18-April 11

The Repertory Project: USI Theatre presents *Arts* and the Man and A Doll's House, Mallette Studio Theatre. 812/465-1668.

#### March 18

Phenomenal Women of USI and Community Recognition Ceremony, 6 p.m. Carter Hall. 812/465-7188.

#### March 19

University Core Curriculum Lecture Series: *More Music* Megan Stout and Kelly Sulick, Flute and Harp, 2 p.m. Carter Hall. 812/464-1712.

#### March 25

RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series: Eric Puchner, 5 p.m. Kleymeyer Hall.

#### March 28-May 3

40th Annual USI Juried Student Exhibition, Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries. Reception 2–4 p.m. March 28.

#### April 10-May 16

*Brian Collier,* New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Reception and Art Stroll, 4–7 p.m. April 10.

#### April 15

RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series: Crystal Wilkinson, 5 p.m. Kleymeyer Hall.

#### April 23

Distinguished Scholar Lecture: Alan Cheuse, 7 p.m. Mitchell Auditorium, Health Professions Center. 812/464-1916.

#### May 9

Commencement, 3 p.m. Roberts Stadium. 812/464-1930.

#### May 22–July 3

Joseph D'Uva and Jacinda Russell, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Reception 4–6 p.m. May 22.

#### June 11-27

New Harmony Theatre presents *The School for Scandal*, Murphy Auditorium, New Harmony, Indiana. 812/682-3115.

#### July 9-25

New Harmony Theatre presents *The Glass Menagerie*, Murphy Auditorium.

#### July 30-August 15

New Harmony Theatre presents *Finian's Rainbow*, Murphy Auditorium.

For more information, call the College of Liberal Arts at 812/464-1855 or go to www.usi.edu/libarts.



Dr. David Glassman Dean, College of Liberal Arts Michael Aakhus Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts Dr. Julie Evey-Johnson Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts



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