

USI AmeriCorps members get muddy for a good cause



Senior social work major Ashley Hilton, assisted by Sean Kuykendall, executive director of community outreach at the YMCA, digs a garden bed in the cold October rain. Hilton is one of several USI AmeriCorps members who observed Make a Difference Day by volunteering at the YMCA's Caldwell Community Outreach Center in fall 2012. Although USI AmeriCorps has performed an impressive list of grant-funded service projects, its main focus is tutoring individuals seeking to complete the GED and mentoring K-12 youth. Since 2011, members have provided more than 44,000 hours of service in 13 host site locations in Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. USI AmeriCorps program is housed within the Center for Social Justice Education in the Department of Social Work.

Letter from the Assistant Dean	2	Wicker honored by NAACP	5
Dr. Leslie J. Roberts to Retire	2	Students travel to Peru	5
Sociology faculty assist leadership class . . .	3	USI music degree programs coming soon . .	5
Empty Bowls filled for charity	3	McKibban wins Cooper Award	5
Berg leads languages workshop	3	Second Sculpt EVV opens this summer . . .	6
USI offers new art fellowship	4	820 The Edge wins multiple honors	7
<i>Boeing Boeing</i> , baseball, and bluegrass . .	4	In memoriam: Eric von Fuhrmann	7
SAC professors receive research fellowship. .	4		

As I write this message, the weather becomes incrementally warmer and the days noticeably longer: winter makes way for spring. Similar to the change of seasons, the College of Liberal Arts is in the midst of transition. We are preparing to confer degrees upon more than 350 of our students this May, while we simultaneously plan to welcome the many high school seniors who will soon visit our campus for orientation and to register for fall classes. Our staff and faculty are working together to make arrangements for summer and fall classes, while the latter continue to teach students currently enrolled in their courses. Our faculty and many of our students eagerly anticipate the arrival of summer as a time to travel, research, and write. Our 11 academic departments have been planning their future growth as they present requests for new faculty, facilities, and resources, and conceive of new collaborative projects. These annual rituals compel us to envision the future and to reflect upon the past. This is a time for unbridled enthusiasm and unchecked optimism.

Moreover, we do not forget those colleagues who have inspired us to look positively toward the future. The losses of Larry Gries in December 2011, Patty Aakhus in May 2012, and most recently Eric von Fuhrmann in December 2012 have touched us all. While we lament the loss of these colleagues, we shall not forget their legacies as esteemed educators, valued friends, and standard-bearers of the Liberal Arts. The faculty, staff, and students of the College of Liberal Arts honor them daily by upholding and perpetuating their commitment to excellence.

Collectively we are "standing on the shoulders of giants," who provide us with the courage to embrace the past with commitment to the future.



Michael Dixon



College of Liberal Arts

Office 812/464-1855
 FAX 812/465-7152
 Dean
 Michael Aakhus 812/464-1853
 Assistant Dean
 Thomas Bordelon. 812/228-5125
 Assistant Dean
 Michael Dixon. 812/465-1093

Departments

Art
 Joan Kempf deJong 812/465-1214
 Communications
 Dr. Wayne Rinks 812/464-1950
 English
 Dr. Stephen Spencer 812/465-7063
 Modern and Classical Languages
 Dr. Silvia Rode 812/465-7026
 History
 Dr. Jason Hardgrave 812/465-1221
 Performing Arts
 Elliot Wasserman. 812/465-1614
 Philosophy
 Dr. Rocco Gennaro 812/464-1744
 Political Science and Public Administration
 Dr. Mary Hallock-Morris . . 812/461-5207
 Psychology
 Dr. Julie Evey-Johnson 812/464-1830
 Social Work
 Dr. Iris Phillips 812/461-5281
 Sociology
 Dr. Ronda Priest 812/465-1092

www.usi.edu/libarts

LA Story editor
 Wendy Kripe Bredhold '98. . 812/461-5259

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



Dr. Leslie J. Roberts

Retirement

Dr. Leslie J. Roberts, professor of French, will retire effective July 1, 2013. Roberts has taught the French language, literature, and culture at USI for more than 20 years. She will receive an emerita title in retirement.

Sociology faculty assist Henderson Leadership Initiative class

Under the auspices of the USI Center for Applied Research and Economic Development, faculty in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies assisted the Henderson Leadership Initiative (HLI) class of 2012 with a year-long community assessment that concluded in January. The assessment examined the values of Henderson residents along three main categories:

local government, prosperous economy, and education. Dr. Ronda Priest, chair of the department, met with HLI participants throughout the year, advised them on research methods and data collection, helped guide the research questions and analyses, and prepared the final report. Dr. Steven Williams, associate professor of sociology, assisted with the project.



Patrons select bowls for purchase at the Empty Bowls charity event.

Empty Bowls filled for charity

The Department of Art held its first annual Empty Bowls charity event, organized by Alisa "Al" Holen, assistant professor of art, in November. USI students, faculty, staff, and other volunteers created more than 500 ceramic bowls for the event. The bowls were filled with soup provided by Twilight Bistro and sold for \$10. All proceeds benefitted Tri-State Food Bank and United Caring Shelters of Evansville. Empty Bowls is a national non-profit organization that lends its name to any organization willing to raise funds to combat hunger by making and selling ceramic bowls. Holen has organized two previous Empty Bowls events, but this was her first on USI's behalf. USI ceramics students began making bowls for the event at the beginning of the fall 2012 semester, and trained students at Central, Harrison, Bosse, and North high schools, as well as volunteers at USI, Deaconess Health Services, and Heritage Federal Credit Union. Holen was awarded a Lilly Endowment-funded \$1,550 Scholarship of Engagement (SOE) Faculty Grant from Indiana Campus Compact (ICC) for the project.

Berg leads languages workshop

During the fall 2012 semester, Dr. Bartell Berg, assistant professor of German, led a workshop on games in the foreign language classroom as part of an annual Department of Modern and Classical Languages series called "The Teaching Journey." Language instructors in Chinese, German, French, Spanish, and Japanese from Vanderburgh and Warrick County schools participated in the workshop. Participants discussed a framework for evaluating how games and gaming (digital or otherwise) can function as valuable tools for teaching and practicing language in a fun, low-stakes environment. Keeping the

focus on the theme of teaching languages in a way that builds student motivation, the workshop allowed participants to explore a number of online web-based language games and environments. "Given that the teachers are often members of small departments or are the only faculty in their language area, the networking and additional resources expand their teaching repertoire valuably," Berg said. "As an added bonus, the workshop showcased the broad offerings and capabilities of professors and instructors in languages at USI and allowed faculty to connect with local language teachers."

First recipient of Efroymsen Bridge Year Fellowship will have solo exhibit



Jamie G. Williams

Jamie G. Williams '11 is the first recipient of the Efroymsen Bridge Year Fellowship, a competitive award that provides a recent graduate of USI's Department of Art with the opportunity to develop a strong portfolio in preparation for graduate study. The \$10,000 award from the Efroymsen Family Fund includes a monthly stipend and fees for two semesters at one graduate credit each. The recipient works on creative projects, applies to graduate programs, and assists in exhibition spaces and teaching under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Williams assists her mentor, Katie Waters, with teaching students in advanced painting and conducts research on contemporary feminist art and artists. "The fellowship has been a very rewarding experience for me, and one that I am honored to

have received," Williams said. Her work will be on display in a solo exhibition from May 12–June 30 in the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. A reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. May 11.

Boeing Boeing, baseball, and bluegrass



New Harmony Theatre's 2013 season opens with *Boeing Boeing*, one of the theatre's greatest farces, June 14–23. Next is August Wilson's *Fences* July 5–14. *Fences* conveys the greatness and fallibility that co-habit the heart of a man

denied greater opportunities, struggling to survive and provide for his family in a 1950's steel town. The season winds up with *Cotton Patch Gospel*, a humorous and heartwarming bluegrass musical with music and lyrics by Harry Chapin that retells the New Testament from a Southern perspective. All show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. in Murphy Auditorium, 419 Tavern Street in New Harmony, Indiana. For more information, call 877/NHT-SHOW, or go to www.newharmonytheatre.com. New Harmony Theatre is a professional theatre operating under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association and produced by USI.

SAC professors receive summer research fellowship

Dr. Melissa Stacer and Dr. Melinda York, assistant professors of criminal justice in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice Studies, received the Center for Applied Research and Economic Development's 2013 Summer Research Fellowship Award to begin the second phase of their research with a local offender diversion and reentry program called Churches Embracing Offenders (CEO). CEO is a faith-based non-profit community organization that offers classes in drug and alcohol treatment, helps offenders with job training and locating housing, and assists ex-offenders in locating a church community. Stacer and York will interview graduates of the program in a qualitative project that will attempt to evaluate its effectiveness. The research will focus specifically on the role of faith in the CEO program's ability to deter ex-offenders from committing crimes later in life. "By finding out what is working, we are going to be able to help them enhance their program," Stacer said.

Wicker honored by NAACP



Marcus Wicker

In February, new English faculty member Marcus Wicker attended the 44th Annual NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles. Wicker, whose debut book of poetry *Maybe the Saddest Thing* was published by Harper Perennial (a paperback imprint of HarperCollins Publishers) in October, was nominated for an Outstanding Literary Work-Poetry Award along

with U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey and other noted poets. Wicker joined USI in fall 2012 as assistant professor of English. He is poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*, the University's literary magazine, and is leading the New Harmony Writers Retreat, which will launch in summer 2014.

Students travel to Peru in USI's first Amazon Field School

Students enrolled in USI's first Amazon Field School will have the opportunity to do research in the Peruvian Amazon this summer. The field school is a special topics anthropology course taught by Dr. Daniel Bauer, assistant professor of anthropology. Most of Bauer's research over the past decade has been conducted in Ecuador. "Peru is a nice change of pace. It's one of the most biodiverse and culturally diverse areas in the world," he said. Bauer has taught a USI course on the Amazon before, but this is the first time students will have the opportunity to travel there. The Amazon Field School will meet during the second summer session, and the class will travel to Peru July 8–22. Each student will have a specific research project; many funded by USI Endeavor! Awards for Research and Creativity.

USI's first music degree programs coming soon

USI has approved three minor degree programs in music—the first academic programs in music at the University. They include a minor in general music, a minor in applied vocal music performance, and a minor in vocal music education. "This is part of a lengthy process and long-term goal to bring full-time major programs of music to campus," said Dan Craig, associate professor of music and director of University choirs. The coursework for the programs is already offered, but the minors won't be officially available until spring 2014. Students enrolled in the minor in general

music will take two semesters of music theory, aural skills, and classical piano in a new Keyboard Lab; basic sight singing, ear training, music history, and introduction to music; and perform in one of the vocal or instrumental ensembles. The minor in applied vocal music performance will add private voice lessons, and the minor in vocal music education will add voice lessons and a course in music education. "That will help education majors add to their credentials to where they can actually teach music in the elementary classroom," Craig said.

"Not-so-Academic Academic" wins Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award



Dr. Amie McKibban

Dr. Amie McKibban, assistant professor of psychology, is the recipient of the 2012–13 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award and will deliver the Cooper Lecture at 2 p.m. March 27 in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center. Her topic is "Lessons from a Not-so-Academic, Academic: What the Core Curriculum Can (and Should) Achieve."

In one of several nominations for the award, a colleague wrote, "Amie embraces the principles of the University Core Curriculum in everything she does. As an example, her work in developing materials, finding funding, and initiating training for Safe Zone exemplifies her combination of professional knowledge with the goal of broadening the experiences and world view of our students. In this way Amie carries the ideals and the goals of the Core Curriculum far beyond her own classroom." The Cooper award is named in honor of H. Lee Cooper, a long-time friend and supporter of USI. It includes a generous stipend, a plaque, and additional monies for travel and related faculty development.

Second Sculpt EVV opens this summer



Melissa Johnson's "What's On T.V.?" (mock-up pictured) is one of 10 artworks selected for the second annual Sculpt EVV Outdoor Sculpture Show organized by Dr. Hilary Braysmith, associate professor of art history, in partnership with the City of Evansville and the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. A grand opening celebration will be held June 15 at the corner of Second and Parrett Streets. Events include an Art and Music Festival, guided tours, a beer and wine garden, and special partner exhibitions. Awards and prizes totaling \$36,500 will be announced at 8 p.m. Events are free and open to the public. The show will be on display through April 20, 2014. For more information call 812/464-1740 or go to www.sculptevv.org.

Support the College of Liberal Arts and USI students with a charitable gift.

Apply my gift to the following fund(s).

- College of Liberal Arts (where the need is greatest)
- Undergraduate major or department
(Please specify _____)
- Graduate program or department
(Please specify _____)
- USI Society for Arts & Humanities
- New Harmony Theatre
- USI Theatre
- Chamber Choir
- Ropewalk Advanced Creative Writing Award
- RopeWalk Writers Retreat
- Southern Indiana Review*
- Patricia L. Aakhus International Studies Travel Fund
- Jenny Ann Memorial Social Work Scholarship
- Robert W. Carithers Scholarship for Arts & Humanities
- Walter & Shirley Everett Literature Scholarship
- Dal & Donna Herring Communications Scholarship
- Albert C. and Doris S. Hitchcock Spanish Scholarship
- Rice Kello Memorial Scholarship
- William McGucken History Award
- John W. McNaughton Award for Excellence in Woodworking
- Daniel Miller Senior Prize in History
- Manuel Zapata Olivella Scholarship
- Oscar Ozete Spanish Scholarship
- Petranek Non-traditional Scholarship
- Philosophy Recognition Award
- Donald E. Pitzer History Scholarship
- Denise Powers Memorial Communication Scholarship
- Bill Sands Communication Studies Scholarship
- G. & E. Hoos and Daniel & Carolyn Scavone Scholarship
- Sue & Jack Schriber Theatre Scholarship
- Mary A. Schroeder Scholarship in Communication Studies
- Sigma Tau Delta English Honorary Society Scholarship
- Student Art Show Awards & Scholarships
- Turner-Frey Global Social Work Award
- Donald S. Wolfe Foreign Language Scholarship
- Other (Please specify _____)

Amount: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to USI Foundation,
8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712.

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

LASTORY

Method of Payment:

- Check enclosed (made payable to USI Foundation)
- Please remind me in _____ (month)
- Yes, I have included my matching gift form (www.matchinggifts.com/usi)
- Charge Visa MasterCard Discover American Express
 - Personal Credit Card Company Credit Card
- Cardholder Name _____
- Card Number _____
- Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Electronic checking, savings, and credit card deductions are available at
www.usi.edu/onlinegiving.

820 The Edge wins multiple honors

Ten staff members of 820 The Edge, USI's student radio station, have been recognized for their achievements in four broadcasting competitions, earning 26 awards—more than double the total from last year. The four competitions were: Indiana Association of School Broadcasters competition (10 awards), Broadcast Education Association Festival of Arts (six awards), Intercollegiate Broadcasting

System competition (seven finalists), and American Advertising Federation of Greater Evansville Student ADDY Awards (three finalists). "To have 10 individual winners is incredible," said John Morris, general manager of 820 The Edge. "It's far and away the best we've ever done, and we've had a lot of success over the past decade."



From left: Chris Howard, Michael Robertson, Kayla McCarty, Kenny Douglass, Mitch Mullis, Drew Coles, Serena Jones, and Matt Koewler

In memoriam

Eric von Fuhrmann, associate professor of English emeritus, died December 26, 2012. Von Fuhrmann taught English and humanities at USI from 1965 until the end of fall semester 2012. He led many groups of students to Spain, Morocco, Italy, Greece, and Turkey, and took students in Sigma Tau Delta, the English honorary society he founded, to regional and national conferences. Along with Dr. Sherry Darrell, professor emerita of English, von Fuhrmann took USI students to the Stratford Festival, in Ontario, Canada, for more than two decades. In a tribute, Darrell wrote,

"With students, Eric was an inspiring, irascible taskmaster, demanding that students appreciate the literature he so passionately loved and shared with them. With faculty and staff, Eric was an uncompromising idealist and generous mentor, hoping others would rise to his expectations and helping them do so." Von Fuhrmann was the recipient of the 2004–05 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award. He is survived by his wife Katherine and son Kurt. Memorial contributions may be made to Sigma Tau Delta through the USI Foundation (see page 6).



Eric von Fuhrmann

Spring 2013 Calendar of Events

March 27

Cooper Lecture: "Lessons from a Not-so-Academic, Academic: What the Core Curriculum Can (and Should) Achieve," presented by Dr. Amie McKibban, assistant professor of psychology, 2 p.m., Kleymeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center. Information: 812/464-1712.

March 29

Friday Night in the Forum presents *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover* (1989), 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Information: 812/465-7128.

April 1–May 5

The 43rd Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, awards ceremony and reception from 2 to 4 p.m. April 7, McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. Information: 812/228-5006 or www.usi.edu/libarts/artcenter-galleries.

April 10

University Core Curriculum Speaker Series: A roundtable discussion with Anne Rosellini, producer and screenwriter of *Winter's Bone*, and Liberal Arts faculty, 6 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center. Information: 812/464-1712.

April 12

Friday Night in the Forum presents *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968), 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Information: 812/465-7128.

USI College of Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquium: "Listen to the Bees" by Dr. Jason Hardgrave, chair and associate professor of history, 3:30 p.m., Kleymeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center. Information: 812/465-7089 or www.usi.edu/libarts/colloquia.

April 12–20

USI Theatre presents *Avenue Q*, Tuesdays–Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., Mallette Studio Theatre, Liberal Arts Center. Information: 812/465-1668 or www.usi.edu/theatre.

April 18

RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series: Donald Ray Pollock, 5 p.m., Traditions Lounge, University Center East. Information: 812/464-1916 or www.usi.edu/ropewalk/readingseries.asp.

April 19

Friday Night in the Forum presents *The Well-Digger's Daughter* (2011), 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Information: 812/465-7128.

April 26

Friday Night in the Forum presents *Footnote* (2011), 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Information: 812/465-7128.

May 2–3

Commencement Weekend, Physical Activities Center. Information: 812/464-1930 or www.usi.edu/commencement.