

Summer adventure: USI's first Amazon Field School takes students to Peru



Amazon Field School students Katie Bickett (left) and Hayden Dayson pose with Dr. Daniel Bauer (center) in the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Communal Reserve.

This summer Dr. Daniel Bauer, assistant professor of anthropology, led six USI students to the Peruvian Rainforest in USI's first Amazon Field School, a special topics anthropology course that also met on campus during the second summer session.

A field school gives students the opportunity to learn the methods of ethnographic research while being exposed to a different cultural context and experiencing cultural immersion, Bauer said. "It's an experiential learning opportunity that will give students a

Continued on page 2...

New degree meets growing demand for anthropology-related careers

A bachelor's degree program in anthropology has been approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and officially begins this fall. The program was developed in response to projected job growth in anthropology-related fields. The program will prepare students for graduate study or work in federal, state, and local government, including the military, healthcare centers, nonprofit associations, and marketing firms. The degree also can prepare physical anthropologists who work in biomedical research, human engineering, private genetics laboratories, pharmaceutical firms, and archaeological work.

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Welcome, new and returning students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College of Liberal Arts, to an exciting new academic year. The following pages of **LA Story** invite you to learn about our faculty and student research projects, travels, fresh ideas, and initiatives, as well as the many opportunities for you to participate in the intellectually and culturally stimulating events taking place in our College. Adding to the scholarly vibrance of our College is a new bachelor's degree in anthropology and three minors in music. We take great pride in these new offerings and in our students' outstanding accomplishments in our College's many areas of study. We are eager to showcase our students' achievements and to demonstrate the value of a liberal arts education in creating the next generation of critically-reflective thinkers and citizens who go out into society as artists, social scientists, entrepreneurs, community leaders, and professionals.



Dr. Thomas Bordelon

This year we also are rolling out the College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan. Grounded in faculty participation, our plan is closely aligned with the mission, vision, and goals of the University, but is characterized by the distinctive values and aims of the College of Liberal Arts. Initial comments from faculty members suggest that our assessment director and assessment council engage in energetic discussions with faculty representatives to identify, collect, and interpret meaningful data to make informed changes that will move our College to successfully reach its goals. Our College is responsive to the broad perspectives of its many and diverse constituents, and we strive to continuously provide the best learning experiences possible to students in regional, national, and international communities.

In addition, our faculty members are working hard to develop applicable and engaging learning experiences conducive to the new Core 39 that will replace the University Core Curriculum in fall 2014. We see the new Core 39 as an opportunity to extend our values to the USI community as expressed below.

Our Vision

We strive to ignite intellectual curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning.

We aim for the understanding of self, society, and ethics necessary for responsible and engaged citizenship, for integrity balanced with social awareness.

We foster both cultural enrichment and an appreciation of the human condition in all of its diversity.

We cultivate an awareness that truth is complex, multifaceted, and unlikely to be found in one place.



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



Summer Adventure continued...

competitive advantage when applying to graduate school or entering the workforce.”

Bauer has taught a USI course on the Amazon before—most of his research over the past decade has been conducted just across the border in Ecuador—but this was the first time USI students had the opportunity to travel there.

“I chose Amazonian Peru for the field school because I have a research project of my own in the area and great partners in the region that have worked with students and researchers in the past. The availability of bilingual guides allows students with little or no Spanish ability to take part in the program. The Amazon also is one of the world’s greatest natural wonders and an area of amazing cultural diversity.”

The class spent a couple of days in the city of Iquitos, learning to haggle at the open markets and developing a taste for Chifa (Chinese Peruvian food) before taking a boat down the Amazon

to their ultimate destination—the Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo Communal Reserve, a cooperative of 10 communities that have joined together to protect and conserve nearly two million acres of rainforest.

Students researched a variety of topics while in Peru, conducting interviews with people they met in the urban and rural areas. Topics included obstetrics, medicinal plants, local conservation efforts, education, adoption of Western medicine, local craft production, and women’s artisan cooperatives.

They also delivered school supplies (collected by the Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology Club) and toothpaste and toothbrushes (donated by the dental hygiene program) to rural schools in the area.

Most of the students received USI Endeavor! Awards for Research and Creativity, and all received Global Engagement Fellowships from the University to fund the trip.

New study abroad program immerses students in Chinese culture

Katlyn Storey was one of six USI students to travel to China for five weeks this summer during the pilot of the USI-China Study Abroad Program at Southwest University, Chongqing. The cross-culture collaboration between the two universities was organized by Lin Pang Adams, USI instructor in Chinese, and involved four students in Chinese language courses within the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and two in Teacher Education.

While in China they studied local language, culture, history, education, and economics. In addition to coursework, they taught English at elementary and high schools, and were paired with college student “language partners” at Southwest University. Along with a mountain-climbing excursion, teaching English to the children was Storey’s favorite experience. “The amount of attention and respect the students gave their teachers was astounding,” Storey said. “We observed English classes and were amazed to see what young children were learning in their foreign language classes.”

Storey, an anthropology and criminal justice major from Benton, Illinois, applied for the program because she wanted to better understand Chinese through immersion in the culture. “Chinese is one of the hardest languages to learn,” she said, explaining that words change meaning depending on which of five tones is used, and that understanding words requires learning both the Chinese and Roman characters (a system called pinyin).

Before the trip, Storey took three semesters of Chinese language, and currently is enrolled in a fourth. Upon her return she said, “I have more insight and picked up more vocabulary.”

Storey found college students in China similar to herself and her friends in the United States, but their study habits differed.



Katlyn Storey poses with first graders at a rural school north of Chongqing University.

“Each student we talked to at Southwest University told us how much they applied themselves to their studies. It wasn’t just certain students—it was all of them.”

Dr. Silvia Rode, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, said she hopes next year USI students will have the opportunity to study at Southwest University for a full year or semester.

Internship strengthens ties between Indiana and Scotland



Caylin Blockley poses at Inveraray, overlooking the shore of Loch Fyne, Scotland's longest sea loch, located in Western Scotland.

Caylin Blockley, a USI public relations and advertising major, spent six weeks at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in New Lanark as the University's second Global Engagement Intern.

His work focused on development of the New Lanark Search Room, which provides visitors access to resources at New Lanark, New Harmony, and USI.

"Applying for the internship in New Lanark was one of the best decisions I could have made. It gave me the opportunity to use skills I learned at USI and apply them overseas while developing new ones. I was able to make friends and experience Scotland on a level I would not have, had I just traveled through."

While Blockley, of Troy, Illinois, worked with New Lanark's marketing, hotel, and visitors' center teams, he also expanded his cultural experiences by visiting cathedrals, castles, and museums.

USI's Historic New Harmony and International Programs and Services partnered with New Lanark to develop the internship in summer 2012. The internship deepens the relationship between New Harmony and New Lanark, which are connected through the life and work of Robert Owen (1771–1858), founder of utopian communities at both sites.

Enthusiasm and innovation earn Merriam the Cooper Award

Dr. Garret Merriam's desire to teach stems from his college days when a professor's philosophy lecture captivated him. "It was unlike anything I'd experienced in school before and exactly what I was looking for," he said. "Since then, there hasn't been any other career that I've seriously entertained."

Merriam, assistant professor of philosophy, is the 2013–2014 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award winner. The Cooper Award honors a USI faculty member whose teaching in University Core Curriculum courses has been especially creative and successful in furthering curriculum goals.

"Teaching is a remarkably 'present' experience," Merriam said. "Whatever else is going on in my life, whatever worries or problems may be weighing on me, they're all set aside when I'm in front of the classroom."

His success as an educator is evident in the enthusiasm he brings to the classroom as well as the variety of means he uses to instill knowledge. "I'm a big believer in the use of humor as a didactic tool," he said.

Finding fun and unique ways to connect with students is central to his teaching, and he employs a hybrid method of supplementing class discussions with recorded videos. "I use my YouTube channel, experimenting with the 'flipped class' method, where the students watch the lecture at home and the in-class time is dedicated to discussion and group work," he said. Although Merriam, who joined the University in 2008, is in the



Dr. Garrett Merriam lectures on the structure of arguments to students in Introduction to Ethics class.

early stage of implementing the YouTube channel, it has over 11,000 subscribers.

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. Merriam, who holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English from the University of California at Davis, and a master's degree and a doctorate from Rice University in Houston, Texas, will deliver the Cooper lecture during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Community center service provided by students eye-opening



Maggie Felton

low-income young parents and their children to provide parents the opportunity to study while their children participate in early childhood programs.

"Even Start provides teachers to help parents prepare to take the GED test, but they also bring in other services," said Felton, a USI instructor in psychology, who has worked with Even Start for 17 years and was the 2008 recipient of the University's Berger Faculty Community Service Award.

One day a week a librarian discusses the importance of reading. A representative from the Health Department talks about nutrition, exercise, and preventative healthcare. Parents also receive help with resumes and job-searches. Felton teaches them how to ensure their children's development is on track.

"Zero to five is a crucial age in terms of brain development and predicting later school, career, and social success," she said, adding, "Parents' education has a direct bearing on children's lives in terms of stimulation and support of early education."

Maggie Felton is a strong believer in community service and service learning, and for several years she's involved USI students in her Child and Adolescent Psychology class in both through a program that provides services to the Culver Family Learning Center. The Even Start Family Literacy Program at Culver (which houses a preschool and a number of agencies that assist families) works with

Felton's students use an assessment tool called Ages and Stages to measure whether the children are meeting milestones in cognitive, social, and physical areas. The observational measure compares children to their chronological-age peers. "I share the reports with the children's parents and teachers," she said. "If there are areas of deficit, the students will share recommendations of research for activities the parents can engage in with the child."

The extra assessment by USI students allows Culver to begin to trace the children's developmental trajectory by having that documentation early on. "It's valuable to my students, and very valuable to moms and dads at Culver," said Felton.

Working with families who are often the same age, or even younger, allows for a human exchange between USI's students and the program participants that might not otherwise occur until the students enter their professional careers. By providing that interaction now, they're able to see how their discipline contributes to the larger community.

"They see that every home is not like their home. It's eye-opening to see needs they didn't know existed," Felton said. "It gets them comfortable with ambiguity, and not being able to predict what will happen next."

"The world and their discipline might not be as simple or as orderly as suggested by the textbook."

Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana recognizes USI's artists



The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana announced its annual Arts Awards in June. Elliot Wasserman, (left) professor of theatre and chair of the Department of Performing Arts, received a 2013 Regional Art Award, and Rob Millard-Mendez, (right) associate professor of art, was named the Arts Council's 2013 Artist of the Year. In addition, Scott Wylie, chair of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities board of directors, accepted the 2013 Arts Advocate of the Year Award on behalf of that organization, and Neal Franklin, former chair of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities board of directors and a member of the USI Foundation board, received the 2013 Mayor's Art Award.

More international students at USI brings Intensive English Program in-house



Haider Al-Turaihi, from Iraq, and Dr. Emilija Zlatkovska discuss ways to help engage new international students.

As more and more international students are drawn to USI for their higher education, the need to provide them with an in-house English instruction program has grown. While the University has always been committed to the success of these students, the program (formerly known as English as a Second Language) was previously run by a private company contracted by USI. The University, however, recently established its own Intensive English Program within the English department.

"We now have the resources to develop our own high-quality intensive English program," said Dr. Stephen Spencer, chair of the Department of English. "An in-house program will help us collaborate across University offices to provide a more integrated experience for international students and more fully engage them in the USI community."

Under the direction of Dr. Emilija "Emi" Zlatkovska, who joined the University in spring 2013, the program employs three full-time and nine part-time teachers. In her first semester running the program, Zlatkovska is focused on raising standards, setting higher objectives for students, and working toward accreditation through the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

Zlatkovska has a doctorate in language education with a minor in instructional systems technology from Indiana University. "I want to communicate to the students that the Intensive English Program is not an obstacle—it's a tool that will help them complete university," she said.

Due to the efforts of International Programs and Services, a record number of students from Brazil are enrolled in the program this year. "These students bring a different perspective to classes, and they are happy to be here," Zlatkovska said. "They're in the United States, and that's a big deal."

The Intensive English Program also will serve the broader community. For the first time, the program is open to the public. Instruction is offered in eight-week sessions at six levels with differing hours at the various levels. Registration is available through USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement.



(Left to right) Paulo Piratelo, Natalia Silva, Victor Loogos, Arthur Goncakues, and Danillo Souza listen as Jean Matheson explains quirks of the English language.

New Harmony Writers Workshop resurrects a USI tradition



Marcus Wicker

A USI-sponsored writers retreat will return to New Harmony, Indiana, with "fresh energy, a fresh start, and a new name," according to Marcus Wicker, assistant professor of English and director of the New Harmony Writers Workshop.

The New Harmony Writers Workshop (formerly known as RopeWalk Writers Retreat), a week-long annual summer retreat, will offer workshops in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Each workshop will allow up to 12 participants to work with nationally-known writers toward the completion of their manuscripts.

"The idea is to give writers time and space with this gorgeous landscape and to be around other writers," Wicker said. "Visiting faculty members at two different levels—established authors and emerging names—also will work with students."

In addition to the workshops, the retreat will include feature readings, a publication forum, craft lectures and manuscript conferences led by industry experts. This year's workshop coincides with New Harmony's Bicentennial. "Part of the idea is to get New Harmony's community involved, but we also want to be more USI student-focused," said Wicker.

Registration is required for workshop participants, but some events, such as readings and craft lectures, will be free and open to the public. The retreat is set for June 8–14, 2014, and the cost of the week-long retreat is \$795. Merit-based scholarships are available.

Also new: a three-credit-hour summer course will be offered allowing USI students to read the work of visiting writers and serve as ambassadors and participants on site during the New Harmony retreat.

For more information, call the English Department at 812/465-7128 or email Wicker at mfwicker@usi.edu.



Adam



Al-Zuraki



Amer



Anderson



Beaver



Chamberlin



Clemens



Engbers



Frost

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and Modern African History
Southern Illinois University



Harrington-
Chate



Hughes



Kennan



Lee



Raen-
Mendez



Rivera



Teising



Wilson

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USI.edu/giving/ways-to-give

Fall 2013 Calendar of Events

Through November 1

Elizabeth Mumford: *Painting the Seasons* and Katie Hudnall: *Recent Work in Wood*, USI McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. Information: 812/228-5006 or www.usi.edu/libarts/artcenter-galleries.

October 4

USI Interdisciplinary Studies Colloquium: *Roads*, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Carter Hall, University Center. Information: 812/465-1093 or www.usi.edu/libarts/intl.

RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series: Adam Johnson, 5 p.m., Traditions Lounge, University Center East. Information: 812/464-1916 or www.usi.edu/ropewalk.

October 4–6, 15–18

USI Theatre presents *"Company,"* Mallette Studio Theatre, Liberal Arts Center. Tickets and information: 812/465-1668 or www.usi.edu/theatre.

October 5–November 18

Sarah Northerner, Vesna Janonovic, opening reception October 5, 5 to 7 p.m. at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Information: 812/682-3156 or www.usi.edu/nhgallery.

October 18

Friday Night in the Forum: *"Wings of Life,"* 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Free film series, open to public. Information: 812/465-7128.

October 25

Friday Night in the Forum: *"Weekend,"* 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Free film series, open to public. Information: 812/465-7128.

November 10–December 15

Senior Seminar Exhibition, McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. Information: 812/228-5006 or www.usi.edu/libarts/artcenter-galleries.

November 15–17, 19–22

USI Theatre presents *"In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play),"* Mallette Studio Theatre, Liberal Arts Center. Tickets, information: 812/465-1668 or www.usi.edu/theatre.

November 15

Friday Night in the Forum: *"Blancanieves,"* 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Free film series, open to public. Information: 812/465-7128.

November 23–December 27

Alisa ("Al") Holen Sculptural Ceramics, opening reception 4 to 7 p.m. November 23, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Information: 812/682-3156 or www.usi.edu/nhgallery.

December 5–8

USI Chamber Choir's Madrigal Feast, Carter Hall, University Center. Tickets, information: 812/461-5237 or www.usi.edu/libarts/madrigals.

December 6

Friday Night in the Forum: *"Nightwatching"* (or *"Belly on an Architect"*), 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Free film series, open to public. Information: 812/465-7128.

December 13

Friday Night in the Forum: *"Samsara,"* 7:30 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Free film series, open to public. Information: 812/465-7128.

December 14

University of Southern Indiana Fall Commencement, Physical Activities Center (PAC). Information: 812/464-1930 or www.usi.edu/commencement.