

# LAStory

Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts



## Opportunity leads student to Hollywood



*Spencer Paddock gets in the scene after the crew and actors wrapped up production for the day while filming "Back in the Day" in Evansville and Newburgh, Indiana. (Left to right back row) Isaiah Mustafa, Kristoffer Polaha, Michael Rosenbaum, Harland Williams. (Front center) Spencer Paddock.*

Graphic design major Spencer Paddock was just a kid when he first picked up a camera he found on his father's desk, an act that has led him to intern with a Hollywood director of a multimillion-dollar film.

Interviewed recently for *Ezra*, an online magazine based in Australia, he said, "I was a shy kid... this device gave me a voice that I was sometimes too shy to let out. After I realized this, I was in love. I started researching and trying to figure out what all I could do with it."

People noticed, and the positive responses he received from his photographs changed his life, boosted his confidence and pushed him

to be who he really was. It gave a voice to his perspective on life. "If I'd never picked up a camera," he said, "who knows, I may still be that shy boy with nothing to say."

Paddock has been shooting pictures since before he started high school. But at USI, his perspective on his craft began to change. Until then, he didn't consider his photos art. "When I started taking design classes, my professors told me, 'Spencer, your photography design is graphic design with objects. You need to position these objects to create beautiful compositions.'"

Championed and guided by professionals, Paddock was encouraged to consider ways to design his photographs so they were more graphically-oriented compositionally.

He realized photography

was more than "just clicking a button and taking pretty pictures. [My professors] helped me realize photography...is deeper than that. That's a big part of the culture of USI. Everyone is rooting for you all the time."

At 22, Paddock is already a successful, self-employed photographer with clients in the entertainment industry (particularly Nashville, Tennessee-based Christian rock bands), and his talents have led him all the way to Hollywood this summer.

The road to Tinseltown began in Newburgh, Indiana, when he applied for a job on the set of "Back in the Day," a movie filmed there in 2012.

*Continued on page 3...*

## Dean's Message



Michael Aakhus

The summer of 2014 has been one of exciting international opportunities for our faculty and students. With the ever-increasing importance of giving students a global understanding of the competitive world they live in, USI's College of Liberal Arts continues to engage faculty and students with opportunities to travel and study abroad.

Daniel Craig and the USI Chamber Choir are in Ireland this summer performing some of Dan's original arrangements, based on traditional Irish music, that he created after spending his sabbatical there collecting traditional sean nós songs as well as other Irish music.

Faculty and students also are in China this summer—at Southwest University in Chongqing, a campus USI has been collaborating with for three years. Lin Pang Adams, World Languages and Cultures, has five students engaging in language and culture studies; Dr. Trent Engbers, Political Science and Public Administration, has 11 students studying China's politics; and Virginia Poston, Art, is leading an art and architecture tour.

Robert Jeffers, Communications, took students to Europe with his Cathedrals course which has become a tradition in the College of Liberal Arts. This capstone course started on campus with lectures and field trips that took students to local monuments, a stain glass workshop and a stone carving studio,

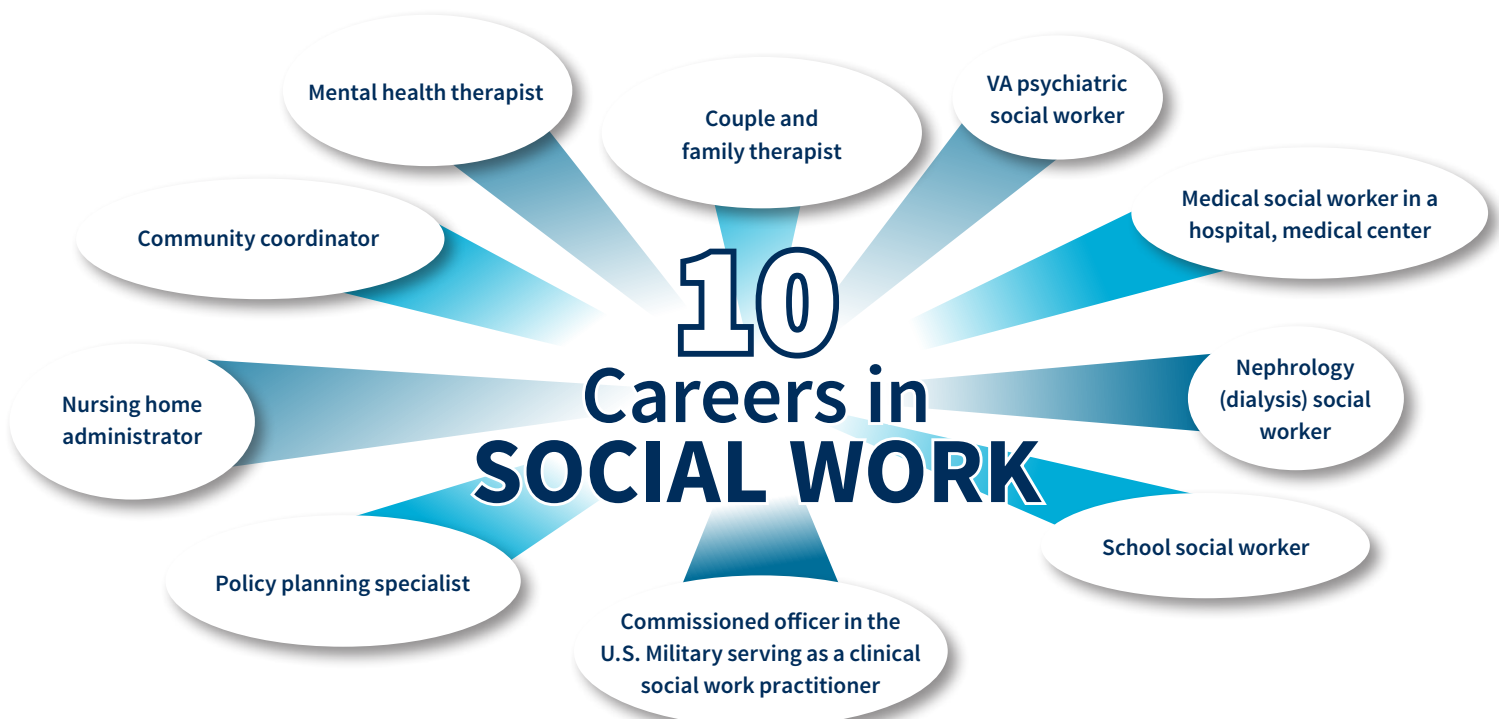
and concludes with a whirlwind tour of cathedrals from Rome to London.

In Social Work, Dr. Wendy Turner-Frey will work across disciplines with Health Professions students who will intern at an orphanage in Vietnam, working with Wendy's evaluation instrument to better understand the children's needs.

Dr. Daniel Bauer, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Studies (SAC), will do research with native groups in the Amazonian rainforests of Peru, and Dr. Amanuel Beyin is the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant for his research in East Africa (see page 3). Closer to home in SAC, Dr. Michael Strezewski is working with students in New Harmony to excavate a site near the Working Man's Institute. In past summers, his excavations in New Harmony focused on the Harmonist kiln site.

We're also excited that students in Liberal Arts received Summer Global Engagement Internships supported by funds from the Provost's office: Kathleen Sledge, public relations, will be in New Lanark, Scotland; Jasmon Dixon, Spanish, and Amie Shipman, Master of Public Administration, are going to Costa Rica; and Mallory Willits, social work, is going to Ghana.

It's an exciting summer for our faculty and students as they gain knowledge for life while participating in life-changing opportunities to work and study abroad. We look forward to having them back on campus in the fall to share their insights and enthusiasm for international engagement and learning.



*Hollywood continued...*

“One of my friends told me that Michael Rosenbaum was coming here to film a big-budget Hollywood movie.” Rosenbaum, a Newburgh native, is a successful actor and director best known for his role as Lex Luthor in the television series “Smallville.”

When he learned of the opportunity, he said, “I thought it would be cool to get involved with that—maybe be a production assistant and get coffee for people.” But that didn’t happen. Instead, she replied saying, “We heard you are a photographer, and we want to interview you for a job as a still photographer.”

A still photographer captures the action of the movie in photographs that are later used for posters and advertisements, Paddock said. It was a break he hadn’t expected. He went to the interview and two hours

later, he said, “She texted me and said, ‘You have the job.’”

During filming, Paddock’s interaction with Rosenbaum was limited, but after it was complete, Rosenbaum took Paddock under his wing. “Anywhere I go with him, he says I am his little brother. He is trying as much as he can with all the connections he has in the industry to help me get jobs and work in films.”

This summer, while shadowing a Hollywood director, Paddock also will be working on commercials, an opportunity that came from his association with Bradley Stonesifer, cinematographer for “Back in the Day.” In August, he’ll return to USI to complete his degree. Then, he’ll decide whether to build his career in Los Angeles or Nashville.

## Origin of humanity focus of faculty research

When Dr. Amanuel Beyin, lecturer in Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Studies, was in graduate school at Stony Brook University in New York, he was required to select a focus of research for his dissertation. Born in Eritrea, a country in East Africa on the Red Sea, he cast about for an area of interest and rich exploration, asking himself, *What would be the contribution of my country to human evolution?*

“That question helped me to settle on this research,” he said. “That’s when I discovered that this region—East Africa in general—is considered to be the birthplace of humanity.”

Beyin has worked in the area since 2005, when he pioneered a survey and excavation of prehistoric sites and completed the work for his dissertation. This year, he received a \$34,090 National Science Foundation grant to continue the work.

“That region is one of the key potential dispersal corridors for early humans out of Africa. With this grant, I’m planning to do survey and excavation work and document sites that inform us about who those humans were and what kind of cultural innovations they had,” he said. “With that information, my research will contribute to the bigger question of human origin and dispersal.”

Along with colleagues from India and the Sudan, Beyin will conduct the excavation in December (2014) and January (2015). He hopes to find stone tools and artifacts that date to a time period between 150,000 and 50,000 years ago, “Because that’s a time when our ancestors are believed to have left Africa,” he said.

Beyin’s research also includes investigations into evidence of an important human milestone—the transition from hunting and gathering to permanent settlements and food production. In January 2013, he received a \$20,000 grant from National Geographic to conduct field work along the shores of Lake Turkana, in northern Kenya, where there’s evidence of that shift.

So far, Beyin’s work at Lake Turkana has documented new archaeological sites dating back 12,000 years. He said this is an important contribution because not many accurate dates have been found for those sites before.



*Dr. Amanuel Beyin demonstrates flintknapping to show students in his Human Origins class an example of early technological progress.*

“One of the things that fascinates me about human history is that we lived in this world as hunter-gatherers for millions of years, and for some reason, around ten thousand years ago, everything changed,” Beyin said. “Humans started to domesticate plants and focus on herding animals and began the transition that brought us all the way here. We are such a complex species and we have achieved this level of complexity because our ancestors at some point decided to change their lifestyles. We are living the life—the culture—our ancestors laid the foundation for.”



## USI's Warhol Collection inspires wig-out

Liberal Arts faculty hammed it up Warhol-style at the "Andy Warhol: Photographs and Prints from the University Collection" exhibited in USI's McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries this past spring. Throughout the showing, attendees could have their Polaroid photos taken that then became part of the exhibit. Faculty, staff, students and community visitors had fun donning silver wigs and glasses to channel Warhol's spirit. The exhibition was donated to USI through The Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program, launched in 2007, which honored the 20th anniversary of the foundation by making substantial gifts of Warhol's photographic works to university and college museums, galleries and art collections across the United States.



*Top row (l to r): Chuck Armstrong, contract assistant professor of graphic design; Rob Millard-Mendez, associate professor of art and Nancy Raen-Mendez, instructor in art; Michael Aakhus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Christopher Rivera, director of International and Interdisciplinary Studies. Bottom row (l to r): Hillary Braysmith, associate professor of art history; Brett Anderson, assistant professor of art; Scott Chevalier and Kristen Wilkins, assistant professor of art.*

## “The Gay Moralist” addresses equality issue



John Corvino enthralls students and faculty with his outlook on sexuality, ethics and marriage.

Dr. John Corvino, a philosophy professor and nationally-recognized speaker whose YouTube videos have received nearly a million hits, presented the College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar Lecture—“Haters, Sinners, and the Rest of Us: The Gay Debate Today”—to a standing-room only crowd of students and faculty in March.

The Distinguished Scholar Lecture rotates between

**“Corvino is a very funny, charismatic and engaging speaker.”**

—Dr. Mary Lyn Stoll

Liberal Arts departments on an annual basis. Philosophy, this year’s host, decided to bring Corvino (also known as “The Gay Moralist”) to campus in order to have an honest dialogue about equality, given that the Indiana legislature recently considered writing a same-sex marriage ban into the constitution, said Dr. Mary Lyn Stoll, associate professor of philosophy.

“We were talking about HJR-3 and how it almost made it to the ballot, so we thought it would be helpful to have an intelligent conversation about the issue,” she said. “Also, Corvino is a very funny, charismatic and engaging speaker, and people tend to respond fairly well.”

Corvino is chair of the Philosophy Department at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and co-author of *Debating Same-Sex Marriage* (2012) and author of *What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?* (2013), both from Oxford University Press. He also has contributed to *The Advocate*, *LA Times*, *Independent Gay Forum*, *Huffington Post*, *The New Republic* and *The New York Times*. In the last 20 years he has spoken at over 200 campuses on issues of sexuality, ethics and marriage.

His visit to USI was sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, Philosophy Department, Counseling Center and Center for Interdisciplinary Studies.

## Master’s program in English creates opportunities for writers and teachers

USI’s new Master of Arts in English (MAE) degree program was approved by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education this spring and begins in fall 2014. The program will offer advanced studies for area teachers who want to develop their credentials in order to teach in dual credit programs at their schools.

“It will likewise offer the credentials required to teach in two-year and four-year post-secondary institutions,” said Dr. Charles Conaway, associate professor of English and director of the MAE. “Professional writers in the area workforce in business, industry and the non-profit sector will be able to develop their expertise in the MAE. Students may

also shape a course of study that will prepare them for further work at the graduate level.”

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the workforce in jobs traditionally held by English graduates is underdeveloped in the state of Indiana. The MAE will allow current and future members of the workforce to gain greater levels of expertise in fields that are projected to grow.

Interested in enrolling in the MAE? Contact Graduate Studies at 812-465-7018 or email [gssr@usi.edu](mailto:gssr@usi.edu).

## USI's student-run media reap 59 awards

Both USI's student-run newspaper and radio—*The Shield* and The Edge—have garnered awards for being the best among their national and state peers. *The Shield* was named Division II Newspaper of the Year at the annual Indiana Collegiate Press Association conference for the second year in a row. Last year, the paper shared the honor with Butler University's *The Butler Collegian*. "It's gratifying to see *The Shield* and the students who work so hard get the recognition they deserve," said Dr. Wayne Rinks, chair of Communications.

Students at The Edge, USI's radio station, and Access USI, its TV news program, were honored for their work in two national contests and one statewide contest. "What makes these awards even more meaningful is that the work we entered is from what we did on-the-air," said John Morris, general manager. "We have some incredibly talented students who put a lot of time and effort into their craft."

The radio station, broadcasting at 820-AM, 90.7 FM HD-2 and theedge.org, features music, news and sports; Access USI covers campus and community news in a weekly program.

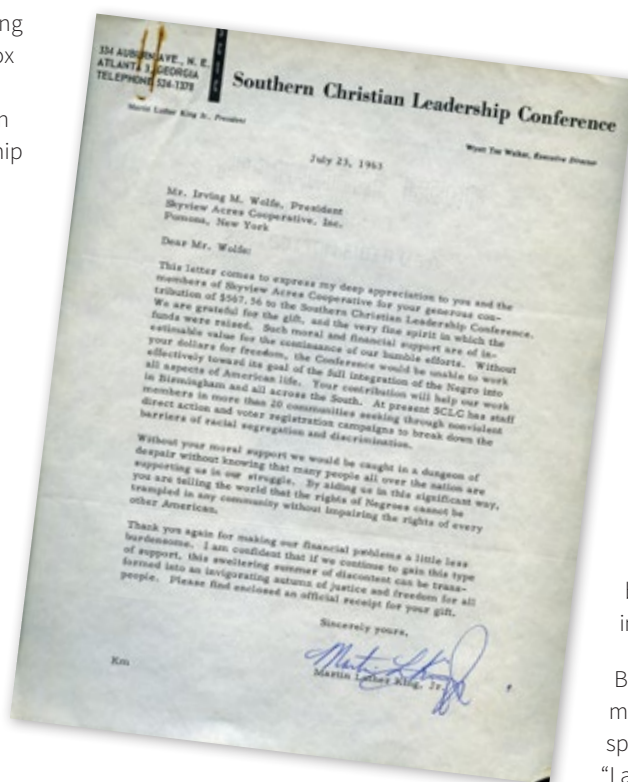
	
<b>The Shield—40 Awards</b>	<b>The Edge—19 Awards</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Newspaper of the Year</li><li>• 15 first places</li><li>• 13 second places</li><li>• 12 third places</li><li>• 15 staff members won individual awards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 first places</li><li>• 3 second places</li><li>• 7 finalist</li><li>• 1 honorable mention</li></ul>

## Martin Luther King, Jr. letter found in the University Archives

Logan Walters wasn't looking for anything in particular as he shuffled through a box of papers donated to USI's Rice Library Communal Studies Collection, but when he saw the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's (SCLC) letterhead, he stopped. Scanning to the bottom of the page, Walters said, "I think I have a Martin Luther King, Jr. signature."

Walters was a sophomore enrolled in the history course, Introduction to Archive Theory, at the time of the discovery. The course instructor Jennifer Greene, Rice Library archives and reference librarian, and Walters' classmates reacted first with disbelief and then excitement. "History comes to life when you see a real signature and read the actual words put down by a man as wise and poetic as Martin Luther King, Jr.," Greene said.

The letter is part of the Skyview Acres Cooperative Collection donated to USI in fall 2013. Skyview was one of the first integrated communities in the United States, founded in 1946 in New York. Its original members included a number of peace activists, including George Hauser, co-founder of the Congress of Racial Equality who, along with Bayard Rustin, led the 1947 interracial bus journey that became the model for the 1960s Freedom Rides.



In a letter addressed to King at the SCLC in Atlanta, Georgia, Irving Wolfe, then-president of Skyview Acres, wrote, "We are enclosing a check for \$576.56, which is the proceeds of a block party we held for the benefit of SCLC on July 14th. About 400 men, women and children from all over this country turned out for the event and all had a fine time."

King responds, "Without your moral support we would be caught in a dungeon of despair without knowing that many people all over the nation are supporting us in our struggle. By aiding us in this significant way, you are telling the world that the rights of Negroes cannot be trampled in any community without impairing the rights of every other American."

Both letters were written in July 1963, one month before King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech on the National Mall. King concludes, "I am confident that if we continue to gain this type of support, this sweltering summer of injustice and freedom for all people."

Greene said it's gratifying to find a treasure in any collection, "but this particular find was something everyone can appreciate and understand. It always makes me wonder, what else is laying undiscovered in our collections?"



Liberal Arts' Dean Michael Aakhus strutted his stuff on the catwalk sporting a fanny pack with the new academic logo during the logo launch April 9 in Carter Hall.

Events  
you  
just  
missed!



Actress Christy Hall portrayed iconic black women in "Ain't I a Woman!" in celebration of Black History Month and Women's History Month on March 1. She also taught a master class in acting to USI theatre students.



Cartoonist John McPherson presented "Behind the Scenes at the Funny Pages" on February 26. His internationally-syndicated cartoon strip, "Close to Home," appears in over 700 newspapers, including *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Tokyo Times* and *Hanoi Daily*.

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Rob Millard-Mendez, associate professor of art, showed three-year-old Rocco Cayzedo the art of woodworking as part of the Children's Learning Center Art Show April 11 and 12. Children created an array of pieces in various media that were then sold to raise funds to buy art supplies for the center.



A student-led panel discusses award-winning writer and filmmaker Gabrielle Burton's film "Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens" on April 7. She was on campus to talk to student about her in-progress film, which focuses on the thriving drag scene in her hometown of Columbus, Ohio. She uses the film as a platform to talk about gender differences.



Jen Chapin—daughter of the late Harry Chapin—an urban folk musician and activist was on campus discussing hunger and performing during a two-day residency March 18-19. The New York-based performer is active with WhyHunger, a movement to end poverty and hunger.

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## 2014 Calendar of Upcoming Events

### July 11-20

New Harmony Theatre presents "The Hound of the Baskervilles," Murphy Auditorium, New Harmony, Indiana. Tickets: 812-682-3115.

### July 25-August 2

New Harmony Theatre presents: "The Fantasticks," Murphy Auditorium, New Harmony, Indiana. Tickets: 812-682-3115.

### September 17

Evansville Remembers: The Holocaust & World War II, film screening of *Nasty Girl* (1990), 6 to 9 p.m., Klymeyer Auditorium (Liberal Arts Center Room 0101). Information: 812-465-7026.

### September 24

Evansville Remembers: The Holocaust & World War II, film screening of *KZ* (2006), 6 to 9 p.m., Klymeyer Auditorium (Liberal Arts Center Room 0101). Information: 812-465-7026.

### October 15-18

USI Theatre presents "The Pillowman." Tickets: 812-465-1668 or [USI.edu/liberalarts/usi-theatre](http://USI.edu/liberalarts/usi-theatre).

### October 16

Multilingual Poetry Reading, 3 p.m., Klymeyer Hall, Liberal Arts Center. Sponsored by World Languages and Cultures. Information: 812-465-7026.

### November 6-8

Center for Communal Studies conference: "Capitalism and Socialism: Utopia, Globalization, and Revolution," New Harmony, Indiana. Information: 812-465-7150 or [USI.edu/liberalarts/communal-center/2014-new-harmony-conference](http://USI.edu/liberalarts/communal-center/2014-new-harmony-conference).

### November 19-23

USI Theatre presents "Lysistrata." Tickets: 812-465-1668 or [USI.edu/liberalarts/usi-theatre](http://USI.edu/liberalarts/usi-theatre).

### December 1

Holiday Sing-a-Long, 3 p.m., Forum I, Wright Administration Building. Sponsored by World Languages and Cultures. Information: 812-465-7026.

For more information, call the College of Liberal Arts at 812-464-1855 or go to [USI.edu/liberalarts](http://USI.edu/liberalarts).

## Dowhies give \$1 million to support ceramics program



Lenny Dowhie, professor emeritus of art, and his wife Anne made a \$1 million gift commitment toward USI's *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* that will support USI's ceramics program. Dowhie, who taught at USI for 33 years before he retired in 2011, was instrumental in developing the ceramics curriculum and planning the ceramics center, which opened in 2009. The center has since been renamed the Lenny and Anne Dowhie Ceramics Studio. This is the first time a building has been named for a USI faculty member.

*Pictured, left to right: Emily Nonte, winner of the Timothy B. Mahoney Best in Show Award at the 44th annual USI Juried Student Art Exhibition for her piece Vintage Circle, Lenny Dowhie, Alisa "Al" Holen, assistant professor of art and Anne Dowhie.*