

LAStory

Newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts



Visiting scholar brings royal opportunity for art students and community kids



Princess Dr. Sweet Ufumwen Akenzua-Ebeigbe, visiting art professor, spoke to Joshua Academy students about the importance of education.

The Art Department's visiting professor in fall 2014 was a princess with a PhD. Princess Dr. Sweet Ufumwen Akenzua-Ebeigbe, who grew up in an ancient palace in Benin City, Nigeria, taught USI classes on African art and culture, helped organize an African Cultural Diversity Showcase on campus and visited elementary and high schools in the Evansville community.

Ebeigbe inherited a talent for art from her mother, Queen Ehioba Akenzua, who was in charge of the female artisans in the royal harem. The queen was the second wife of Akenzua II, who was Oba (King) of Benin City from 1933 to 1978. The princess is one of 58 children of Akenzua II, and the youngest sister of Omo N'Oba Erediauwu, the current Oba of Benin.

The palace – filled with bronzes, carved ivory tusks and wood carvings – was the focal point for Benin's artists and artisans, whose needs were provided for by the Oba. "I grew up in the midst of art and had the opportunity of interacting with a lot of artists from a very tender age," Ebeigbe said.

The princess became interested in pottery while visiting an elderly woman potter who lived near the palace. "When other kids were playing, I would sneak into her studio. It was so fascinating to me, and I would pick up little pieces of clay that fell from her table, sit in the corner and produce my pots."

Ebeigbe is a member of the Society of Nigeria Artists and Craft Potters Association of Nigeria; holds a bachelor's degree in ceramics, master's degree in industrial design and doctorate in art history; and is a lecturer at University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

Her visit to USI is part of a broader effort to bring African culture to USI students. In recent years, Dr. Joseph Uduehi, associate professor of art education; Dr. Michael Ndemanu, assistant professor of teacher education; and Dr. Amanuel Beyin, lecturer in sociology, anthropology and criminal justice studies, have partnered with the Provost's Office, Art Department and Rice Library to establish the USI African Cultural

Diversity Artifact Loan Program, a collection (in progress) of small and large two- and three-dimensional artifacts that provides the public with hands-on African visual arts resources for educational use.

Uduehi has lobbied for a greater emphasis on African culture in the curriculum since he joined the University in 1999. With the support of Provost Ron Rochon, USI recently established a cultural exchange program that allows USI students and faculty to travel to Ghana. Last semester, Uduehi, Ebeigbe and Michael Aakhus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, presented the second annual USI African Cultural Diversity Showcase, featuring African dance, music, textiles and food. Ebeigbe's initial visit to campus was for the first such showcase in 2013.

Uduehi hopes African Studies will one day be fully available to students, first as an emphasis within the International Studies major and later as its own minor.

Dean's Message



Michael Aakhus

The College of Liberal Arts has for some years been working to implement an Arts and Heritage Administration minor. Currently, students pair this minor with an Anthropology, Art, History or Theatre major. Through reallocation of faculty resources, the History department has hired Stella Ress, public historian. She's moving forward to build outreach in the community to support student opportunities for engaged learning as well as internships.

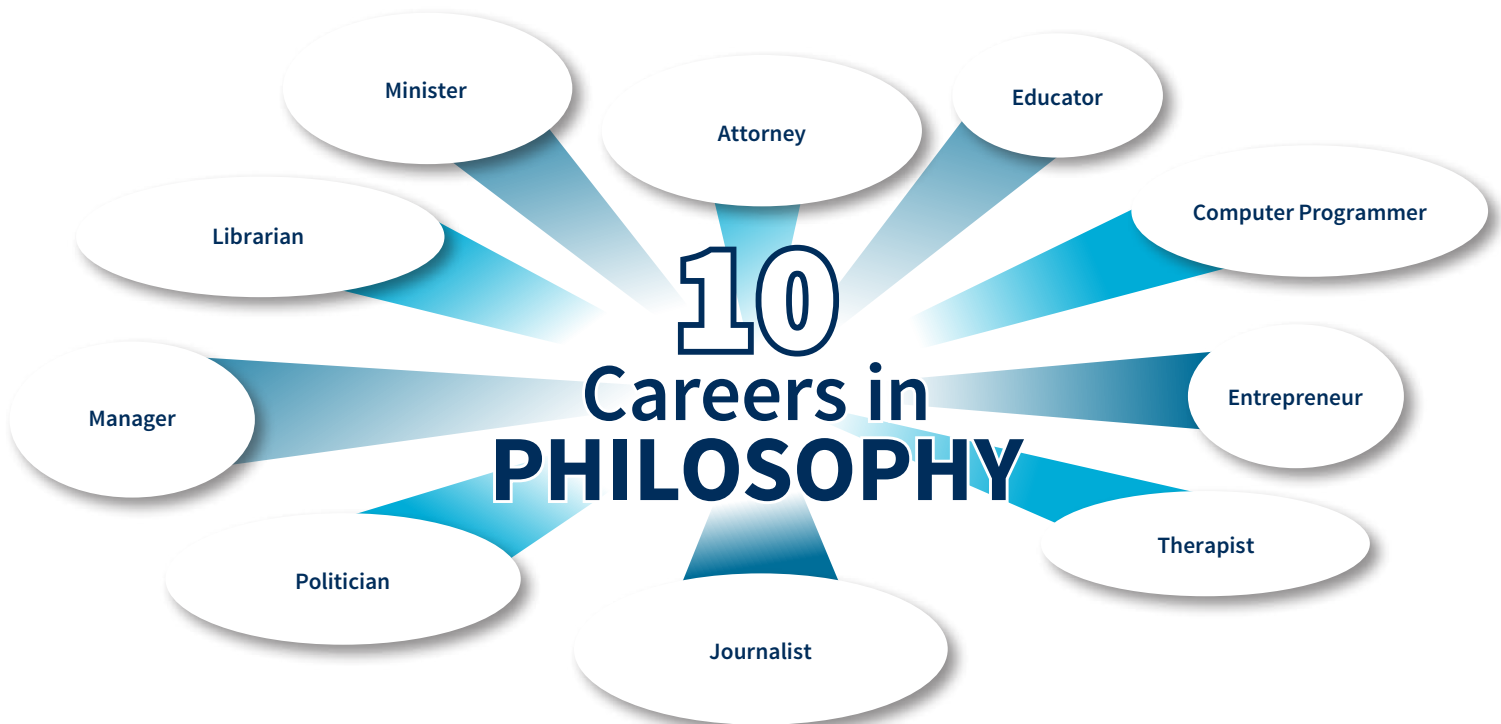
This program was envisioned as a natural outgrowth of the University's designation as a Carnegie Foundation Community Engaged University as well as our mission with Historic New Harmony. New Harmony's unique character as a living historic community was founded on two utopian experiments: first, with the Harmonists' sacred views and the second, a community founded on the secular principles put forward by Robert Owen; both at the beginning of the 19th century.

New Harmony continues to embrace the past while remaining a center for visionary ideas in the arts and sciences. New Harmony – as a museum community – becomes an idea laboratory for our new program. There will be opportunities for art students to do internships with the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art,

history students to work with archives and the Historic New Harmony offices and theatre students to work with the summer theatre arts program. Additionally, for the past three years we've had an active field school led by Dr. Michael Strezewski, associate professor of anthropology, from our Archaeology program.

We have internship opportunities on campus as well: at the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries our James Sanders Fellows work one semester on campus with the center and University art collection under the supervision of Katie Waters and Susan Sauls, and a second semester at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art with Garry Holstein, gallery director. Also, we have the John M. Lawrence '73 summer fellowships in the Lawrence Library that give students the opportunity to work with manuscripts from his extensive collection of primarily hand-illuminated books and pages.

As we open the new theatre on campus, and with continuing programs in New Harmony, we look forward to adding additional intern opportunities for our Arts and Heritage Administration Program. This program will provide students first-hand opportunities for engaged learning that will better prepare them for administrative careers at historic sites, libraries, museums and galleries, as well as managing archaeological collections.



Alumni visit campus to discuss careers as English grads

Students contemplating what to do with an English degree were invited to hear Candice and Craig Fehrman talk about the career paths they chose.

Candice is a fall 2006 USI graduate with a bachelor's degree in English (Creative Writing) and a minor in print journalism, and has a post-graduate certificate in editing from the University of Chicago. She works as a freelance book editor for Rizzoli International Publications, among others, after having worked as a book editor in Rizzoli's Fairfield, Connecticut, and New York City offices for six years.

Craig graduated from USI in spring 2007 with bachelor's degrees in English and psychology, went on to earn Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy degrees from Yale University, and will complete a PhD in English next year. He's a freelance writer for *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *The Washington Post* and others, and teaches journalism at Indiana University in Bloomington, where the couple now resides after several years on the East coast.

Dr. Susanna Hoeness-Krupsaw, associate professor of English, who serves on the department's alumni outreach committee, said, "We reached out to Craig and Candice because they had just returned to the Midwest and were both fantastic students. They were highly



Craig and Candice Fehrman

motivated and built interesting careers. We hoped that their example would especially inspire those of our majors who do not plan to go into teaching, and other students who are thinking about an English major but don't have a clear picture of possible career paths."

Plan B: faculty helps secure international internship for journalist major



When Chris Johannes '14 discovered the media internship he'd intended to apply for in Berlin was discontinued, he had to scramble, but he ended up with an internship in Germany created just for him.

"Dr. Silvia Rode (chair of World Languages and Cultures), was able to put me in touch with the sports editor at the *New Osnabrück* newspaper through contacts at the Hochschule Osnabrück," he said. "There was no program set up at the newspaper, and I had to plead with them to let me have the internship. They finally said yes, and the Hochschule helped arrange my housing."

USI has a strong academic and cultural exchange partnership with Hochschule Osnabrück, University of Applied Sciences. The partnership, which grew from Evansville's sister city relationship with Osnabrück, was formalized in 2010.

The Santa Claus, Indiana native, who graduated with dual bachelor degrees in journalism and German, landed the summer-long position in the sports department at the *New Osnabrück* newspaper during a time when Germany won the World Cup. "Without Dr. Rode

and the partnership between USI and the Hochschule, my internship would not have been possible," he said. "The only reason they even considered me was because of that relationship and Dr. Rode putting her name out there and saying, 'Yes, he can do this.'"

The newspaper is owned by a larger company, Fromm Media, which owns television stations and other print publications, so Johannes also was able to help the TV department with sports coverage. He had experience covering sports, having served as an editorial assistant in the *Evansville Courier & Press* sports department for two years prior to the internship in Germany.

"The fact that I was able to get into sports helped with the transition. It is a different system but there are a lot of similarities, and having that sports background helped with the language."

Johannes wrote a newspaper column from the perspective of an American in Germany during the World Cup, an experience he says is somewhat comparable to March Madness in Indiana. "It's not a one-day event like the Superbowl, or two weeks like the World Series – it's several weeks, and Germany was in it the whole time. But unlike March Madness, everyone is cheering for one team. You can't even really compare it to the Olympics, because that has so many different sporting events. This is one team and 11 players that everyone becomes so familiar with, and there are no other sports going on. It was World Cup, 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Since October, Johannes has been employed as sports desk editor for the *Bloomington Herald-Times*. He plans to attend graduate school and would like to produce digital media for a newspaper or a sports organization.

Faculty spearheads undergraduate research opportunities

As an academic and researcher, Dr. S. Elizabeth (Betsy) Passmore looks for connections, knowing some of the smallest discoveries can lead to significant successes. It's no surprise, therefore, that when she noticed links among student projects, a paper she planned to present at an upcoming conference and research possibilities at two East Coast museums, she got an idea. The students could present their papers at the conference, and members of USI's Medieval Studies Society (MSS) could join in a 12-day field trip to conduct research at the museums.

No undergraduates had attended the previous two conferences held by the International Congress of the John Gower Society (2014 was the third), let alone presented research, but Passmore was undeterred. She believed their work was worthy, and she wanted the MSS group to have the opportunity to network and consult with medievalists – including several “rock stars” of medieval academia – as well as conduct museum research like professional scholars.



Darlane Davis taking notes on wear patterns on the medieval stone capitals for her weathering log at The Cloisters.

“The organizers of the John Gower Society conference created a special registration level for USI students so they could attend,” said Passmore, associate professor of English.

The two students presenting at the conference were unique as well. Carrie Wright holds two master's degrees in geology and is earning a second bachelor's degree in English with a literature emphasis, while working as an instructor in geology at USI. Her paper examined the layers of meaning in Gower's *Confessio Amantis* through the lens of gems. Jacob (Jake) Couturiaux was a senior when selected to present, but by the time of the conference he'd graduated and was waiting to enter USI's new Master of Art in English program in fall 2014. His paper dealt with cultural and linguistic issues in translating the *Confessio* into Castilian.

“The conference hosts were so pleased with the professionalism, enthusiasm and maturity of our students, they hope to open up the conference to other undergraduates in the future,” Passmore said. “Many thought Jake had recently defended his dissertation; that's how good he was. They all really made USI proud.”

The recognition USI gained through the students' representation was valuable, but what the undergraduates received was priceless. “These connections...enabled me to form a comprehensive picture of what medieval scholarships entails and what the results of that scholarship looks like,” said Cecil King Neville III, an English major who was one of four undergraduates who made the trip to New York.

In preparation for the museums, each student created a research project that would build upon the knowledge they acquired at each site. The results of their research will be presented at the USI Endeavor! Awards for Research and Creativity in spring 2015.

Passmore hopes the relationships she's established at Hammond Castle will pay off in other ways for USI students, particularly those in the new Arts and Heritage Administration minor, a program that provides students with a foundation for careers in museums, art galleries, historic sites, non-profit historical organizations and the arts (see page 5). “Maybe there's a future connection between the castle and nearby museums and USI's new arts and heritage minor seeking an internship,” she said.

The trip was funded through several grants: Endeavor!, Student Government Association, Society for the Arts and Humanities as well as monies from the Provost's Office and the English and Geology and Physics Departments.

USI, IU McKinney announce partnership, law scholar program

The University of Southern Indiana and Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law have teamed up to create the “University of Southern Indiana Law Scholar” program. The first two students from USI will be chosen and begin their legal educations at IU McKinney in fall 2015.

“This is an excellent opportunity for our students and we're very pleased to initiate this partnership with the McKinney School of Law,” said Dr. Nicholas LaRowe, USI assistant professor of political science and public administration and pre-law coordinator. “McKinney is a strong law school and will give USI students an added advantage when it comes to internships and opportunities to work with leaders in government, business and law. USI students are talented, well-prepared and ready to succeed in this rigorous academic environment.”

Each year, USI will nominate two students or alumni for admission to McKinney Law, following the University's nomination procedures.

Applicants must be nominated by USI, and the University's representatives will review academic performance, letters of recommendations, volunteer and leadership experience and areas of interest in the legal profession. Scholars will receive a minimum of a half-tuition scholarship, will be designated a program fellow in the student's chosen area of study with a chance to meet with faculty during the first semester for help in determining a course of study, paid employment as a research assistant after completing 30 hours of law school, and guaranteed experiential learning opportunities. For more information contact Dr. Nicholas LaRowe at nllarowe@usi.edu or 812-464-1727.

Stuff of the ages: Lawrence Fellowship and collection allow students to touch ancient history



(left to right) Paul Foley and John M. Lawrence

As the recipient of the College of Liberal Arts' first John M. Lawrence '73 Fellowship, Paul Foley handled the artifacts of ancient civilizations and curated an exhibit in the College's new Lawrence Library. The exhibit, "Selections from the Lawrence Medieval Collection," opened in the fall and will be on display until March 1, 2015.

The Lawrence Library is home to USI's collection of medieval manuscripts and other artifacts, many donated by John M. Lawrence '73 for use as a study collection to benefit USI students.

Lawrence, who holds an accounting degree from USI, was strongly impacted by his Liberal Arts professors at USI and went on to become an

international expert and collector of ancient manuscripts. He has given generously to the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Nursing and Health Professions over the years.

Foley is a senior history major minoring in classical studies. "It's been an awesome opportunity getting to work with John Lawrence's collection," he said. "Even some graduate students never have the chance to work hands-on with manuscripts like this."

The pieces on exhibit – primarily manuscripts – are united in that they all originated in the medieval period. A variety of languages are represented, including Coptic, German, Greek, Latin, Persian and Sanskrit. In order to interpret, identify and translate the materials, Foley recruited College of Liberal Arts faculty and searched online image databases.

The exhibit also included a Greek bell krater – a vessel used to mix water with wine – from ca.350 BC. Lawrence donated the krater to USI in honor of Dr. Daniel Scavone, professor emeritus of history. Michael Aakhus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the krater is in "amazing condition" for such an object. Rob Millard-Mendez, associate professor of art, built a special pedestal for its display.

Foley also worked with Lawrence to restore a Spanish monastic manuscript from the 16th century. "It really fits the vision of the library for students like me to be able to hold and even do research on pieces of history like this that might have just been thrown into a vault at another university," Foley said.

Lawrence Library is located in the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center, LA 0119. For more information, call 812-464-1855 or go to USI.edu/liberal-arts/lawrence-library.

New minor prepares students to step directly into careers

The College of Liberal Arts has created a new minor in response to a growing demand students have for skill sets that prepare them to enter careers of their choice upon graduation. The new Arts and Heritage Administration (AHA) minor is a multidisciplinary program that includes courses in art history, computer and information science, English, marketing and management, communications, anthropology, and philosophy to provide students with a foundation for careers in museums, art galleries, historic sites, non-profit historical organizations and the arts.

"Students want careers they can step directly into upon graduating college," said Dr. Stella Ress, assistant professor of history. "This minor prepares them for real jobs by providing skill sets that allow them to excel in careers of their choosing."

A substantial component for developing those skills comes from the hands-on opportunities students have to create career-specific projects, such as establishing a museum exhibit. "In the second course level," Ress said, "students will draft a budget, create a strategic plan, construct

an exhibit – either physical or virtual – and develop a website that is marketed to specific audiences."

Careers in arts and heritage administration may be growing, as Ress said there are more museums today than 10 years ago, but colleges that offer a minor in the field are rare in the United States. "I'm unaware of any other university that offers a minor in arts and heritage administration of the type offered by USI, although similar programs are popular in Europe."

Students who elect this minor will learn about the history of arts and heritage management, the structure and challenges of the non-profit sector and practical concerns in arts and heritage administration, including artistic and administrative leadership, institutional structures, government relations and the place of arts and heritage institutions in modern society.

The minor serves well as a complement to most liberal arts majors and requires 21 credits of which an internship in arts and heritage management, art, theatre, history or anthropology is required.

Transformative insights during times of discord

The College of Liberal Arts held several campus events over the past few months that addressed timely and provocative issues of importance to students, faculty and the community. The topics discussed were of local, national and international concern, as the College strives to deliver educational and cultural events that deepen understanding and present new perspectives of matters that impact lives.

Scholar lectures on race

The shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, touched off a national and international race debate. To address the issue and engage students, faculty and community members, Dr. Robert E. Terrill, a noted scholar, was invited to campus in November as part of the Community of Scholars Lecture hosted by the Communications Department. His talk centered on the

presidency of Barack Obama and debated the illusion that his election marked a new post-racial era. The lecture also delved into Brown's death and how it has effected public reaction to race issues and the continued significance of race in our culture.

Nelson Mandela

Revered as an international peace keeper, Nelson Mandela's legacy was commemorated in a day-long event, marking the anniversary of his death in December 2013. Dr. Amanuel Beyin, lecturer in sociology, anthropology and criminal justice studies, said the purpose of the celebration was to inspire people to reflect and examine the politics of our current culture, hoping participants would join the effort – to any degree – to oppose human rights abuses all over the world.

“We live in a highly interdependent world, where everyone's livelihood is affected by our leaders' decisions and collective ideals,” Beyin said. “There's no better time to promote diversity. The need for selfless leaders is paramount, the need for visionary educators is urgent and a tolerant society is key to human prosperity.”

The Holocaust and World War II

The historical significance and lessons learned from the Holocaust and World War II were the most recent focus of USI's World Languages and Cultures Department participation in a community-wide project spearheaded by the nonprofit Committee to Promote Respect in Schools, “Evansville Remembers: The Holocaust and WW II.” For this event (one of several), USI hosted three speakers: Dr. James MacLeod and Dr. John Jordan of the University of Evansville discussed World War I, World War II and composer Benjamin Britten's life and work, while Alfred Savia, director of the Evansville Philharmonic

Orchestra, discussed Britten's 1961 composition titled “War Requiem.”

“In times of turmoil it's important for people to remember what war means,” said Dr. Silvia Rode, chair of the World Languages and Cultures department. She was on the Evansville Remembers steering committee along with Dr. Casey Harison, professor of history. “It's important to have people research what war means and to have occasions in which to discuss how war can occur.”

Communal Studies Conference

Given the world's current economic and political turmoil, the Center for Communal Studies hosted a conference in New Harmony, Indiana, to discuss scholarly ideas surrounding capitalism and socialism at the site made famous by Robert Owen's experiment in communal living. “Our thinking in planning the conference was that the legacy of Owen and the Bicentennial of New Harmony again have currency as the world looks back on the 2008 economic crisis,” said Dr. Casey Harison, director of the Center for Communal Studies and professor of history.

Globalization and Revolution,” drew scholars from across North America and Europe to hear renowned experts in history, economy and sociology speak about the concepts within the conference title, subjects people have wrestled with for the last two centuries. “Robert Owen's experiment in communal living of 1825, the social experiments he undertook at his New Lanark, Scotland, factory before coming to Indiana, and the community he tried to build in New Harmony were the grounding for the conference,” Harison said.

The conference, “Capitalism and Socialism: Utopia,

Faculty Achievements



Dr. Hilary Braysmith, associate professor of art history, was recognized by the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana with the 2014 Art Educator Award for her project *Sculpt EVV*, a partnership with the City of Evansville. The third annual *Sculpt EVV* Community Art and Music Festival was held in early June, and involved USI students and area youth in art projects in the Haynie's Corner Arts District.

Braysmith is an award-winning art historian who has challenged and inspired hundreds of students in her humanities and art history courses. *Sculpt EVV* encourages a diverse and sometimes underserved community members to interact and connect with contemporary art and feel pride of ownership in an enhanced and energized neighborhood.



Dr. Leigh Anne Howard, associate professor of communication studies, was awarded the John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award by the Southern States Communication Association. The award honors members who have consistently demonstrated excellence in teaching communication throughout their careers. While at the conference to receive the award, Howard also presented a paper titled "Performing Social Potential: Utopian Performance and the Performance Studies Classroom."



Dr. Amy L. Montz, assistant professor of English, published a book she co-edited with two professors from other universities titled *Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction*. The book is part of a series in the "Ashgate Studies in Childhood, 1700 to the Present." The editors wrote and collected essays that examined novels featuring female protagonists navigating cultural expectations while coming into adulthood.

Retirees



Dr. Robert West
Assistant Professor of Advertising



Dr. Patricia Ferrier
Assistant Professor of Journalism



Patricia Loehr
Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work



Dr. Paul Frazer
Assistant Professor of Social Work

New Hires



Jara Dillingham
Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work



Dr. Chad Gonnerman
Assistant Professor of Philosophy



Ashley Hall
Instructor in Psychology



Dr. Stella Ress
Assistant Professor of History

Promotions



Joan deJong
Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts



Dr. Hilary Braysmith
Interim Chair of Art Department



Renee Rowland
Director of Advising Center
Advising Center
Liberal Arts



Dr. Mark Razor
Academic Advisor
Advising Center
Liberal Arts



2015 Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 1

ISUE/USI Memorabilia Exhibit on display through June 2015 in the McCutchan Exhibition Space in the Wright Administration on campus.

January 15

USI Art Studio and Design Faculty Exhibition, through March 15, McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. Artworks ranging from wood sculpture to digital animation will be featured. Opening reception, 6 to 8 p.m. January 15. For more information visit USI.edu/liberal-arts/art-center-galleries.

February 25

USI Theatre's Repertory Project presents William Inge's *Picnic* through March 1 in the new USI Teaching Theatre. Set in a small town in Kansas, *Picnic* details the lives of "ordinary" Americans. For tickets and information, go to USI.edu/theatre or call 812-465-1668.

March 15

Evansville Museum Master Teachers Series - Michael Aakhus Exhibit, through May 3, Evansville Museum. This is the first in a series of four. For more information call 812-425-2406.

March 29

USI 45th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, through May 3, McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. The Art Department will display the best artwork of its students from the past 45 of USI's 50 years. Opening reception, 2 to 4 p.m. March 29.

April 18

Faculty Flashback Exhibit, through May 29, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art will feature USI Faculty Michael Aakhus, Lenny Dowhie, William Leth, John McNaughton, Carolyn Roth and Kathryn

Waters in a 1986 flashback exhibit. For more information visit USI.edu/outreach/new-harmony-gallery-of-contemporary-art.

April 22

USI Theatre presents *Spring Awakening*, a rock musical with book and lyrics by Steven Sater and music by Duncan Sheik, based on the 1891 play by Frank Wedekind. The play runs through April 26 in the USI Teaching Theatre. For tickets and information, go to www.usi.edu/theatre or call 812-465-1668.

June 1

Former USI Art Faculty Exhibition, through September 4, McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries. This exhibit will showcase the many former art educators who contributed to the success of the USI art program and its numerous graduates.

July-December 2015

The USI Foundation Timeline will be on display in the McCutchan Exhibition Space in the Wright Administration Building at USI. For more information, contact Susan Colaricci Sauls at 812-228-5116 or by email at scsauls@usi.edu.

July 28

Evansville Museum Master Teachers Series: Lenny Dowhie, through September 6, Evansville Museum. This is the second in a series of four. For more information call 812-425-2406.

August 8

USI History Display, through October 10, Evansville Museum. The Evansville Museum will exhibit items, images and materials reflecting the University of Southern Indiana history. For more information call 812-425-2406.

For a full description of these and other University anniversary events, visit USI.edu/50/events.