

Dear Friends of the Rope Walk Writers Retreat,

For more than twenty years, the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, founded by Tom Wilhelmus and Matthew Graham, has brought dozens of prominent writers to New Harmony and provided a stimulating creative experience for members of the USI family and broader community. The Retreat has enjoyed generous support from Mrs. Ruth Lilly, Susan R. Enlow, the Indiana Arts Commission, Mrs. Jane Owen and the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, the Witter-Brynnner Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the USI Society for Arts and Humanities, and many individuals.

Unfortunately, as a result of the depletion of some funds and budget cuts for state agencies and other organizations, the Department of English at USI will be suspending the usual retreat experience in 2011 and taking time over the upcoming year to plan for the future of the Rope Walk Retreat. Our goal is ultimately to design a retreat that will honor the heritage of Rope Walk while being innovative and sustainable.

English faculty, students, and other members of the community will come together over the next year to develop a plan for the future of a writers retreat experience in New Harmony that will continue to promote the creative arts, advance the mission of USI, and appeal to participants from across the region, nation, and world.

I sincerely appreciate the financial resources and years of service that so many people have contributed to the Rope Walk Writers Retreat and I hope we will continue to have your support as we plan for the years to come.

Sincerely,

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