

# LAStory

Newsletter of the School of Liberal Arts

Vol. 3, No. 1

## International colloquium to become annual event

The success of an international interdisciplinary colloquium held this semester will lead to an annual fall event offering creative learning and teaching opportunities.

Patti Aakhus, instructor in English and director of the interdisciplinary major in international studies, organized The Parthenon Project. Her inspiration was an interdisciplinary conference at Oxford University.

"We were looking at the influence of the observation of astronomical phenomena on art, politics, history, and culture. We had astronomers, archaeologists, and people from many fields all talking together. It was so interesting. I wanted to do a project that would expose the whole USI community to the international culture," Aakhus said.

In part, the Parthenon was chosen as the icon because the first colloquium followed the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

The September 24 event in Carter Hall attracted 2,500 persons to lectures by 12 faculty members and exhibitions.

Aakhus said, "USI faculty are specialists in their own fields but also generalists... A lifelong passion for learning about everything, the flexibility to move across fields, and constant dialogue are strengths of our University community. Because of this, and because of the power and beauty of the icon, the Parthenon came to life..."

"Students in my classes wrote afterwards that they felt close to the people who created the Parthenon, and how surprisingly similar many of our concerns are today to those of Fifth Century Greece: beauty, courage, war, love, politics, and mortality."

Next year the colloquium icon will be The Ram in the Thicket, a gold and lapis lazuli sculpture from Ur, the cradle



(Left) Dr. Chris Bloom, assistant professor of psychology, discusses the relation of the divine proportion found in the Parthenon to the perception of human beauty. (Right) A student examines a map of the Acropolis.



of civilization. Topics will focus on cultural heritage, including contemporary issues such as journalism in the Middle East. The program will incorporate scholarly papers, poetry, literary essays, painting, and photography.

The Parthenon Project was supported by a Teaching Enhancement Awards (TEA) grant project through USI's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence and with support from the School of Liberal Arts and the Society for Arts & Humanities.

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## Arts Council names Waters Artist of the Year

Katie Waters, professor of art and chair of the Department of Art, Music, and Theatre, has been honored as the 2004 Artist of the Year by the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. She was recognized at a banquet October 7 at The Centre in Evansville.



Waters

According to the council, "Katie has been a treasure in our community, both as a caring, talented art educator and as an extraordinary professional artist."

Waters said that one of the most rewarding aspects of the recognition from the Arts Council was that two of the other 2004 award winners have connections with her and with USI.

Waters - cont. on page 4

## Dean's Message

# The picture only gets better

by David Glassman, Dean of Liberal Arts

It's been five months since I began my role as dean of our School of Liberal Arts and I can say with great enthusiasm, I couldn't be happier!

Of course, I didn't always know that that would be the case. Anytime we make a major career decision that involves leaving one institution where we enjoyed a long professional and emotional relationship to embark on the challenges of a position at a new institution in a new community, it becomes a decision loaded with excitement as well as anxiety.

That is exactly how I felt when I accepted the position at USI. Sure, I had visited the beautiful campus on my interview and met with administrators, liberal arts chairs, the search committee, and a group of faculty (all in one-and-a-half days). And sure, I had learned everything I could from the Internet about USI's mission, the School of Liberal Arts, the liberal arts faculty, and the City of Evansville. Nevertheless, I still had many questions about the academic community and the City of Evansville that remained unanswered.

**“We have a wonderful, dynamic, and collegial faculty who are passionate about teaching students and who are engaged in scholarship activities.”**

To my great delight, my most positive expectations of our faculty and programs in the School of Liberal Arts have been exceeded. We have a wonderful, dynamic, and collegial faculty who are passionate about teaching students and who are engaged in scholarship activities.

I am amazed at the number of opportunities provided to our students in out-of-class learning events that are presented,

sponsored, or produced by our faculty. Just in the past few months we have scheduled events ranging from theatre productions, readings of creative writing, and a mariachi band concert, to lectures on topics from the fields of history, archaeology, diversity studies, and political science.



**“Our vision is to create a community of learning that extends well beyond the walls of USI.”**

One event deserves particular mention because it epitomized the ancient tradition of the liberal arts by bringing together scholars from several backgrounds to discuss a central issue of humanity. Such was the case with the daylong colloquium on the Parthenon that saw USI art historians, literary scholars, sociologists, psychologists, artists, and philosophers provide dialogue from their diverse scholarly perspectives. The event was an extreme success with over 2,500 people in attendance during portions of the day.

We invite our students, alumni, and community friends to attend all of our events. Our vision is to create a community of learning that extends well beyond the walls of USI.

And about the unanswered questions concerning life in Evansville, I have found our city to be charming, developed in the arts, and very welcoming.

I couldn't be happier!

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[www.usi.edu/libarts](http://www.usi.edu/libarts)

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





*Dr. David Glassman, center, greets students arriving for the first meeting of the student advisory group. With him are Charlotte LeVee and Michael Halling.*

## Students, junior faculty on advisory councils

Dr. David Glassman has formed two advisory councils—one for students and the other for junior faculty—since becoming dean of the School of Liberal Arts on July 1.

I want to accomplish a dialogue with all groups,” Glassman said. “Each group has different concerns and needs and comes to the table from a different perspective.”

The Student Advisory Council includes one student representing each department in the school. The students meet with the dean for lunch once a month to discuss issues of greatest importance to them.

Members are Lana Abel, philosophy and political science; Nick Brown, English; Angela Greenwell, history; Michael Halling, sociology; Lindsey Leaf, psychology; Charlotte LeVee, art, music, and theatre; Amy Stockholm, communications; and Sarah Weinzapfel, foreign language.

Twenty-nine junior faculty members also meet monthly with the dean. Junior faculty are those who have been full-time faculty members for less than three years.

The dean meets weekly with chairs of each department.

Glassman was formerly associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Texas State University-San Marcos.

## No shortage of retirement pursuits

Three faculty members look ahead to retirement as this semester draws to a close.

For **Dr. Walter Everett**, professor of English, retirement will offer more time for travel, grandchildren, researching and writing a short story and novel, learning to play the piano, gardening, and church activities. He and his wife Shirley have another goal—“to read every book in our personal library.”



*Walter Everett*

One of the first USI faculty to organize students and townspeople for trips abroad, Everett was in London for 10 days in September, doing research on two 15th century manuscripts. He plans an 18-day visit to India in 2005. In addition to Medieval English, Everett’s research interests include the work of William Faulkner. He published a book *Faulkner’s Art and Characters* in 1969.

While teaching has been the primary goal for Everett at USI, he described his years as head of the Department of English from 1989-2001 as a highlight, giving him opportunities to serve both students and faculty. He also has been a leader in activities to strengthen the teaching of English/language arts in secondary schools.

**Marjorie Jones**, instructor in anthropology, will spend a portion of her spring sabbatical prior to retirement making sure that the University collections are properly documented and in good shape for her successor.

With USI’s interdisciplinary major in international studies and considering the increasing globalization in all fields, Jones foresees a bright future for her discipline. “If there’s any discipline that focuses



*Marjorie Jones with Jeremy Jobst*

student attention on the rest of the world, it’s anthropology,” she said.

Jones has been a part of or the leader in 10 archaeological surveys, and she has helped excavate seven sites in Southern Indiana and Kentucky. In retirement, she will continue her interest in archaeological research as a volunteer. She plans to assist an Indiana University research scientist with the continuation of a Posey County dig. With another collaborator, she will explore revising a guidebook for Angel Mounds Historic Site.

Jones is a member of the state Heritage Trust Project Committee, which uses funds from the environmental license plate, along with support from partner organizations, to purchase land for conservation, recreation, protection, or restoration.

**John McNaughton**, professor of art, has long balanced the role of art educator with professional artist.

“Before I get too old, I want to build a studio and deal with clients as a professional artist,” he said. The studio is finished. McNaughton is building cabinets and accessories for the interior.



*John McNaughton with Sarah Strunk*

Several projects are on his agenda. He is collaborating with USI’s Katie Waters to design three limestone reliefs for the facade of the new USI library and will make a sculpture for the interior.

In May, McNaughton will curate a show at the Chapman Friedman Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky, inviting 10 artist friends, some of them USI graduates, to exhibit with him. He will exhibit a piece in May at Mobilia Gallery in Boston and will create a piece for the grounds of the Indianapolis Art Center in the Broad Ripple area for a June exhibit.

## School of Liberal Arts welcomes new faculty

The School of Liberal Arts welcomed 18 new faculty members in the fall. The paragraphs that follow introduce those from three departments. Information about new faculty from other departments will appear in the spring issue of *LA Story*.

### Art, Music, and Theatre

**Xinran Hu**, assistant professor of graphic design, was most recently an assistant professor at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. She earned an undergraduate degree at Hebel Normal University in the People's Republic of China and completed a master's in fine arts at Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2002. Hu has worked in a variety of business environments in China and in the United States over the past eight years. She is a member of the College Art Association and the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

**Heather Mabley**, instructor in theatre-lighting design, worked with USI productions at Lincoln Amphitheatre last summer and continues to do project management and lighting design on a free-lance basis. She was formerly associated with Designlab Chicago.

Mabley earned a bachelor's degree in theatre arts at California State University, Chico, and a master's in lighting design and theatre arts from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### Communications

**Wesley T. Durham**, instructor in communications, came to USI from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was a graduate student teacher while pursuing a doctorate. He plans to finish the degree work in December. Durham's major area of study at UNL was in relational and family communication with a supporting area in communication and culture. His dissertation topic is "The Family Planning Communication of Voluntarily Child-Free Couples." Durham holds master's and bachelor's degrees from Western Kentucky University.

**Susan Kiesel**, instructor in communication studies, is a Ph.D. candidate at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in speech communication with a focus in rhetoric and philosophy of communication. Her dissertation focuses on the ways adoptive mothers and birth mothers use narrative to craft their

identities as mothers in adoption situations. She earned a master's at Western Kentucky University and a bachelor's at University of Colorado Boulder.

**Dr. Chad R. Tew**, assistant professor of online journalism, has worked as an assistant instructor at Indiana University and as an assistant professor at University of San Diego. He earned a Ph.D. in 2003 at Indiana University, where he also earned an M.A., M.L.S., and B.A. He is a member of the International Communication Association, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. (See "More on new faculty," page 5.)

### English

**Nicole Banks**, instructor in English, previously worked as an adjunct English instructor at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois. She earned an M.A. in English in 1999 and a B.A. in 1998, both from Western Illinois University, and served as a graduate tutor in the college's writing center. Banks is a *summa cum laude* gradu-

*continued on next page*

*Waters - cont. from page 1*

The Art Educator of the Year, Jane-Case Vickers '89 was an art major at USI and a former student of Waters. The Young Artist of the Year, Signature School senior Whitney Oliver, is enrolled this semester in Waters' painting class.

"I am proud to be associated with these exceptional women artists and to be part of the continuum of the visual arts in Evansville and southwestern Indiana," Waters said.

Looking forward to a sabbatical in spring semester, she said, "I am going to paint! I will spend part of the time in my studio here in Evansville, but I have applied for residency at several artist colonies. These are wonderful places where artists, writers, choreographers,

playwrights, etc. are given meals, lodging, and a studio and are allowed to work. The uninterrupted time to create and the interaction with the other residents are tremendously valuable experiences."

From mid-April through May, she will live and work at the Ragdale Foundation, an artists' retreat in Lake Forest, Illinois.

Waters joined USI in 1981. She teaches courses in drawing and painting and conducts USI's senior art seminar. Her work appears in many private and cor-

porate collections, and her drawings and paintings have been exhibited widely at the national and regional levels.

In 2000, she was the only artist from Southern Indiana selected for inclusion in the State of Indiana exhibition at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and in 2002 the new Indiana

State Museum purchased three of her works for its inaugural exhibition and permanent collection. She is the recipient of two Indiana Arts Commission Master fellowships and a National Endowment for the Arts Midwest Fellowship.



*"Off the Interstate" by Katie Waters*

continued from previous page

ate, a John Merritt Scholar recipient, and a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

**Mary Frances Heinsohn**, instructor in English, is a doctoral candidate at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and served as an instructor there. She also has taught at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut; St. Hilda's and St. Hugh's School in New York, New York; and Melrose Country Day School in Brewster, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* at Western Connecticut State University and a master's at Texas Tech.

**Lisa Anne Nicholas**, instructor in English, is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Dallas' Institute of Philosophic Studies. She has taught as a visiting instructor at University of Dallas and was an adjunct instructor at El Centro College in Dallas. She also has experience as a graphic designer. Nicholas earned a B.A. in English and Spanish from Rockford College, where she became a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and an M.A. in English from University of Dallas.

**Nicole L. Reid**, assistant professor of English, is the author of the novel *In the Breeze of Passing Things* published



Hu



Durham



Kiesel



Tew



Banks



Heinsohn



Nicholas



Reid



von Loewenfeldt

in 2003 by MacAdam/Cage. (See "More on new faculty," below.) She previously worked as a lecturer at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, and as an adjunct instructor at American University and George Mason University, where she earned an M.F.A. in creative writing in 2001. She also holds a B.A. from Mary Washington College. Her stories and poems have appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Quarterly West*, *Meridian*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Confrontation*, *turnrow*, *New Orleans Review*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. She is the winner of the 2001 Willamette Award in Fiction and has received other writing awards.

**Dr. Paula von Loewenfeldt**, assistant professor of English, previously worked as a visiting assistant professor at University of Puget Sound, a visiting assistant professor at Michigan State University, and an instructor at Purdue University, where she earned a Ph.D. in 2000 with a dissertation on late 15th-century British drama. She also holds an M.A. from Southern Oregon University and a B.A. from University of California-Berkeley. She is a member of the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society, the Shakespeare Association of America, and the Chaucer Society.

## More on new faculty

### Nicole Reid Second novel in progress

Nicole Reid's debut novel *In the Breeze of Passing Things* is the story of a 10-year-old girl's longing to see her father as the mother moves the child and her younger sister farther and farther from his last-known address. Reid set the book in the South for its "interesting voices and musical landscape."



Assistant professor of English, Reid read from her novel on campus during the fall RopeWalk Reading Series and

participated October 9 in a panel discussion and book-signing at the Southern Festival of Books in Memphis. She will read from her book at 4 p.m. February 3 for the English Coffee Hour Series at the University of Evansville.

Reid's second novel is in progress. While the first was narrated by 10-year-old Iva, her second will be told by four main characters, two of them adults.

### Chad Tew Researching pop culture

Chad Tew's research interests are in digital media; culture, language, and expression; and popular culture. "I'm really interested in how people express themselves with new media," he said.

Assistant professor of online journalism, Tew recently presented a paper at a meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association on controversial strategies used in the online coverage of the deaths of American soldiers in the current war in Iraq, the first war where the Internet has played a significant role in conveying such news.

In spring semester, Tew will teach a new course in digital storytelling. "I want students to work with nonfiction but to experiment with the form. The narrative changes once you put stories online, giving audiences new ways of interacting and new choices," he said.

# Spotlight shines on growing theatre program

More students who want to learn about acting, lighting design, stage management, directing, and other theatre arts are choosing to study at the University of Southern Indiana. The theatre program in the School of Liberal Arts has about 80 majors, almost double the number of students from two years ago.

Kensington Blaylock, a sophomore theatre major from Evansville, said, "I think that USI is rare in that it gives students an opportunity to perform in their freshman year. If you can get into the game that early, you really have a head start."

Blaylock acted in *Charley's Aunt* and *A...My Name is Alice* and worked on the technical crew of *Loot* as a freshman. She appeared this semester in the production of *The Laramie Project*.

Elliot Wasserman, associate director of theatre, said that hosting the regional American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in 2002 and 2003 helped raise the profile of the USI program. Participants came from universities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin to perform in Evansville. Almost 1,500 people, a record number, registered for the 2002 event.

"We reached out to students from area high schools, inviting them to observe and volunteer," Wasserman said.

Although individual USI students have competed for acting scholarship awards at ACTF in the past, this fall's production of *The Laramie Project* was the program's first experience in preparing a participating entry. ACTF judges traveled to Evansville to see the play. USI theatre faculty will learn in December if the production was selected for performance at the 2005 regional festival.

Other developments that continue to strengthen the USI theatre program include the following:

- A faculty member experienced in musical theatre joined the department last year. John Berst, instructor in theatre, earned an M.F.A. from Purdue University.

- The theatre program continues to expand its partnership with Daniel Craig, USI assistant professor of music and director of University choral groups. Students interested in both singing and theatre have opportunities to learn and perform.

- With the assistance of the Office of Admission, the theatre program has the funds to award \$1,000 renewable scholarships to 10 new students each fall. Students must audition or present a portfolio.

"Not only has our number of theatre students increased, but also we are attracting excellent students with the talent scholarships," Wasserman said.

- Curriculum revisions will allow for more specialization at the higher level so "designers can be designers and actors can be actors," Wasserman said.

In spring semester a new course in children's theatre production will be offered. It is designed to be of interest to education majors who anticipate teaching creative dramatics or directing productions in elementary or secondary schools.

- Students in other majors are encouraged to take theatre courses as electives. Courses complement careers in such fields as public relations, law, or business.

- Wasserman and other faculty members have attended the state conference for high-school thespians. Though their schedules are busy with theatre classes and productions, USI theatre faculty often are available to consult with area high schools on program needs, offering acting workshops, technical expertise, or other help.

- USI relationships with summer theatre are a plus for theatre majors. USI produces summer theatre in New Harmony, Indiana, and at Lincoln Amphitheatre in Lincoln State Park.

Students can apply for paid technical and administrative positions at New Harmony Theatre. Students can audition to perform in Lincoln Amphitheatre productions and receive consideration along with performing artists from all over the country. Crew positions also are available.

USI theatre students audition at the Southeastern Theatre

Conference (SETC) for summer and year-round employment throughout the nation.

Aaron Bonds, a 2004 graduate of the USI theatre program, is touring this fall with the Hampstead Players of Barnstead, New Hampshire, a job he was offered after auditioning at SETC.

"Not a day goes by that we are not open to expanding the vision with more options and opportunities," Wasserman said.



*Josh Buente, seated, and Greg Schafer portray a scene from The Laramie Project. Judges from the regional American College Theatre Festival recently viewed USI's production of the play.*

## Poster series presents benefits of MPA degree

Are you in line for promotion? Do you have your dream job? Do you want to be a better manager?

A series of eight posters on campus and in the community lets prospective students know how the School of Liberal Arts' master's program in public administration can help them succeed. The MPA degree is the professional degree for people who want a management career in the public sector or in nonprofit organizations. The pro-

gram prepares graduates to meet the economic, social, and political challenges that face these institutions.

Introduced in fall 2003, the MPA program includes 36 credit hours. Students without professional careers also must complete an internship.

USI's first class of MPA candidates will graduate in spring semester.



Johnson

### M.A.L.S. graduate working at Pepperdine

Ken Johnson, a 2004 graduate of the master's program in liberal studies, has been named university records manager at Pepperdine

University in Malibu, California. He plans to teach rhetoric as an adjunct faculty member during spring semester. A former resident of Malibu, Johnson also earned a bachelor's in general studies at USI.

Pamela Van Vorst, a student in the MPA program, is featured on one of eight recruitment posters.

## Please help strengthen the School of Liberal Arts and support USI students

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## Upcoming Events

- January**  
**8-19 Senior Seminar - Exhibition 1**  
**22-Feb. 5 Senior Seminar - Exhibition 2**  
 (both seminars at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art)
- February**  
**10 RopeWalk Reading Series**  
 Jennifer S. Davis, fiction writer
- 16-20 Antigone**  
**22-17** Mallette Studio Theatre
- 24 RopeWalk Reading Series**  
 Richard Jackson, poet
- 25-27 RopeWalk Winter Retreat**  
 featuring Richard Jackson, poet, and Margaret McMullan, novelist
- March**  
**8 High School Media Day**  
 Department of Communications
- 17 Ropewalk Reading Series**  
 A celebration of Irish words and music
- 20 Honors Day**
- April**  
**TBA Ropewalk Reading Series**  
 National Poetry Month
- 10-17 Juried Student Art Exhibition**
- 13-17 Little Shop of Horrors**  
**19-24** USI Theatre
- May**  
**8 USI Commencement**
- For more important dates, check the Web site at [www.usi.edu/libarts/calendar](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/calendar).

## Short Notes

### Students lend creative thought and design to Toast to the Arts

Student thought and design have come together to help the USI Society for Arts & Humanities plan its 14th Annual Toast to the Arts. The dinner and auction will take place at 7 p.m., February 4, at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science.

Jennifer Stilwell submitted the line "Art: Some Assembly Required" as the theme of the event, and Brian Cook won a contest to design artwork for the printed materials. Both Stilwell and Cook were inspired by sculptures—"Wednesday" by Nicholas Goodman and "Horsepower" by Heather Duffy—which the society purchased at last spring's Juried Student Art Exhibition. Kyle Schimmell provided photographic services.

Chairs of this year's dinner and auction are Alan and Marilyn Johnson and Gene and Charlotte Warren. The auction will feature works of art



*The two student-made sculptures which inspired this design will be up for bid at the 14th Annual Toast to the Arts.*

by students, faculty, and community artists as well as antiques, dinner parties, and other unusual items.

Proceeds provide support for programs of the USI Society for Arts & Humanities with special grants to The New Harmony Theatre, RopeWalk Writers Retreat, student development, and *Southern Indiana Review*.

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**LAS** Story  
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