LOCATION

The Center for Communal Studies is located on the University of Southern Indiana campus. The University is two miles west of Evansville, Indiana, on Indiana Highway 62. Evansville has a regional airport with jet service from Chicago, Atlanta, and elsewhere.

YOU CAN HELP

The Center welcomes your inquiries (phone 812-465-1656), information, expertise, communal materials and tax-deductible donations.

For information go to USI.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center or contact:

Dr. Casey Harison, director
Center for Communal Studies
Phone 812-465-7150
charison@usi.edu

8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47712

USI.edu

It is the policy of the University of Southern Indiana to be in full compliance with all federal and state non-discrimination and equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations relating to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Coordinator, USI Human Resources Department, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH COLLECTION

Scholars and researchers are invited to use the Communal Studies Collection of primary and secondary resources on more than 500 historic and contemporary communes. Items range from newsletters of communal groups to the private collections of Harmonist scholar Karl J. R. Arndt.

An additional resource is the Communal Studies image collection, which contains over 10,000 images of communities as well as finding aids and a Communal Studies reading room with an extensive research library. Online resources also can be found at USI.edu/library/university-archives-and-special-collections/collections.

The Center and the Communal Studies Collection are housed in the University Archives and Special Collections of the David L. Rice Library on the campus of the University of Southern Indiana. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For collection information, phone the archives at 812-464-1832 or email jagreene@usi.edu.
In 1976 Dr. Donald Pitzer created the Center for Communal Studies as a clearinghouse for information and a research resource on past and present communal groups worldwide. The Center encourages and facilitates scholarship, meetings, historic preservation, teaching and public understanding of historic and contemporary intentional communities.

PROGRAMES

The Center for Communal Studies has an abundance of programming resources from its contacts with historic communal sites, contemporary communities and organizations that study utopian groups, including the Communal Studies Association, International Communal Studies Association, Fellowship for Intentional Community, Society for Utopian Studies and others. The Center sponsors annual lectures, conferences, colloquia and other events designed to increase knowledge of Communal Studies.

CENTER PRIZES AND RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

The Center annually awards a $250 prize for the Best Undergraduate Student Paper and a $500 prize for the Best Graduate Student Paper on historic or contemporary communal groups, intentional communities, and utopias. Deadline for submissions is March 1, and the prize winners are announced in April.

An annual Research Travel Grant funds research in the Communal Studies Collection at USI’s Rice Library and at the Center. The award will fund research up to $2,000 to be used by June 30 of the subsequent year. Applications are due by May 1, and the winner is announced in June.

REGIONAL RESEARCH

The Center for Communal Studies is part of a rich array of historic communal resources within a 30-mile radius from the University of Southern Indiana campus. The Center’s research capabilities are enhanced by its special relationship with the famous Harmonist and Owenite village of New Harmony, Indiana. The University manages an archive and public tours of this idyllic setting of gardens, statuary, and historic communal buildings. New Harmony’s 1838 Working Men’s Institute library and the Indiana State Museum collection also offer unique research opportunities.