

engage

Thissen named Innovation Corridor manager

Dr. Mark Bernhard, associate provost for Outreach and Engagement at the University of Southern Indiana, has named Michael Thissen Innovation Corridor manager in USI's **Center for Applied Research and Economic Development (CARED)**.

Thissen will coordinate, promote, evaluate, and deliver programs and activities in support of developing an Innovation Corridor along I-69, initially between Evansville and Crane in Indiana. He will serve on the I-69 Innovation Corridor executive committee and provide direction and assistance to the I-69 Innovation Corridor task forces and other committee members to maximize their effectiveness in bringing development to the corridor.

Thissen was formerly employed as director of community affairs/senior advisor for the Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the State of Indiana. In this role, he represented the Lieutenant Governor to establish relationships with local units of government to help them identify their economic and community capacity building needs.

Prior to working for the State of Indiana, Thissen was the senior consultant and owner of Lighthouse Consulting, an economic and community development consulting firm in Grinnell, Iowa. Thissen specialized in advising and consulting on rural initiatives and assisted with entrepreneurial project management.

"Michael's background and experience are a perfect fit for this position," said Daniela Vidal, director of CARED. "His previous work within



Michael Thissen

the Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the state of Indiana has given him critical knowledge and key connections within the counties around the corridor. He has already started leveraging his current network and making new connections to jumpstart projects identified by the task forces."

Last year during an I-69 consortium meeting, five task forces were deployed to gather input and propose projects around the key components of the shared strategic framework for this initiative. These areas include brainpower, entrepreneurship and innovation networks, quality and connected places, branding, and civic collaboration. Over 100 individuals have been involved in the task forces and meetings have been held along the corridor. Some important outcomes from these efforts include the

implementation of several key projects around workforce development and education; the creation of co-working spaces for innovators and entrepreneurs at Innovation Pointe; the creation of a network of experts, mentors, and investors who have already assisted with a number of projects; and a social media presence that communicates events and updates on corridor news, including I-69 Innovation Corridor and I-69 Ignite.

"Southwest Indiana has tremendous opportunity for growth," said Thissen. "The I-69 infrastructure is pivotal in aligning and strengthening our region and I am very excited to assist the greater effort to build a strong corridor that will add to our quality of place and our capacity to innovate. We are uniquely strong in our production clusters and natural resources, and our ability in the arena of transport and trade will support the initiatives of all communities who will benefit."

Thissen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology and history from Washington University in Saint Louis. He also holds a certificate from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute and is trained in Simplex Creative Problem Solving.

He is a member of the Indiana Economic Development Association, Indiana Business Council, Indiana Economic Development University Partners Working Group, Indiana's Rural Roundtable, Midwest Archaeological Association, and University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute Alumni Network.

ROTC program graduates largest class in a decade

Nine cadets from the **Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)** program will take the Oath of Office during a Commissioning Ceremony at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, in Mitchell Auditorium in USI's Health Professions Center. With the words, "I solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States,"

the cadets will complete their transition to Army Officer and commit their lives to protecting the freedoms enjoyed by our country's citizens. This year's class will be the largest to graduate in over a decade.

▼ *Continued on page 3*

Letter from the Associate Provost

The winter and early spring of 2014 have been busy and productive for the Division of Outreach and Engagement. Among the highlights:

- USI's application for reclassification of the Carnegie Engaged University has been submitted to the Carnegie Foundation. While we will not know until January 2015 whether we will be re-awarded this prestigious designation, we know we have prepared a very strong proposal and it is clear that USI is conducting significant, impactful engagement work across campus and in the community. I wish to thank Dr. Katherine Draughon from the Office of Planning, Research, and Assessment, along with Linda Cleek, Taylor Gogel, Brandi Schwartz, and Andrea Sinnett in Outreach and Engagement, as well as countless others across campus for their excellent efforts over the past year in preparing this application.
- The Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program will introduce two new tracks in enterprising leadership and public service for fall 2015. We will actively market and recruit a cohort for the fall. The military, both active and veteran, and corporate employees will be two primary audiences along with previous USI students who have not completed a degree. A new feature of the program includes courses largely online and in an accelerated format.
- The Office of Veteran Support Services has been very successful in enhancing services for student veterans and enhancing engagement opportunities with veterans' groups in the community. This semester USI has increased the number of student veterans attending classes to 379.
- Michael Thissen, our new Innovation Corridor Manager, has hit the ground running since starting in January. He recently conducted a Mayors' Roundtable in Washington, Indiana, led a benchmarking trip to Northeast Indiana, and attended a congressional fly-in in Washington, D.C. in April. Activities for the I-69 Innovation Corridor Initiative are aimed at enhancing education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and quality of life potential in the region.
- As you'll read in this edition, we were fortunate to have singer-songwriter Jen Chapin perform and lecture at USI and New Harmony in March. We hope for future engagements with Jen.

As always, until next time, be well and let any of us in Outreach and Engagement know if we can be of assistance with any of your outreach and engagement needs.

All the best,



Dr. Mark C. Bernhard
Associate Provost for
Outreach and Engagement



Bernhard



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▼ ROTC graduation continued

The Commissioning Ceremony is a long-standing tradition that represents the end of a cadet's training and college career and marks their first steps as leaders in the United States Army. Once commissioned, cadets become new officers and receive their diplomas as Second Lieutenants. The ceremony will begin with remarks by guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weaver, who had a direct impact on the establishment of the ROTC program at USI.

During their tenure as USI students, cadets receive specialized training that helps mold them into effective leaders in military and civilian capacities. ROTC cadets live by the motto "Scholar, Athlete, Leader."

Scholar signifies a commitment to academic excellence, taking courses specific to their major on top of an ROTC curriculum that is designed to develop leaders as critical thinkers through complex problems, practical exercise, and course projects.

Athletics requires cadets to be physically fit, which helps them become an essential member of a team. Cadets learn how to work with one another, enhancing their strengths and minimizing their weaknesses. By attending physical training sessions three times a week, cadets are instilled with a sense of discipline that is critical to their future success. Training consists of multiple activities, ranging from group runs to team-building exercises. Physical fitness is measured by push-ups, sit-ups, and a two-mile run.

Leader signifies the constant development of cadets to energize others in achieving a common goal. Through experience gained in leadership positions, cadets learn how to bring out the best in others.

An Official Pinning and First Salute also will take place at the ceremony. The pinning has personal significance, as cadets will be



Major Chris Dalrymple, assistant professor of military science, will administer the Oath of Office to nine USI cadets during a Commissioning Ceremony on Saturday, May 3. Cadets include (left to right) Katy Sirois, Spenser Martin, Ethan Broerman, Lucas Matte, Adrian Rustman, Keller Wash, Daniel Griffith, and Milo Estrello. Not pictured: Nickolas Kozan.

pinned Second Lieutenant by an individual who helped them along their path of becoming an officer. The First Salute will mark the end of the ceremony and will represent the enlisted soldiers' respect for their new rank and position. In addition, newly commissioned officers will give a silver dollar to the first enlisted soldier to salute them, signifying the gratitude the officer has for their mentorship.

For more information, contact Major Chris Dalrymple, assistant professor of military science, at 812-461-5304 or cmdalrympl@usi.edu.

Service Learning Program engages community



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, USI students mentored local youth during a sports clinic. Participants learned about childhood obesity, college ambitions, and other issues that influence youth. The Day of Service event was coordinated by USI's Department of Athletics, Multicultural Center, and Service Learning Program, and was funded through a grant from Indiana Campus Compact.



Participants attended the culminating Big Read event on March 7 at Central Library in Evansville. The event included a presentation on the range of impacts and outcomes of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl by Mark Cambron, district conservationist for Vanderburgh County. A month-long program, The Big Read offered a series of events related to the novel The Grapes of Wrath. The program was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and was sponsored by several departments at USI, including the Service Learning Program, as well as local groups and organizations.

Twenty-three applicants selected to participate in USI's 2014 Connect with Southern Indiana program

Twenty-three individuals have been selected to participate in the University of Southern Indiana's 2014 Connect with Southern Indiana program. An annual leadership program, Connect with Southern Indiana was established in 2006 through a Lilly Endowment grant and is managed by USI's **Historic Southern Indiana**. The intent of the program is to boost Indiana's retention of intellectual capital by helping participants strengthen their skills and opportunities for involvement in community and regional projects, meet business and civic leaders, and gain greater awareness of community and regional needs.

Connect with Southern Indiana focuses on a social entrepreneurship model where participants seek innovative solutions to a variety of problems or needs. Those who participate in the program help bridge the gap between entrepreneurial thought and practice by focusing on activities that must be carried out by innovation-oriented organizations. The program is designed to actively immerse participants in the strategic entrepreneurial process with the objectives to reinforce and develop divergent thinking, analytical thinking, and communication skills.

Program participants will attend 10 full-day sessions and will develop a collaborative project to be presented at the end of the program.

Connect with Southern Indiana is open to current USI students, faculty, and staff, and Indiana residents living in Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, or Warrick counties who would like to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The 2014 class includes Julie Brauser, assistant director, USI's Career Services and Internships; Rebecca Deeg, grant administrator, USI's Office of Sponsored Projects and Research Administration; Brian Drogich, director, Pike County Area Rehabilitation Center; Catherine Duenne, music director, Saint Ferdinand Parish; Megan Glenn, senior program assistant, USI's Historic Southern Indiana, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration

program; Jonna Guy, director of admissions, Golden Living Center – Petersburg; Ramona Harvey, graduate student,

USI's Master of Public Administration program; Brenton Hasenour, project engineer, Commonwealth Engineers; Jason Hoffman, application development manager, Kimball Office; Garry Holstein, director, USI's New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; Heather Hortenstine, graduate assistant and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; Brittany Johnson, Posey County director, Chamber of Commerce of Southwestern Indiana; Stephanie Hinton Kaho, program coordinator, Junior Achievement of Southwestern Indiana; Kenneth McWilliams, office manager, Jenny McWilliams DDS, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; Matthew Nichols, account manager, Nichols Electric Supply; Koryn Parsons, senior admission counselor, USI's Admission Office, and graduate student, USI's Master of Arts in Communication program; Ashley Polen, admissions counselor, Vincennes University, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; Bertha Proctor, chief executive officer, Pace Community Action Agency, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; Linda Reed, grant writer/special project coordinator, USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement, and graduate student, USI's Master of Public Administration program; John Schroeder, vice president of drivetrain manufacturing, Jasper Engines and Transmissions; Brandi Schwartz, marketing coordinator, USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement, and graduate student, USI's Master of Arts in Communication program; Aaron Sherretz, gas storage supervisor, Vectren; and Ann Tornatta, marketing/communication manager, Deaconess Hospital.

Applications to participate in the 2015 Connect with Southern Indiana program will be available this summer.



Dubois county teacher receives USI's O'Bannon Award

Cheryl Sermersheim, a first grade teacher at Ireland Elementary School in Ireland, Indiana, has received the 2013 Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Engagement Award. Presented by USI's **Historic Southern Indiana**, the award recognizes an individual who is an exemplary model of community education activities.

Nominated by Mary Ann Hayes, vice president and collections chair at the Dubois County Museum, Sermersheim is the creator of Main Street Dubois County and the Little Pioneers Interactive Children's Area at the Dubois County Museum. The 6,600 square foot educational exhibit, completed in August of 2012, allows children and adults to



Leslie Townsend (right), director of Historic Southern Indiana, presents Cheryl Sermersheim, first grade teacher at Ireland Elementary School, with the 2013 Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Engagement Award.

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New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art currently hosting *Displacement part two: Of Internal Affairs*



Flight Archive #17 by artist Christine Zuercher is one of many pieces currently on display in the exhibition titled *Displacement part two: Of Internal Affairs* at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art.

USI's **New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art** is currently hosting *Displacement part two: Of Internal Affairs*. A collaboration between the University of Louisville's Hite Institute, Spaulding University's Huff Gallery, and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, the exhibition is Reason's thesis project for the Hite Institute's Master of Arts of Curatorial Studies with components at both the Huff Gallery and the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. For this endeavor, Reason has utilized the concept of displacement as unifying context for the selected works and spaces that are represented in this project.

"Displacement is a complex phenomenon that can be translated into many different contexts to ultimately describe when we experience a shift," said Reason. "These shifts happen on many levels and in varying degrees creating a constant flux of conditions that affect our physical, psychological, and emotional situations."

Works in the exhibition represent a wide assortment of materials and methodologies realized by diverse spectrum of artists. From students to professionals, Reason's selection includes a sample of Midwestern artists, but also draws work from as far away as Russia.

"The artists represented in this exhibition explore—and on occasion create—the condition of displacement using traditional fine art mediums as well as progressive, experimental, and unexpected materials and presentations," said Reason. "The work featured includes an interactive sculpture, a crowd-sourced photography

project, digitally and manually layered images, complex geometric shapes in paintings and projections, sound installations, collected samplings (both real and fictitious), and observations of place and hypothetical spaces."

Displacement part one: A Reckoning took place at the Huff Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky, and a related but not identical component is now at New Harmony. Reason notes that the movement of the show from one venue to the next reinforces the conceptual framework and becomes an active element of the project.

"The exhibition itself is subjected to displacement, as it occurs in two places, breaking the confines of the traditional gallery paradigm. The two places—Louisville, Kentucky, and New Harmony, Indiana—are diametrically dissimilar in characteristics and force a consideration of the affects a place can have on an experience, such as viewing an exhibition," said Reason.

Displacement part two: Of Internal Affairs will run through Friday, May 30, when a closing reception will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony, Indiana, and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and Noon to 4 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call Garry Holstein, director of the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, at 812-682-3156 or gholstein@usi.edu.

Super Summer sessions coming to Evansville and New Harmony

The Center for Education Services and Partnerships will offer two, one-week Super Summer sessions for children ages Pre-K4 through 14. Morning classes from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and afternoon classes from 12:30 to 3 p.m. will be available. Operating every summer since the early '80s, Super Summer has provided a variety of enrichment opportunities to hundreds of children.

Session one will take place June 9-13 at the University of Southern Indiana. The second session will take place July 14-18 at Hebron Elementary, located at 4400 Bellemeade Avenue in Evansville. Classes will include chess, recycling, graphic design, balsa wood bridge building, art, robotics, cooking, Spanish, and more.

In celebration of New Harmony's bicentennial, a special day-long, multidisciplinary course will be held during session one from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A limited number of students entering grades 6 through 9 will spend three full days in New Harmony and two days on USI's campus, engaging in activities focused on entomology, architecture, art, geology, archaeology, pottery, and more. Transportation will be provided and students should bring a non-perishable lunch, water bottle, hat, and sunscreen.

Registration is \$85 for each course or \$80 per course when registering the same child in more than one class, or when registering two or more children at the same time. The New Harmony track is \$180 and includes transportation from USI to New Harmony. Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation students who are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program may enroll in a single course for a reduced fee of \$10. Reduced-fee enrollments are limited and do not apply to the New Harmony track.

Free lunchtime supervision will be available for those enrolling in both morning and afternoon classes. Children enrolled all day and staying for lunch must be five years or older and should bring their own non-perishable lunches and drinks.

▼ O'Bannon Award continued

walk through an early 1900s village and experience an interactive children's area.

Concerned that children and youth are often a neglected age group among history museums, Sermersheim felt there was a need to include this audience in the progress of Dubois County Museum's purpose and mission. Along with her parents, Sermersheim began planning, preparing, and raising funds to support the two projects. She also spent hundreds of hours painting, cleaning, constructing, and displaying exhibits throughout a four-year production process.

The Main Street Dubois County exhibit provides a contextual display space for items that were in the museums collection but not on display. It consists of 17 rooms that portray life at the turn of the 20th century, including: a home with a summer kitchen, hotel, undertaker, bank, tavern, general store, church, medical building, newspaper shop, toy shop, shoe shop, and jail.

The Little Pioneers Interactive Children's Area consists of a one-room schoolhouse and play yard, interactive Lewis and Clark



In 2013, Dr. Jeff Seyler, USI professor of chemistry, instructed a Super Summer session titled "What's That Mean?" Students had an opportunity to explore the physical and chemical world through hands-on activities and observations of changes in matter, including the evaporation of liquid nitrogen.

YouTube View more Super Summer images on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/USIOutreach.

For more information, including a complete Super Summer schedule and registration information, visit USI.edu/supersummer or call USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement at 812-464-1989 or 800-467-8600.

expedition boat, "Grandma's Attic" for dress up, doll house and log reading nook, and discovery stations that are designed as learn-and-play centers for children 12 and under.

Since the opening, Sermersheim has added monthly programs to the exhibit space that features children's learning activities. In the future, she plans to add additional programs that will expand children's learning.

"Cheryl has a passion for teaching and has always been a very dedicated teacher in her classroom and as a staff member at Ireland Elementary School," said Hayes. "Combining her passion for teaching and love of history has brought wonderful things to the Dubois County Museum and our county."

Sermersheim is a member of the Ireland Historical Society, Dubois County Historical Society, and is a board member of Dubois County Museum. She also is active with the Dubois County Landmarks Preservation, Inc. and the Alpha Delta Kappa teacher's society.

Internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter Jen Chapin performs at USI and in New Harmony

The University of Southern Indiana presented New York City-based singer-songwriter and activist Jen Chapin as a guest artist for a two-day residency in March. During her visit, Chapin led discussions on food justice issues and performed songs from her catalogue, including her internationally praised new album *Reckoning*. Chapin (on lead vocals and guitar), was accompanied by her virtuosic Grammy-nominated acoustic bassist/husband Stephan Crump and guitarist Jamie Fox.

As much as an artistic legacy, the roots of Chapin's upbringing have inspired her "potent, jazzy, layered folk" (*Newsday*) songs and a lifetime of passionate activism, through ongoing work with WhyHunger (co-founded by her late father Harry Chapin), and other food justice groups. "Part of what I try to share with students and faculty is a hopeful perspective on the wider food movement and how new alliances are energizing and diversifying the fight for food justice locally and globally," said Chapin.

Reckoning, produced by five-time Grammy Award Winner, Kevin Killen, has received raves from fans and critics alike, earning comparisons to Ani DiFranco, Joni Mitchell, and Paul Simon. Robert Myers, *Elmore Magazine*, wrote, "it is the most mature and satisfying album of her career . . . stunningly brilliant . . . *Reckoning* is a subtle, sophisticated recording that grows in stature with each listening and is well worth your consideration."

One of the songs on *Reckoning*, "Feed Your Baby," an intimate portrait of a broken food system, is making its way around the digital world, with a feature on the blog of nutrition expert/food justice icon Marion Nestle, Danielle Nierenberg's Foodtank.org, and on the Brazilian site Glamurama.

During her residency, Chapin gave two performances on campus and one at Sara's Harmony Way in New Harmony, Indiana. All events were free and open to the public, but participants were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to support the Tri-State Food Bank and New Harmony Food Pantry. Over 300 individuals attended.

"What stood out for me from Jen's visit relates to the notion of activism," said Dr. Kevin Valadares, associate professor and chair of health administration at USI. "She stated that activism is often portrayed through things such as protesting and picketing. However, being a food activist is as simple as planting tomatoes in your own garden. It starts with the individual reclaiming their right to produce their own food."

Sponsors for these events included USI's College of Liberal Arts (Center for Social Justice Education), College of Nursing and Health Professions, **Division of Outreach and Engagement**, and **Historic New Harmony**.



Jen Chapin performs in USI's Education Center on March 19.

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Fourth of July Celebration in New Harmony

Celebrate Independence Day by attending Historic New Harmony's annual Fourth of July Celebration. The free event will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 4, at the Atheneum/Visitors Center located at 401 N. Arthur Street and will include music, patriotic speeches, and the Kiwanis Golf Cart Parade. A traditional community picnic featuring music, food, games, contests, and free root beer in Maclure Park also will take place. For more information, call 812-682-4488.

16th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium

USI will present the 16th Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Symposium from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9, in Carter Hall. The symposium will focus on topics of interests to advanced practice nurses in ambulatory and acute care settings and will include a keynote address by Paul D. Nussbaum, PhD, ABPP, neuropsychologist, and adjunct professor at University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. For more information, including registration details, call the Division of Outreach and Engagement at 812-464-1989 or visit USI.edu/health/continuing-education.

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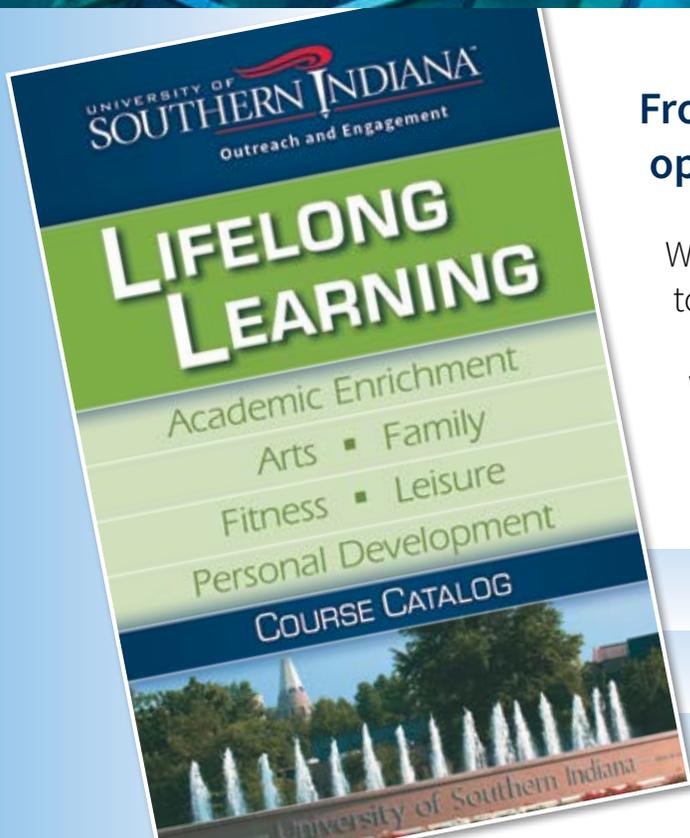
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