

## Ramsden retires after 24 years of service to the University

After 24 years of service, **Ginger Ramsden**, director of the **Center for Education Services and Partnerships**, will be taking sabbatical this spring and retire from the University of Southern Indiana on June 30.

Ramsden joined the University as coordinator of children's programs and special projects in 1988. In 2004, she became manager of Family, School, and Children's Programs and was promoted into her current position in 2008. Prior to coming USI, Ramsden taught kindergarten at Daniel Wertz Elementary School and owned and operated the Gingerbread House, offering enrichment courses for children and resources for parents.

During her time at the University, Ramsden oversaw the **Children's Learning Center** and played a vital role in its transition in becoming state licensed, helping achieve the highest level designation in 2000 from the National Association for Education for Young Children (NAEYC). Under her leadership, the Center received a \$40,000 Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program grant allowing access to childcare for students who earned too much to be eligible for vouchers, but not enough to be above poverty level. Additionally, a classroom for two-year-old children and a preschool room were added, a parent lending library was established, and additional staff was hired.

Ramsden served as a consultant to design, build, and facilitate the start-up for Deaconess Children's Learning Center, Saint Mary's Child Care Center, Evansville ARC Child Life Center, and the Posey County Learning Center. She also served as a consultant for an expansion of Saint Vincent's Day Care Center to accommodate programming for infants and toddlers.

Ramsden spearheaded USI's **College Achievement Program (CAP)**, a cooperative program that gives motivated high school juniors and seniors an opportunity to take college-level courses through their high school for college credit. The program has evolved from one course offered in three high schools with 75 enrollments, to 40 courses in 25 high schools with 3,200 enrollments. She played a vital role in the creation of national accreditation standards for dual credit programs and recently completed two terms as an officer for the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) board. In 2006, CAP became the thirteenth program to earn accreditation from the NACEP.

She created and managed countless educational programs, including a statewide school age child care certificate program. Piloted at USI,

the program's first 13 graduates served in positions within the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) Extended Day child care programs. Ramsden additionally coordinated conferences and facilitated professional development workshops for educators, child care providers, and parents; created, facilitated, and expanded summer child care programming for school-aged children, including Super Summer with 20-25 instructors teaching over 200 students each summer; and served as a liaison for various projects that linked Outreach and Engagement activities to other areas within the University, including the Southwest Indiana STEM (SwiSTEM) Resource Center.



Ramsden

Ramsden was a member of the EVSC Health Science Education Advisory Committee and the United Way Allocations panel. She also was a board member and executive officer of 4C of Southern Indiana, Inc., Evansville ARC, NACEP, Girls in Bloom, and an endorser for the National After School Association accreditation program. She is the recipient of the 2007 Karen D. Magan Inspiring Life Award from the Children's Museum of Evansville.

"Ginger Ramsden has provided tremendous leadership during her 24 years at USI," said **Dr. Mark Bernhard**, associate provost for Outreach and Engagement. "The growth of CAP and the Children's Learning Center are in no small part due to the efforts Ginger exhibited. She has also been a tremendous mentor to her staff, to her colleagues and to others throughout USI. I wish her all the best in her retirement and want her to know how much I and so many others admire her as a person and leader."

Retirement plans for Ramsden include enrolling in a Master Gardner's course to better care for her overlooked plants, and spending more time outdoors, especially with her husband at their place on Lake Barkley in Kentucky. She also will continue to serve as an executive board member of Evansville ARC and as an accreditation reviewer for the NACEP.

## Applications now available for Community Legacy Award

### HISTORIC SOUTHERN INDIANA

Historic Southern Indiana is accepting applications for the 2013 Community Legacy Award that recognizes a southern Indiana community for its outstanding achievements in preservation, enhancement, and

promotion of its distinctive heritage. The award seeks to strengthen the quality of life for residents of and visitors to southern Indiana by paying tribute to excellence in standards of community development.

The award is open to communities in Clark, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Dubois, Floyd, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Knox, Lawrence, Martin, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Pike, Posey, Ripley, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick, and Washington counties. There is no limit on the size of the community who wish to apply for the award.

Additional information and application are available online at [www.usi.edu/hsi](http://www.usi.edu/hsi). The application deadline is Monday, March 4 and the winner will be notified by Monday, April 22.

## Letter from the Associate Provost

Happy New Year! I am confident that 2013 will be a great year for the Division of Outreach and Engagement. Over the past many months our division has worked collectively to identify our core purpose and values. Our purpose and values, along with our "elevator speech," will drive the current initiatives we work on and new initiatives we take on. While we have begun to live our purpose and values internally, I am proud to share them with you here:



Bernhard

**Core Purpose:** Unleashing Potential, Expanding Knowledge

**Elevator Speech:** Outreach and Engagement is a division of USI that connects with the community, turning ideas into real opportunities. We are listeners, innovators, educators, and collaborators who enhance bonds between community, government, businesses, organizations, and individuals, responding to their needs and fostering learning and growth!

### Core Values:

**Aspire to Excellence:** Delivering high quality products, services, and programs with integrity and a positive attitude

**Seek Opportunities:** Exploring Diverse Avenues for Successful Outcomes

**Foster Collaborative Spirit:** Connecting Resources to Identify and Fulfill Community Needs

**Inspire Innovation, Ideas, and Knowledge:** Encouraging Creative Problem Solving to Meet Evolving Needs Through Lifelong Learning

One person who exemplifies our purpose and values is **Ginger Ramsden**, who is currently on sabbatical and will be retiring effective June 30. Ginger's outstanding work is featured in this month's issue of *engage*. Also, within this issue, you'll read about other meaningful projects, activities, and accolades pertaining to the Bachelor of General Studies program, Service Learning Program, Historic New Harmony, Center for Applied Research and Economic Development, Southern Indiana Japanese School, Connect with Southern Indiana, and Continuing and Professional Education.

In other news, we held our first consortium meeting for the I-69 Innovation Corridor initiative in November 2012, and will be reconvening leaders from throughout the region in February. This initiative is focused on enhancing our regional innovation and prosperity, and we are in the process of moving from the planning phase to the implementation phase. I look forward to sharing our progress in the next issue of *engage*.

Outreach and Engagement is also integrally involved in working with others across campus on a Lilly Endowment proposal focused on enhancing job opportunities for Indiana college graduates. USI's proposal is due March 31 and we will be notified in late June or July if we have secured the grant.

Please enjoy the remaining winter months and do not hesitate to contact me or the division regarding possible collaborations and initiatives.

All the best,

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

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## BGS student earns degree, advances career

When **Debra Becht** enrolled in USI's **Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)** program in the fall of 2008, she knew she had a challenge on her hands. Between raising two children and meeting the demands of her career in the financial industry, finding the time to complete a degree would be a true balancing act.

"Returning to college had been on my bucket list for many years," said Becht. "While I had the desire, I also was concerned that I could not fit it on my plate, I was fearful that it would require more time than I had to give."

Becht was employed as a regional retail manager at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville when her manager approached her about returning to college to complete a degree. With support and encouragement from her employer, family, and friends, Becht began to research her options.

"I started my investigation immediately and quickly connected with **Lee Ann Shafer**, academic program manager/BGS advisor at USI," said Becht. "We were able to work through the details on how the BGS program could meet my needs. I quickly learned that the BGS program would take into account my professional experience and prior college credits."

Over the next four years, Becht reprioritized her life so she could dedicate time to classwork. With the flexibility of the BGS program, she was

able to complete several courses online and at off-site locations in the evening. In December 2012, Becht became a proud USI graduate.

"Every course in the BGS program was a new challenge and every subject gave me different perspectives. I have been in the financial industry for 30 years, but knew that at some point I would reach a level where having a degree would be an absolute requirement regardless of my years of experience. Now I have that and it could potentially set the stage for the next step in my education," said Becht.

As a nontraditional student, Becht made it a priority to encourage and help other students succeed.

"There were many times when I would walk into a class for the first time and find that I was one of the oldest, if not the oldest, student in the room," said Becht. "I particularly enjoyed the courses that required group projects. Once someone was stuck with the old lady in their group, I like to think that they were glad I was there and that I contributed in a positive way. In fact, I made it a personal goal to maintain an A average so I could show my classmates and my children that you can do anything you set your mind to."

Becht encourages other adults to return to college to complete a degree and advises them

not to be fearful, no matter how long they have been out of school.

"The first step is to make a phone call to ask questions and get answers. Like many things in life, once you take that first step, the fear factor goes away and the next thing you know, you are sitting in a classroom learning something new every week."



Becht

The BGS degree has given Becht personal fulfillment and has helped her advance her career. She has recently taken on a new role as director of retail operations at Banterra Bank. Becht looks forward to continuing her career in the banking industry where she will have the opportunity to learn and develop her skills for wherever the road leads her next.

For more information on USI's BGS program, contact Shafer at 812/464-1879 or lshafer@usi.edu. Program information also is available online at [www.usi.edu/extserv/academic/bgs.asp](http://www.usi.edu/extserv/academic/bgs.asp).

## Division of Outreach and Engagement hires three new employees



Hollinger



O'Nan



Wolf

Three new faces have joined the USI Outreach and Engagement family.

**Erin Hollinger** is the new senior program assistant in the **Center for Education Services and Partnerships**. She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of General Studies degree from USI and is a part-time executive director of the Mount Vernon Food Pantry. Hollinger will assist in the coordination, administration, and promotion of various continuing education courses and outreach programs, including foreign

languages, family, school, and children's programs, and the College Achievement Program.

**Angie O'Nan** has joined the **Division of Outreach and Engagement** as senior administrative assistant where she will help support USI's Basic Orientation Plus (BOP) safety training program. The BOP program is a partnership between USI and the Tri-State Industrial Safety Council, a member of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils that meets most of the OSHA-mandated contractor requirements. The program helps increase safety-training efficiency for contract employees due to a reduction in redundant information being presented. O'Nan holds a Bachelor of Science degree from USI and was formerly employed as the communications and gallery events manager at the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana.

Formerly employed as an administrative services manager at Southwestern Health Services, Inc., **Deb Wolf**, PHR, has joined the **Center for Continuing and Professional Education** as a program coordinator. She will coordinate, administer, promote, and evaluate continuing education activities in the areas of professional development and business programs, including the award-winning Management Diagnostic Center. Wolf holds a Bachelor of Science degree from USI.

## Youth will be honored for helping improve community's health

The **Service Learning Program** has partnered with the Mayor's Office, multiple State Farm agents, Ivy Tech Community College, and more than 10 youth groups and schools, to sponsor a Global Youth Service Day from 2 to 5 p.m. on Friday, April 26 at USI. The city-wide event will be funded with a Youth Service America grant from the State Farm Companies Foundation and will honor youth who were involved with service activities in the community.

Global Youth Service Day, which is celebrated once a year in more than 100 countries on six continents and in all 50 states, is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes millions of children and youth who help improve their communities through service and service learning. It is the largest service event in the world and the only day of service that is dedicated to those between the ages of five and 25.

While youth serving in all areas will be honored, USI's organized event, titled "Youth

Get Fit or Moving," will be aimed at improving the community's health through events that will take place during the current spring semester.

Events include a series of fun runs for young children and consist of the Hearts on Fire 5K, Run of Luck 7K, and Spring Into Fitness 10K. Each run will be offered through USI's **Department of Kinesiology and Sport** and is funded through a Service Learning Program grant. Runs will be followed by a funfest celebration, which will include free food, contests, awards, and training for youth to become health and fitness ambassadors for their school and after school programs.

"The Global Youth Service Day event is a great way to say 'thank you' and recognize all the youth who contribute to the community," said **Dr. Anne Statham**, director of the Service Learning Program. "The community is really pulling together to make this event happen and to help everyone understand the importance of the service our youth do in our community. In the process, we will be able to

honor our own health and fitness ambassadors and the mentors who will be involved."

Hearts on Fire 5K will take place on Saturday, February 9 and will solely feature the USI campus. In its inaugural debut in 2010, it became the largest "first time" 5K in the Evansville area with 750 registered participants.

Taking place on Saturday, March 16, the 13th Annual Run of Luck 7K will begin on campus, loop onto Schutte Road, and finish on the Burdette bike path. Historically, this race has a large community following and consists of approximately 1,000 participants.

The inaugural Spring Into Fitness 10K will take place on Saturday, April 13. The race will cover the newly completed USI-Burdette Park Trail.

Additional details and registration information on all three races is available online at [www.usi.edu/running/series-info](http://www.usi.edu/running/series-info). For additional details on the Global Youth Service Day event, contact the Service Learning Program at 812/465-1203 or [servicelearning@usi.edu](mailto:servicelearning@usi.edu).

## Seventeen applicants selected for 2013 Connect with Southern Indiana program

Seventeen individuals have been selected to participate in USI's **Connect with Southern Indiana Program**. An annual regional leadership program, Connect with Southern Indiana was established through a grant from the Lilly Endowment in 2006 and is currently sponsored 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.

This year's class includes **Anuradha Asthana**, supply chain coordinator, Shoe Carnival; **Melissa Bullock**, systems analyst-ambulatory physician team, Ascension Health Information Systems; **Donald Crankshaw**, human resource and organizational development officer, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library; **Johnna Denning**, director, Posey County Community Foundation; **Wayne Fiester**, account executive, Madstache, Inc. and background screening consultant, Reference Services, Inc.; **Whitney Hall**, administrative coordinator, Dubois County Visitors Center and Tourism Commission; **Charlene Kaufman**, contractor



**Connect  
with  
Southern  
Indiana**

University of Southern Indiana

consultant at Vectren Energy Delivery, Compliance Training, Inc.; **Cheven May**, 4-H youth development educator, Purdue Extension-Posey County; **Judith Rueger**, project manager, Economic Development Southwest Region; **Mary Siegel**, marketing and research specialist, Kimball Electronics Group-Division of Kimball International; **Steven Stump**, director of development and alumni engagement, Ivy Tech Community College-Southwest; **Emily Thompson**, director, Santa Claus Museum and Village; **Carol Troesch**, owner, freelance writing, public relations, event planning, Inkspot Productions LLC; **Antonia Webster**, administrative assistant, Perry County Convention and Visitors Bureau;

**Nicholas Wildeman**, auditor/head of HR and payroll, Posey Co. Government; **Peter Williams II**, AmeriCorps service member, USI via AmeriCorps; and **Dana Wilson**, employee benefits account manager, German American Insurance.

Participants will attend ten full-day sessions over a six-month period and will develop a collaborative project that will be presented at the end of the program.

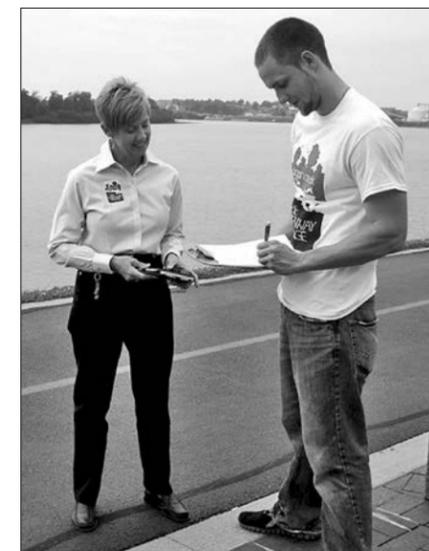
Topics for this year's class include community overviews, critical thinking, personality profiles, opportunity identification, project management, public skills, presentation planning, and government relations. USI faculty and staff and community leaders will facilitate all programs.

Connect with Southern Indiana is open to 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.

Applications to participate in the 2014 Connect with Southern Indiana program will be available this summer.

## USI faculty and students conduct Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage study

Prepared by Maggie Hurm, communications intern in the Center for Applied Research and Economic Development



George Ballart, USI senior majoring in sports management, right, surveys Denise Johnson, executive director of the Evansville Parks and Recreation Department, along the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage.

More improvements may be made along Evansville's Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage thanks to research lead by **Dr. Glenna G. Bower**, associate professor of kinesiology and sport, and **Dr. Mary Hallock Morris**, associate professor of political science and public administration.

In September 2012, Bower, Morris, and their students were stationed at three different locations along the Greenway and conducted user counts and administered intercept surveys aimed at gaining user perceptions. The researchers took their results and compiled an organized report that details major findings of the project and changes users would like to see.

Some of the major findings include the number of Greenway users, which has increased by 51 percent at the Pagoda and Garvin Park trailheads. Another is that a gender gap seems to exist; only 44 percent of users are women. Finally, close to 100 percent of respondents said they were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the Greenway.

An open-ended question on the survey asked what improvements could be made. The most popular answers included more safety features, the addition of water fountains, less trash and vandalism, extending the trail, and improving maintenance on the trail.

This is the second time USI has conducted a survey on the Greenway; the first was commissioned in 2006 by the Parks and Recreation Department board.

"Results from the survey conducted in 2006 were very revealing on the popularity of the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage," said **Glenn Boberg**, deputy director of Evansville

Parks and Recreation Department. "Results from the 2012 survey will be compared with the previous survey. We can utilize these results to seek federal and state grants for construction costs and expand the Greenway Passage in the future."

The project garnered much support from the city; **Mayor Lloyd Winnecke** and **Denise Johnson**, executive director of Evansville Parks and Recreation Department, visited with students one afternoon of the survey. They both expressed their approval of USI students taking an active approach to learning, which was another important aspect of the project.

"I found this study to be very beneficial to our students as they were able to conduct research, work on their communication skills, and network with city officials," said Bower. "I was able to provide students with a project that was hands-on and meaningful. It was rewarding to finish a project like this and have something to give back to the City of Evansville that will be utilized to improve on the Pigeon Creek Greenway."

The project was organized by the **Center for Applied Research and Economic Development (CARED)** and was partially funded by a grant provided by USI's **Service Learning Program**.

For more information, contact CARED at 812/228-5108 or [appliedresearch@usi.edu](mailto:appliedresearch@usi.edu).



More than 160 cadets from the Wabash Battalion, Detachment Reserve Officer's Training Corps program and surrounding area participated in USI's 11th Annual Norwegian Foot March on October 27. The 18.6-mile event required participants to march on a trail covering a variety of terrain while dressed in military attire and carrying a 25-pound rucksack.



The Service Learning Program helped coordinate Empty Bowls Evansville, a charity event that raised funds to combat hunger, on November 10. USI students and other volunteers created more than 500 ceramic bowls that were sold for \$10 each and filled with soup. All proceeds benefited the Tri-State Food Bank and United Caring Shelters of Evansville.

YouTube For photo stories of these events, visit our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/USIOutreach](http://www.youtube.com/USIOutreach).

## Spring RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series announced

The spring 2013 RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series will include free public readings by **Chad Simpson**, **Chloe Caldwell**, and **Donald Ray Pollock**. Each reading will begin at 5 p.m. in Traditions Lounge in University Center East and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

### Chad Simpson

Thursday, February 28

Winner of the 2012 John Simmons Short Fiction Award, Simpson was raised in Monmouth, Illinois and Logansport, Indiana. His stories and essays have appeared in *McSweeney's*, *The Sun*, *Esquire*, *Barrelhouse*, *American Short Fiction*, and many other print and online publications. He is the author of a chapbook of short fiction, *Phantoms*, and the short story collection, *Tell Everyone I Said Hi*. A recipient of an Illinois Arts Council fellowship in prose, he is an associate professor of English at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, where he received the Philip Green Wright/Lombard College Prize for Distinguished Teaching in 2010.

### Chloe Caldwell

Thursday, March 21

Caldwell is the author of the essay collection, *Legs Get Led Astray*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Nylon Magazine*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *Chronogram*, *The Frisky*, *The Sun Magazine*, *SMITH Magazine*, *Jewcy*, *Mr. Beller's Neighborhood*, Vol 1. *Brooklyn*, *Freerange Nonfiction*, and *The Faster Times*. She is the founder and curator of the Hudson River Loft Reading Series and has taught creative writing workshops at Omega Teen Camp, The Hudson Opera House, and Crow Arts Manor. Caldwell splits her time living in upstate New York and Portland, Oregon.

### Donald Ray Pollock

Thursday, April 8

Pollock grew up in southern Ohio and dropped out of high school at seventeen to work in a meatpacking plant. He then spent 32 years employed in a paper mill in Chillicothe, Ohio. He graduated from the Master of Fine Arts program at Ohio State University in 2009. His first book, *Knockemstiff*, won the 2009 PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship. Work by Pollock has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Third Coast*, *The Journal*, and *Sou'wester*. *The Devil All the Time* is his first novel.

Publications by these authors are available for purchase at the USI Bookstore and Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

Presented by USI's College of Liberal Arts, the RopeWalk Visiting Writers Reading Series is made possible through the support of Southern Indiana Review, USI Society for Arts and Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and USI Student Writers Union.



## Seven is lucky number for USI's Southern Indiana Japanese School

USI's **Southern Indiana Japanese School (SIJS)** has received the School Award in Writing from the Japan Overseas Educational Services, a subsidiary of the Japanese government's Ministry of Education and Science. Only 20 out of more than 300 Japanese schools abroad received the award. This is the seventh consecutive year that the SIJS has received this honor.

Additional writing prizes also were awarded to seven SIJS students in various categories.

**Emily Okada**, a fourth grader at Oak Hill Elementary School in Evansville, Indiana, received the Award of the Minister of Education and Science, the highest award possible, for her poem titled "My Guardian Angel." After Okada received the award, **Matthew Graham**, USI professor of English, helped her translate the poem into English.

Two prizes went to **Tomohiro Tsuge**, a second grader at William Tell Elementary School in Tell City, Indiana. He received an award in the composition category and in the poetry category.

Prizes in the composition category also went to **Mizuki Kamihira**, a ninth grader at Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana; **Toshiki Kobayashi**, a third grader at John H. Castle Elementary School in Newburgh; and **Kokona Kondo**, a second grader at Meadow Lanes Elementary School in Owensboro, Kentucky.

**Yuto Koshimizu**, a second grader at Scott Elementary School in Evansville, won a prize in the poetry category, and **Koki Kato**, a third grader at Audubon Elementary School in Owensboro, Kentucky, received a prize in the haiku poem category.

Students who received writing prizes were selected among more than 37,000 literature works in the categories of composition, poetry, Tanka poetry, and Haiku poetry.

SIJS opened in 1997 at the request of and with the financial support of Tri-state regional companies to help prepare students for a smooth transition into Japanese school life when they return home. Currently, the school has 55 students and 11 teachers who provide instruction in Japanese language, culture, and other selected disciplines on Saturdays and after the regular school day.



Students from USI's Southern Indiana Japanese School received writing prizes from the Japan Overseas Educational Services. Winners include: front row, left to right, Kokona Kondo, Toshiki Kobayashi, Yuto Koshimizu. Back row, left to right, Emily Okada, Koki Kato, and Tomohiro Tsuge. Not pictured: Mizuki Kamihira.

## Historic New Harmony supports Spiritual Diversity Project on campus

A new initiative, the University of Southern Indiana's Spiritual Diversity Project is aimed at starting an open conversation about spiritual diversity and interfaith relations on campus through informative programming and immersion activities. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Office of Religious Life, and **Historic New Harmony**, programs within the project are tailored specifically for the USI community.

Historic New Harmony is supporting this initiative with the aim of better integrating its ongoing Interfaith Dialogue Series into USI campus life. The mission of Historic New Harmony states that "by preserving its utopian legacy, Historic New Harmony inspires innovation and progressive thought through its programs and collections." A significant piece of this utopian legacy involves the spiritual dimension of community.

The founders of New Harmony, Indiana, the Harmonie Society, were religious separatists from Germany. This community was grounded in their religious beliefs, as articulated and implemented by **Fr. George Rapp**. In 1825, the Owen/Maclure utopian experiment took shape. **Robert Owen**, a Welsh industrialist who had developed his ideas about community in New Lanark, Scotland, considered the established church an impediment to social reform.

The more recent history of New Harmony has continued to reflect consideration of the role of religion and spirituality in individual and community life. Works of public art, architecture, lectures, and retreats will provide opportunities for discussion and expression of diverse spiritualities.

**Jess Durkin**, undergraduate intern and international studies major, developed the Spiritual Diversity Project. Programming includes evening discussions of Islam and Buddhism facilitated by faculty and community members, and participation in the Cultural Society of India's annual celebration of the Hindu festival, Diwali. Spring 2013 programs will include a panel discussion of Christianity, a Passover Seder meal, an interfaith picnic and bike ride along the USI-Burdette Park Trail, and an overnight retreat in New Harmony.

A blog dedicated to the Spiritual Diversity Project can be found at [spiritualdiversityusi.wordpress.com](http://spiritualdiversityusi.wordpress.com). The blog provides a space for the exploration of what faith means to



USI student Kylie Thomas Rudisill presents her vision of the kind of world she would like to create.

USI students, giving them an opportunity to share their reactions to questions about the world they want to create, and what they are thankful for. These responses are posted as photo galleries. The Spiritual Diversity Project supports students as they ask questions that shape their lives and their community, and to foster a safe environment in which these questions can be investigated and discussed.

In addition to supporting the Spiritual Diversity Project, Historic New Harmony also will host a lecture by spiritual leader **Sr. Joan Chittister** as part of its Interfaith Dialogue Series. Chittister, a Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, is an international lecturer and award-winning author of more than 40 books. Chittister will present "God: the Feminine in the Divine" at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 12, at the Atheneum located at 401 N. Arthur Street in New Harmony. The public presentation will address the feminine dimension of God in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

For more information, contact Historic New Harmony at 812/682-4488 or [harmony@usi.edu](mailto:harmony@usi.edu).

## Notes

### Continuing education opportunities delivered to your inbox

Would you like to know about upcoming noncredit continuing education opportunities? Text USINONCREDIT to 22828 and receive monthly messages on courses in arts and leisure, personal finance, professional development, computers, college readiness, fitness, and more. You can also register your email address online at [www.usi.edu/continuinged](http://www.usi.edu/continuinged).

### Saturday Art Workshop

The Center for Continuing and Professional Education will offer a Saturday Art Workshop for children ages six to 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 and 20 in USI's Technology Center. Participants will work with USI art students and faculty to create two- and three- dimensional artwork, including collages, paintings, printmaking, sculptures, and more. Registration is \$30 and includes supplies and lunch. For more information, or to register, call 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600.

### Custom retreats available

Customized-themed retreats for groups and businesses are now available in Historic New Harmony. Located on the banks of the Wabash River, New Harmony, Indiana offers world-class accommodations, meeting facilities, dining, shopping, and entertainment. Businesses can select a pre-designed retreat theme or have one created to accommodate their specific needs. For more information, contact the Division of Outreach and Engagement at 812/464-1989 or [outreach@usi.edu](mailto:outreach@usi.edu).

### Connect with us!

Follow USI Outreach and Engagement on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/USIOutreach](http://www.twitter.com/USIOutreach). You can also like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/usioutreach](http://www.facebook.com/usioutreach) and subscribe to our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/USIOutreach](http://www.youtube.com/USIOutreach).



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## Noncredit Course Sampler

### Arts and Leisure

March 5–19

**Beginning Origami**, from simple and traditional, to modern and complex, learn the many styles of Origami. Meets three Tuesdays.

April 23 and 30

**Introduction to Genealogy**, learn the basics of beginning genealogy. Find out where and how to start researching and growing your own family tree.

### Computers

March 4 and 11

**Intro to the Windows 8 Interface**, explore the Windows 8 user interface, using the new mouse and touch gestures; learn about the colored tile applications; and explore the Windows Store.

April 1–29

**Creating Websites for Small Business or Personal Use**, receive in-depth information on what to consider while designing your web site as well as what to do after it's launched. Meets five Mondays.

### Fitness, Aquatics, and Recreation

February 16

**Adult/Child/Infant CPR Recertification Course**, for those who need to be recertified in adult/child/infant cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and use of automatic external defibrillators.

April 2–May 7

**Beginning Golf**, professional instruction on golf equipment, terminology, rules, and etiquette. Lab sessions will cover clubs, grip, stance, and more. Meets six Tuesdays.

### Health Professions

February 27

**Breast Cancer: Ensuring Quality Care Symposium**, topics will include: breast cancer research; state of the art diagnosis of breast cancer; advancements in surgical procedures, advancements in radiation therapy and high-dose radiation, and treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

April 3

**10th Annual Nursing Leadership Conference**, focal points will include an overview of upcoming changes requiring a shift in mindset, ways to work smarter not harder by stopping management practices that don't work, and the value of strategic thinking for nursing leaders.

### Kids, Parents, and Teachers

February 23 or April 27

**Math Skills for the SAT**, emphasis will be on skill development in problem solving, working mathematical equations, and the rules pertaining to calculators.

March 2 or April 20

**Verbal Skills for the SAT**, emphasis will be on vocabulary development, written English, and critical reading.

### Languages

February 26–April 9

**Beginning Conversational German**, emphasis will be on basic conversational skills and phrases especially useful for travelers. Meets six Tuesdays.

March 6–April 17

**Beginning Conversational Russian**, learn basic conversational Russian, Emphasis will be on building vocabulary, but Russian culture and customs also will be covered. Meets six Wednesdays.

### Professional Development

March 28

**Resolving Conflict**, learn how to recognize an escalating conflict and how to minimize damage by using the most appropriate resolution tactic, regardless of which stage a conflict is in.

February 27, March 13, April 24, or May 15

**Management Diagnostic Center (MDC)**, USI's award-winning MDC is a well recognized and accepted center methodology to develop comprehensive training needs and profiles for supervisors, managers, and future managers.

Visit [usi.edu/continuinged](http://usi.edu/continuinged) for more information and additional courses.

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