*University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies*

*Fall 2023 Board of Advisor Meeting*

Agenda

November 14, 2023, at 11am

In-person and on zoom (ID#945 5096 7142) <https://usi.zoom.us/j/94550967142>

Board Members Present

Dr. Gregory W. Brown (Retired Principal Christa McCauliffe Alternative Middle School); Ms. Jennifer Greene (Archivist Librarian, USI); Dr. Joshua Lockyer (Professor of Anthropology, Arkansas Tech University); Dr. Susan Matarese (Professor Emerita of Political Science, University of Louisville); Dr. Donald Pitzer (Professor Emeritus of History, Director Emeritus Center for Communal Studies, USI); Dr. Michael Strezewski (Associate Professor of Anthropology, USI); Ms. Leslie Townshend (Director Community Engagement, USI); Dr. Del Doughty (Dean, College of Liberal Arts); Ms. Marna Hostetler (Director Rice Library, USI)

Director

Dr. Silvia Rode (Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Professor of German, USI)

Center Location

University of Southern Indiana, University Archives and Special Collections (David L. Rice Library, Communal Studies Reading Room 3022)

Board Candidates

Dr. Andrew Buck (Associate Professor of Sociology, USI); Dr. Matthew Hanka (Professor of Political Science, USI); Dr. Kelly Kaelin (Assistant Professor of History; USI)

1. Notes of Appreciation

The Chair thanked the following board members for their exceptional service:

1. Ms. Wendy Bredhold who presented on the Tri-State environment at the Liberal Arts Renaissance Challenge/Carbon Footprint Fair, September 7th in Carter Hall.
2. Dr. Greg Brown who chaired the *50th Communal Studies Association Conference* committee. The conference was held October 5-7 at USI and in New Harmony.
3. Ms. Jennifer Greene who organized an exhibition and tour of the USI Communal Studies Archives for participants of the *Communal Studies Association Conference*.
4. Dr. Joshua Lockyer who served on the program committee of the *Communal Studies Association Conference*.
5. Dr. Kristalyn Shefveland who led USI’s Freshmen Experience in New Harmony event. Approx. 1,200 Freshmen attended the one-day event in New Harmony in September. 38 community, USI, Historic New Harmony and CCS Board members volunteered for the event.
6. Approval and Welcome of New Board Members

The Board unanimously approved and welcomed three new members: Dr. Andrew Buck, Dr. Matthew Hanka and Dr. Kelly Kaelin.

1. Approval of Board Membership Expectations

The board unanimously approved the following membership expectations which will be included in the Bylaws:

*Board of Advisors: The Board is an advisory body. Board membership shall be determined by invitation of the current Board and is immediately effective. Vacancies and new positions on the Board are filled by invitation and approved by a majority of the Board. The Board consists of no less than eight (8) members, and no upper limit of members. Board members serve renewable, staggered, four-year terms.*

Expectations for Board Members

1. A Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board member should have a keen interest in the promotion and study of contemporary and historic communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. Furthermore, Advisory Board members should encourage and facilitate meetings, classes, scholarship, networking, and public interest in communal groups past and present, here and abroad.
2. An Advisory Board member should be aware and supportive of the relationship of Historic New Harmony, the University of Southern Indiana, and the Center for Communal Studies.
3. An Advisory Board member should make a commitment to attend the bi-annual board meetings and in advance of the meeting become familiar with material related to discussions.
4. An Advisory Board member should attend Center for Communal Studies sponsored events and activities.
5. An Advisory Board member should be willing to participate in committee work from time to time.
6. An Advisory Board member should be willing to assist in identifying and recruiting other members who have the ability to meet the expectations of the members serving on the board.

*Director: The Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from the Liberal Arts faculty. Faculty interested in the directorship apply to the Board of Advisors who shall forward the recommendation to the dean. The Director of the Center for Communal Studies is the permanent Chair of the Board. The Director issues an annual report by the end of the spring semester and fulfills the purposes identified in Article 1, Section 2.*

*Permanent Members of the Board: The Center Director, the David L. Rice Library Archives Librarian, and a representative from Historic New Harmony are Permanent Members of the Board.*

Expectations for the Director and Archivist

The director and the archivist should be advocates for the Center for Communal Studies and be willing to connect with scholars and identify sources of support.

1. Academic Home Communal Studies Minor

Based on a decision by the dean and endorsement by the director of the Center for Communal Studies, the Communal Studies minor will be housed in the Department of Sociology, starting Spring 2023. The chair of sociology will supervise and further develop the minor. A recommendation was put forth to constitute a communal studies minor committee that will consist of faculty who teach courses in the minor and board members.

1. Academics, Outreach and Engagement

USI and Historic New Harmony hosted the *50th Communal Studies Association (CSA) Conference “Communal Theory, Practice and Impact,”* October 5-7th. USI hosted an opening banquet, honoring Dr. Don Pitzer, founding member of the Center for Communal Studies and the Communal Studies Association. All conference sessions were scheduled in three locations in New Harmony. 108 participants registered for the conference; however, more USI faculty and members of the Tri-State community attended 20 sessions (see attendance breakout below):

* 1A: 76
* 2A: 36
* 2B: 19
* 2C: 20
* 3A: 39
* 3B: 22
* 3C: 7
* 4A: 18
* 4B: 22
* 4C: 11
* 5A: 50
* 6A: 27
* 6B: 25
* 6C: 27
* 7A: 50
* 7B: 28
* 7C: 20
* 8A: 25
* 8B: 32
* 8C: 21

The fall edition of the USI magazine *Illume* features an article on the Center for Communal Studies.

Kristalyn Shefveland and Silvia Rode were interviewed for a new “teaser video” on New Harmony. The video should be available in January.

In September the Center hosted Dr. Claudia Roesch from the German Historical Institute in Washington DC who conducted research for her book on climate data and technology as part of migration knowledge with regard to German settlements in the Americas during the 1820s.

The USI Foundation provided $500 to record two panel discussions of the *Communal Studies Association Conference*. The videos are available on the CCS website.

Rode was invited to participate in a podcast on Fanny Wright. The podcast is a coproduction of Indiana University faculty and faculty from the University of Southern California. The 8-episode podcast deals with radical thought in historical communities and unpacking America’s long history of grappling with race, gender, and economic inequality.

1. Collection Development (Jennifer Greene)

* Book donations (25 titles) from Tim Miller and Shirley Andrews. Most titles either were duplicates, available electronically or were outside the current collection scope.
* Jesus People USA donated publications to bring collection more current.
* Maharishi Mahesh Yogi materials, booklets, publications, pamphlets, and photographs.
* Pearl Bartelt donating research materials on American Jewish agricultural colonies. Materials will be shipped via UPS (library expense) end of November.
* Susanna Pyatt, Curator at Loretto Heritage Center, donated 8 oral histories from Loretto community of St. Benedicts, with transcripts & audio, some restrictions apply due to sensitive content.
* David Frohman, Our Story: The Farm, 2022.
* Working with Greg Brown and CSA Board to bring organizational papers to the archives.
* Janzen (148 community logos; 20 articles with interviews of present/former members of communities; Writing brief histories of communities for finding aids.

**Reference/consultations**

* 9 reference questions
* Dr. Thomas Cimarusti, FGCU, requested copies of communal music albums. Digitized and shared copies.
* Dr. Cheryl Coulthard requested copies of several letters from CS 660- Karl Arndt collection. Scanned and sent.

**Outreach**

* CSA Open House 35 people
* Assisted in developing book honoring Dr. Pitzer. Working on an online order option with Terry Bischoff. Set displays throughout the unit & open preservation room for touring. Developed program & speaker guide online, 84 views.
* Wall display on communal studies outside unit. amUSIngartifacts.org
* Posted: Living in Community series: Amna, Bethel, Aurora, and Arthurdale. Boatload of Knowledge
* Upcoming: Living in Community: Moravian, Bishop Hill, and Nauvoo. Shiloh Church & Trust

1. Budget

As of November, the Center has spent approximately $2,700, which is less than in November of the previous year. Nevertheless, we are still expecting incoming charges from the CSA conference.

1. Upcoming Events and Initiatives

Thanks to Don Janzen’s ongoing research on co-housing, we hope to invite Ross Chapin who is an architect, neighborhood planner and author based near Seattle, Washington to USI. Chapin is an advocate for sensibly sized homes and pocket neighborhoods that nourish the individual, support healthy household relationships and foster a meaningful sense of community.

Furthermore, we hope to include the MINKA project and the Evansville housing leadership to participate in the lecture and to provide sponsorship.