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## "Take a Magic Carpet Ride"

For **John McNaughton** one of the most exciting things about creating a piece of art for the new Rice Library at USI was the opportunity to watch the building take shape, pick the spot where the piece would hang, and design it specifically for that space.

With the finished piece, titled "Take a Magic Carpet Ride," McNaughton invites students to appreciate and enjoy their four years at the University.

"Often, college is a wonderful time that we don't appreciate until we look back on it," he said, "It's some of the freest time in our lives, but it can be fleeting, like a magic carpet."

The wooden carpet-shaped sculpture is approximately 7 1/2 feet wide by 13 feet long, including six-inch hand-carved wood-fringe at top and bottom.

McNaughton, USI professor emeritus of art, and **Fred Kalvelage**, USI staff architect and construction manager, scouted locations for the proposed art about a year ago. The library was under construction but enclosed at that time. They agreed the periodical reading room at the south end of the first floor was the appropriate location for McNaughton's piece, commissioned by the University's Art Collection Committee. McNaughton continued to watch the room take shape and formulate his design idea as building construction progressed. Large two-story floor-to-ceiling windows flood the area with natural light.

Because the location was chosen early on, the wall was reinforced during construction to support the weight of the piece, saving costly retrofitting.

Built in two large pieces for greater ease of installation, the wooden magic carpet is characterized by straighter lines at the top and more curves at the bottom, reminiscent of how a rug might flutter as it is shaken or hung. The two pieces were bolted together during installation. The lower fringe was attached by pegs after the main portion of the sculpture was in place.

McNaughton achieved the ripple effect with special bendable plywood. A substructure supports the sculpture, which curves out about a foot from the wall at its greatest depth. He brushed on watered-down acrylic paint in colors complementary to the reading room's art-deco inspired carpet, which has a fan-shaped motif in black and shades of teal, ochre, and sienna. McNaughton completed the finish with spray paints to achieve a misty softness.

Further inspiration for the design came from the book *Fine Art Quilts: Work by Artists of the Contemporary Quilt Art Association*, published by Fiber Studio Press. McNaughton and members of the Art Collection Committee were drawn to illustrations in the book that showed dark lines on a light background and vice versa.

Painted in light colors, the central area of the sculpture seems to evoke a light source, especially in contrast with the dark outer edges. Track lighting on the ceiling highlights the piece.

"The colors will change depending on where you are standing

when you view it," McNaughton said.

At the time of his retirement, McNaughton built a studio at his home, but the new piece for the Rice Library was constructed in the University's woodshop due to its size. **Don Wedeking**, a retired Evansville homebuilder, assisted in cutting moldings for the sculpture.

The magic carpet is a theme McNaughton has explored in his work for more than two years. Other carpet sculptures, much smaller in scale, were created for private collections or auctions to benefit nonprofit organizations, including the USI Society for Arts and Humanities.

McNaughton joined the University in 1970 and retired in 2005. He has received a fellowship from the Clowes Fund of Indianapolis to spend August 6-29 at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont. This is his second time to receive the award, which is made annually to an Indiana artist.

Evansville's downtown Central Library also features a McNaughton sculpture. His "Tree of Knowledge" hangs dramatically from the ceiling of the main lobby.

McNaughton has a national reputation for creative work. He was one of 100 international craft artists chosen to participate in the Emma Lake International Conference in Canada in 2002. His work was featured on the cover of *American Craft* magazine in December/January 1998. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. Several other pieces of his work are located on the USI campus, and his art resides in more than 300 museum, corporate, and private collections.

## Schlechte Façade

The Schlechte Façade is a limestone relief that hangs 30 feet high on the rotunda of the new David L. Rice Library at USI. It depicts the Liberal Arts Center that is located west of the new building, with items used by today's students in the foreground. The artistic façade is made possible by a major gift from Dorothea Johnson Schlechte, an Evansville resident since 1948 and long-time supporter of the arts in the community. She will celebrate her 99th birthday in December 2006.

Two USI professors collaborated on the design. **John McNaughton**, professor emeritus of art, said that he and colleague **Katie Waters**, professor of art, wanted the sculpture to be a view of campus as seen from the new building.

McNaughton met Schlechte when he was a new faculty member at USI. He was searching in 1970 for a venue for a student art show, and she arranged an exhibit in a gallery at the Washington Square Branch of Old National Bank. Her husband Walter was chairman of Old National.

When he recalls the introduction, McNaughton said, "She was the first person to reach out, and now in retirement she's still helping me out."

The limestone relief is approximately nine feet by 10 feet in size. Stone masons at Evans Limestone Company in Bedford, Indiana, carved the panel. Two partner limestone reliefs, with

other views of campus, hang in an interior library corridor with a plaque recognizing Schlechte.

## "Side by Side by Sondheim"

The final production of New Harmony Theatre's 2006 season, "Side by Side by Sondheim," is also **Scott LaFeber's** final production as artistic director. The musical revue opens July 28 and runs through August 13 in New Harmony's historic Murphy Auditorium. According to LaFeber, he has brought together a talented group of old friends and new faces for the production, which celebrates the genius of one of Broadway's most prolific and influential composers, Stephen Sondheim.

"Side by Side by Sondheim" features songs from many of Sondheim's popular musicals, including "West Side Story," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Forum," "Gypsy," "A Little Night Music," "Company," "Follies," and many others. According to music director and pianist **James Bassi**, audiences are likely to recognize songs like 'Send in the Clowns,' 'Comedy Tonight,' and 'Tonight' from "West Side Story," which Sondheim co-wrote with Leonard Bernstein. Bassi said, "I am also looking forward to introducing audiences to other wonderful Sondheim songs with which they may be less familiar."

This is Bassi's third season at The New Harmony Theatre. He was music director and pianist for "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine" (2003) and "As Thousands Cheer" (2005). Bassi worked with Sondheim when he appeared in the concert version of "Sweeney Todd" with the New York Philharmonic in 2000. According to Bassi, "Sondheim proved himself to be a consummate man of theatre. It was one of the most thrilling experiences of my life." He continued, "Working with Scott on this production is really an extension of that experience. We've assembled a particularly outstanding cast and it is such a pleasure to work with them on this material."

According to LaFeber, other "old friends" returning to The New Harmony Theatre for "Side by Side by Sondheim" include Evansville actor **Steve Small**, Evansville native **Jeffrey Johnson**, who performed in "A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine" in 2003, and **Cynthia Leigh Heim**, who played one of the Pigeon Sisters last summer in "The Odd Couple." Both Johnson and Heim have several Broadway credits, including Heim's performance as Marian in "The Music Man." Actors making their New Harmony Theatre debut in "Side by Side by Sondheim" include **Edwin Cahill**, **Bess Morrison**, and **Carrie Walsh**.

LaFeber said, "I couldn't be more excited about finishing up the season with this superb group of actors and musicians. I know audiences will find the evening to be both fun and meaningful."

The New Harmony Theatre's production of "Side by Side by Sondheim" features settings by **JR Bruce**, costumes by **Shan Jensen**, lighting by **Martin Vreeland**, and sound by **Thomas "Tommy" Thompson**. Vreeland shared a Tony Award for lighting for the Broadway production of "The Lion King."

"Side by Side by Sondheim" runs July 28 - August 13 at Murphy Auditorium. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. There is one Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. on August 12.

Tickets for all performances at New Harmony Theatre are on sale now. Prices are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$10 for anyone 25 or younger. To purchase tickets, call the box office at 1-877-NHT-SHOW or visit [www.newharmonytheatre.com](http://www.newharmonytheatre.com).

The New Harmony Theatre is a professional Equity theatre produced by the University of Southern Indiana. All plays are performed at Murphy Auditorium at 419 Tavern Street in New Harmony. Box office hours are noon until show time on perform-

ance days; noon until 5 p.m. when there is no performance. The box office is closed on Tuesdays.

## Billman exhibit at New Harmony Gallery

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art presents "The Great Shriner Race" by artist **Matt Billman '95**. The exhibition runs through August 20, 2006.

"The Great Shriner Race: Featuring Tokyo vs. Godzilla" represents individual paintings from various recent series by the prolific artist. Here the artist explores various segments of society from chickens to Shriners. The vibrant palette playfully shrouds more sinister themes. Also, there will be some comic strip drawings included for fans of his comic talents.

Billman currently lives and works in Evansville. He is an independent artist and co-creator of the "Living with Zombies" comic book series with **Christopher Herndon**. Billman earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, and a Bachelor of Science degree in painting from USI.

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For further information call 812/682-3156. The exhibition was made possible through University support.

## Accounting team is finalist in competition

The USI accounting team was named a finalist in a national competition sponsored by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA).

Teams representing four universities competed June 20 in the national finals of the IMA Video Case Competition in Las Vegas. The team representing North Carolina State University placed first in the competition. Teams from USI, James Madison University, and Western Illinois University received plaques as finalists.

This was USI's first year to enter the national competition. Team members were **May Flores** and **Donovan Sexton**, both of Newburgh, and **Kevin Farley** of Huntingburg. All are seniors majoring in accounting. Faculty advisors were **Jeanette Maier-Lytle** and **Dr. Brian L. McGuire**.

Thirteen university accounting teams entered the first round of competition. To qualify, each team prepared a 15-minute video presentation addressing a case study involving "lean accounting" and submitted it for blind judging. The top four teams qualified to present their case study live at the IMA conference, and each of the four teams received an award of \$3,000 from IMA.

USI's accounting team has won first place in the annual Indiana CPA Society Case Study Competition for the past two years.

## USI to celebrate first fall Commencement

Students who complete degree requirements in December will be ready in cap and gown when friends, family, and faculty gather at 10 a.m. December 9 at the Physical Activities center for USI's first fall Commencement.

Two factors have influenced the addition of a Commencement ceremony following fall semester: the increasing number of degree candidates and the distance from which they must travel.

At spring 2006 Commencement, 1,675 degree candidates were eligible to graduate. In recent years, USI has enrolled students from throughout the state of Indiana, more than 30 other

states, and 29 nations. Some students who complete their studies in the fall are not able to return to campus for spring Commencement. The December ceremony will allow them to celebrate their achievement with friends and family as soon as they complete their studies and before they settle into a schedule with a new career or graduate school.

Students who complete degree requirements at the end of spring semester or any of the three 2007 summer sessions are eligible to participate in the May 6 Commencement at Roberts Stadium. December graduates who wish to wait until spring Commencement may do so.

## **Wabash Heritage Paddlefest**

Historic New Harmony will present the second annual Wabash Heritage Paddlefest on Saturday, August 5. The day-long event will include a 9.7 mile canoe float at 10 a.m., beginning in Grayville, Illinois, and ending in New Harmony, with special events for the entire family throughout the day in both communities.

Nearly 300 canoe and kayak enthusiasts participated in last year's inaugural event. Organizers expect an even larger crowd on the river this year.

"This event gives us the opportunity to highlight the natural beauty of the area while introducing visitors to the history of the Wabash River and its importance to New Harmony," said **Jan Kahle**, education coordinator for Historic New Harmony. "The river was the lifeline to the rest of the world for both the Harmonists and Owen/Maclure communities."

This year's event will feature a symbolic ribbon cutting ceremony opening the Wabash Heritage Corridor, celebrating the importance of Indiana's most famous river. Occupying the heartland of the state, the river drains two-thirds of the 92 counties in the state as it flows 475 miles to its confluence with the Ohio just south of Mt. Vernon.

In addition to the popular canoe float, Grayville will offer a pancake breakfast, sponsored by the Grayville Lions Club, and other activities. After arriving in New Harmony, participants will enjoy food catered by the Red Geranium Restaurant, games and events for the entire family, historic demonstrations, and much more.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. in New Harmony. Transportation between New Harmony and Grayville will be offered free of charge. Participants are welcome to use their own canoes or kayaks and additional canoes are available for rent. Quick-start classes will be available for novices.

For the second year, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana is the presenting sponsor for the Wabash Heritage Paddlefest.

Online registration, information on sponsors, canoe rental, lodging partners, and day-of-event logistics can be found at [www.usi.edu/paddlefest](http://www.usi.edu/paddlefest).

Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

## **Names in the News**

### ***In sympathy***

The University community extends sympathy to the family of **John Munger**, director emeritus of personnel, who died July 24. Services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 29 at Alexander Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to the John Carlin Munger Jr. Scholarship Fund in the USI Foundation.

## **Welcome**

**Nickelaziena Clarkson** has accepted a position as program advisor in Student Development. She was formerly employed as an assistant residence hall director at Ball State University.

**Kates DeShaney** has accepted a position as area coordinator in Residence Life. She was formerly employed as an assistant residence hall director at Ball State University.

**Kristin Lewis** has accepted a position as administrative assistant in the College of Nursing and Health Professions.

**Ryan Miller** has accepted a position as area coordinator in Residence Life. He was formerly employed as an assistant residence hall director at Ball State University.

## **Accomplishments**

**David Glassman**, dean of Liberal Arts, will be featured on shows in the "Skelton Stories" series on the Discovery Health channel. New York City-based Atlas Media Productions came to USI last spring to film three episodes of the new series. The segments chronicle the forensic work of Dr. Glassman on three homicide cases. The episode "Fatal Connection" will air Friday, July 28 at 9 p.m. and midnight, Saturday, July 29 at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, August 8 at 4 a.m.

**Carolyn Roth**, instructor in art, is exhibiting her acrylic painting entitled "Dreamer" in the Shelby County Arts Fest. The juried regional exhibition will run through August 15 at Indiana Downs in Shelbyville, IN.

## **FYI**

### **Sand Volleyball Tournament**

The 6th annual "Day at the Beach 2006" sand volleyball tournament will be held at Wesselman Park on Sunday, September 10 at 8 a.m. The tournament will benefit Albion Fellows Bacon Center, a domestic violence/sexual assault center. Additional activities will include music by 106.1 KISS, food and beverage sales, raffle and silent auction items. The cost is \$20 per player. To register your team call 812/422-9372.

### **New service from Printing Services Department**

A photo-quality large format color poster printer has been installed in Printing Services. The printer can image on various types of paper and vinyl banner material up to 44 inches wide and 100 feet in length. Printing Services can now laminate, foam core mount, create boulevard signage, and produce banners complete with grommets for hanging.

### **EPD to offer Citizen's Academy**

Twice yearly, the Evansville Police Department holds a Citizen's Academy for Evansville and Vanderburgh County residents who want to learn more about the police department. The seven-week sessions are held in spring and fall, and are designed to build citizen awareness about police policies and procedures. The fall 2006 session will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, September 12-October 24 at the Evansville Police Department, 15 N.W. Martin Luther King Boulevard. To register, contact Debbie Baird at 812/436-4948.

### **General accounting phone number change**

The main telephone number for general accounting (listed as Office of Accounting in the campus phone directory) has been changed from 812/464-1981 to 812/465-1239.