



University of Southern Indiana

University Notes

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Vol. 38, No. 7 » September 19, 2003

Critically acclaimed author speaking at USI

A best-selling author will speak on campus October 2 as part of the University Core Curriculum's Diversity Series.

Alisa Valdes Rodriguez, whose debut novel, *The Dirty Girls Social Club*, spawned a bidding war between major publishing houses before hitting the *New York Times* Bestseller List, will present "Breaking Stereotypes of Latina Women" as part of the University's celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center. It is free and open to the public.

Rodriguez's critically acclaimed novel follows six upwardly mobile Latina friends from varied Hispanic backgrounds who meet regularly to discuss the pressures of life and the complications of love, careers, and friendship.

Named one of *Pages Magazine*'s most promising new novelists of 2003, the *New York Times* heralded Valdes-Rodriguez as "the Latina Terry McMillan."

Publishers Weekly recognized *The Dirty Girls Social Club* as one of the hottest debut novels of 2002, and *Latina Magazine* named Valdes-Rodriguez one of 11 women of the year.

The film rights for *Dirty Girls* have been optioned by Sony/Columbia Pictures with Jennifer Lopez, Benny Medina, and Laura Ziskin producing.

The daughter of a Cuban father and Irish-American mother, Valdes-Rodriguez is a native and resident of Albuquerque, N.M. She holds a master's in journalism from Columbia University, taught at University of California-Los Angeles and University of New Mexico, covered the Spanish-language music industry for the *Los Angeles Times*, and worked as a staff writer for the *Boston Globe*.

She also studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston and has already completed a second novel about a young female jazz saxophonist.

Valdes-Rodriguez's presentation is a part of the University's first campus-wide diversity series called THREADS: Teaching Human Respect & Encouraging Action Diversity Series.

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Theatre season a comedic romp

USI Theatre will stage a rollicking series of comedies in 2003-04, and season subscriptions are now available.

"Audiences will start our season with a chuckle and by the season's end, they'll be slapping their knees," said Elliot Wasserman, associate professor of theatre.

"Yet each and every one of these plays has a message and theme worthy of a university audience. Each play can be said to pose the question, 'which is truly comic - man or the world he lives in?' Regardless of the answer, we leave the theatre redeemed and cheered by our capacity to laugh."

The 2003-04 USI Theatre Season

Waiting for Godot

October 8-11, 15-19

Helen Mallette Studio Theatre

Liberal Arts Center

Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, one of the most significant plays of the last century, uses comical wordplay, slapstick physical comedy, and vaudevillian characters to explore the ultimate questions of existence. Imaginatively reconceived by Wasserman, who is directing, and Assistant Professor Richard Kuykendall, scenic designer, "the quintessential play of the 20th century" will make new connections with the new millennium.

A... My Name is Alice

November 12-15, 19-23

USI Theatre

3001 Igleheart Avenue.

Conceived by Joan Micklin Silver and Julianne Boyd, this award-winning, funny, touching, sophisticated, and bawdy musical revue explores the many roles of modern women. The show features 20 lively musical numbers mixed with vignettes, both comic and serious, and a sprinkling of tongue-in-cheek poetry. Directed by USI newcomer John Berst, instructor in theatre, with sets by USI senior Kyle Andres, *A... My Name is Alice* is recommended for women who can laugh at themselves and the men who love them.

Loot

February 18-21, 25-29

USI Theatre

3001 Igleheart Ave.

A dark, witty, and outrageous farce by Joe Orton, the infamous bad boy of the British theatre, *Loot* features a murderous and seductive nurse, a bumbling detective with a mean streak, and a bank robber who cannot tell a lie. Nothing is sacred, not even a mother's corpse, as Orton lampoons church, state, and all things middle-class. Not recommended for children or those easily offended, *Loot* will be directed by Wasserman with sets by Douglas Hubbell, associate professor of theatre.

Charley's Aunt

April 14-17, 21-25

USI Theatre

3001 Igleheart Ave.

The classic British comedy *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas has been a worldwide favorite since 1892. The well-known plot begins when college boys Charley and Jack invite their girlfriends to visit them at Oxford. A chaperone is, of course, a necessity, and the boys recruit Charley's aunt to provide the requisite feminine adult presence. When the formidable old lady cancels her visit, the boys force a chum into a dress and wig. The masquerade succeeds until Charley's aunt shows up after all. The frothy Victorian fun will be directed by Berst with sets by Hubbell.

Curtain times for all productions will be 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Subscribers may see all four shows for the price of three. Subscription prices are \$27 for adults, \$21 for seniors (60+) and students, and \$9 for USI students with a valid Eagle Access Card. Ticket prices for individual performances are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors and students, and \$3 for USI students. Tickets may be reserved by calling 812/422-3970.

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Professor to share magic of Mexico

Years of teaching, travel, and creation will combine Wednesday, September 24, when Michael Aakhus, master printmaker and professor of art, presents "The Ancient Art of Mexico" from noon to 1 p.m. in rooms 201-202 of the University Center.

"Mexico is a magical place, and its unique culture can capture your eye and imagination. I first went there in 1977, and they have not been able to keep me out since," Aakhus said.

Aakhus' presentation will focus on his many trips to Mexico as well as highlights from many of the ancient sites he teaches about in ART 253: Art of Ancient Mexico. A painter and printmaker, he also has created the images for several fine art books.

"I also want to share how this material eventually gets into my painting. I usually work from photographs taken on the site and turn them into oil painting and prints. These works are based on images from travels in Middle Americas and touch on themes related to the indigenous cultures," he added.

"The paintings and artist books take a magical realist view and use an intense pallet of visionary color that reflects the sight of an inner eye, transforming the mere realism of sight into improbable juxtapositions of landscape, architecture, and plants."

Since 1996, Aakhus has conducted annual student tours to different areas of Mexico during spring break. This year, the group will travel to Veracruz March 6-13.

When fall classes conclude, Aakhus will begin a sabbatical, and he already is preparing for an exhibit of his paintings that will be on display in the spring at Tecnologico Autonomo de Studios Superiores de Monterrey Campus Mexico City.

During the sabbatical, he also will be creating bronze sculptures with Miguel Peraza, a sculptor, professor, and author, who is academic director at two campuses of the Tecnologico.

Aakhus joined the University in 1977 and holds an M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University. His lecture is sponsored by the Multicultural Center as part of USI's observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15.

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Searching for a THREAD

The University community is invited to submit original ideas for a logo design promoting "THREADS: Teaching Human Respect & Encouraging Action Diversity Series," USI's first campus-wide diversity series.

The logo will be featured on marketing materials, and submissions will be reviewed by the THREADS committee. The winning logo will be selected based on a variety of criteria, including institutional appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics, and use of color and space.

All logo submissions should include the phrase, "THREADS: Teaching Human Respect & Encouraging Action Diversity Series," in the design. The logo also should be reproducible in one- and two-spot color designs, and it should be flexible enough to be enlarged or reduced for printing.

To enter the logo contest, submit a CD with a logo submission, print versions of the logo in one-color, two-colors, and/or multicolor to the Multicultural Center in Room 113 of the University Center.

Include the designer's name and e-mail address. Logos should be submitted as EPS or Illustrator files.

Entries must be received no later than November 3, 2003. The winning logo will be featured on all THREADS publications, and the winning designer will receive a prize valued at \$200 and be recognized on the THREADS Web site, in USI Magazine, and during a THREADS event in the spring.

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Colloquium examining ancient arbitration

Dr. Michael D. Dixon, assistant professor of history, will present "A Diplomatic Solution is Preferable: The Use of International Arbitration to Resolve a Border Conflict between Troizen and Ptolemaic Arsinoe," a lecture in the Liberal Arts Colloquium, at 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 26, in Klemeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center.

In the 170s B.C., the Achaian League member state Troizen and the Ptolemaic outpost of Arsinoe had a border dispute. A record of the dispute and its settlement are preserved on two duplicate stelai, one discovered at the Epidaurian Sanctuary of Asklepios and the other in Troiazen.

"A stele (Stelai is plural.) is a stone on which a text is inscribed," Dixon explained.

"In other words, I study epigraphy, or texts written on stone, specifically ancient Greek ones. I have been researching for several years cases of arbitration between Greek city-states that had disputes over their boundaries. The evidence for these disputes is the record of them that the Greeks inscribed on stone stelai."

The presentation will explore the epigraphical texts that preserve the results of the arbitration, the circumstances that led to the dispute's settlement by arbitration, and the method by which it was settled.

Dixon joined the University in 2000, the same year he earned a Ph.D. at Ohio State University.

The colloquium is a free lecture series featuring faculty research in the School of Liberal Arts.

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Biology series beginning September 26

The Department of Biology's Fall Seminar Series will feature four one-hour colloquia related to current research and topics of general interest in the life sciences. The speakers will include three members of the USI faculty and one student.

Fall Seminar Series

Friday, September 26

"Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators and Male Cardiovascular Function"

2:30 p.m., Room 1006, Health Professions Center

Dr. Cliff Fulton

Assistant professor, cardiovascular physiology and endocrinology

Friday, October 24

"Evolution: The Fish Still Say Yes!"

2:30 p.m., Room 1101, Education Center

Dr. Brian Metscher

Assistant professor, evolutionary developmental biology

Friday, November 21

"DNA Microarrays:

Analyzing Global Gene Expression"

2:30 p.m., Room 1101, Education Center

Dr. Marlene Shaw

Professor of molecular biology and genetics

Friday, December 5

"Natural History and Reproduction of Hawksbill Turtles"

2:30 p.m., Room 1101, Education Center

Jan Schrader

Senior biology major

Refreshments will be served before each program. For more information, contact Dr. Eric McCloud, associate professor of entomology and chemical ecology.

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Geology, Physics open house planned

The University community is invited to attend a Geology and Physics Department open house Friday, September 26.

The event, celebrating the department's new teaching and research laboratories and welcoming new faculty, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Geology/Physics Seminar Room, 3207 in the Science Center.

Informal walking tours of the facilities will be available, and recent student research will be highlighted. Faculty research also will be showcased, and refreshments will be served.

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Local gallery showcasing USI talent

An exhibit featuring the creations of a USI faculty member and a student is on display at Synchronicity Gallery in Evansville.

"Recent Works by Monty Helm and Raul Illarramendi" will remain on display through November 9.

A USI instructor in art, Helm also teaches at Brescia University and Kentucky Wesleyan College. The Owensboro resident holds an M.F.A. from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and a B.A. from Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Illarramendi, an art major from Caracas, Venezuela, received a merit award for drawing in the 33rd annual USI Juried Student Art Exhibition. His work in the exhibition also earned a \$500 sophomore scholarship.

Synchronicity Gallery is located at 57 Adams St. For more information, call 812/422-7962.

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Archaeological site hosting open house

In conjunction with Indiana Archaeology Month, the public is invited to an Excavation Open House at the Hovey Lake archaeological site in Posey County from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, September 20-21.

The site is a large village of the late Mississippian Caborn-Welborn culture and dates to about A.D. 1400-1650. The Caborn-Welborn culture represents the last Native American occupation of southern Indiana prior to population disruptions caused by Euro-American contact.

Archaeologist Cheryl Ann Munson, research scientist in Indiana University's Department of Anthropology, has been

awarded a new three-year grant for continued research and public education programs at the Hovey Lake site. Grant funds of \$150,000 were awarded by the Federal Highway Administration. Indiana University and private donors are contributing more than \$35,000 to the project.

The project will culminate in a permanent exhibit of the archaeological findings at the Hovey Lake Visitors' Center. Since State Highway 69 runs across the length of the site, archaeological studies are taking place on both sides of the highway. INDOT is involved as the grant project administrator.

The grant is Indiana's first Transportation Enhancement grant for archaeological research. Other cooperating institutions include the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, University of Southern Indiana, the Indiana Geological Survey, and University of Evansville. Students and faculty from all three universities are assisting with the research.

Those attending the open house should park at the Hovey Lake Visitors' Center, State Highway 69, and ride the shuttle van to the site.

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Names in the news

Achievements

Dr. Marie Bussing-Burks, instructor in economics and finance, will have a book signing from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 28, at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Evansville. Her book, *Influential Economists* (Oliver Press Inc. 2003) details the lives and economic philosophies of seven economists who have influenced the course of world events: Thomas Gresham, Adam Smith, Thomas Robert Malthus, Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, Milton Friedman, and Alan Greenspan.

Matthew Graham, an associate professor of English specializing in creative writing, presented a lecture, "Life, Death, and Poetry: Why read it and how it can enrich our working lives," September 10 for The Grand Rounds, a physician's symposium sponsored by St Mary's Medical Center.

Welcome

Richard "Scott" Anderson has accepted the position of instructor in computer science. The Evansville resident previously owned AREM Corp. and Anderson BDG Corp. He also worked as an assistant professor at University of Evansville and as a team leader at Hughes Aircraft Co. He holds an M.S. in computer science from University of Southern California and a B.S. in computer science from Western Kentucky University. A Certified Commercial Investment Member, Anderson also is both a Kentucky Colonel and an Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash.

Dr. Gael L. Cooper, Newburgh, has accepted the position of professor of public relations. Formerly of Bethany, W.Va., he previously worked as a professor of communication at Bethany College, director of Public Relations and professor of journalism at Culver-Stockton College, assistant professor of journalism at Indiana University-Bloomington, assistant professor of communication at Texas A&M University, and as a copy editor and comment page editor at *The Courier Journal* and *Louisville Times*. He holds a Ph.D. in journalism and an M.A. in journalism from University of Missouri-Columbia School of Journalism and a B.A. in English from Culver-Stockton College. A member of the Public Relations Society of America and the Society of Professional Journalists, his recent honors include honorable mention in the National Association of Broadcasters Faculty Competition.

RopeWalk reading

The RopeWalk Reading Series will feature Patricia Aakhuis at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 25, in Klemeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center. A USI instructor in English and humanities, Aakhuis is the author of contemporary fiction and essays as well as numerous books and papers on the history and mythology of ancient Ireland.

Presented by USI's School of Liberal Arts, readings in the series are free and open to the public. For more information, call Jim McGarrah, USI instructor in English, 812/464-1735.

Newsletter deadline

Friday, September 19, is the deadline for submitting information for the next online issue of *University Notes*. Submissions received after the deadline will be published at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Submissions for the "Marketplace" column may be made via e-mail to Roberta Fugate, editorial associate in News and Information Services. Other submissions for *University Notes* may be made via e-mail to Libby L. Keeling, associate editor.

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Marketplace**For sale**

Four tires – Firestone Wilderness LE. P265 70R 16. Raised white letters, worn evenly, all match, 50-60 percent remaining. Excellent condition, like new. Taken off a 2002 Ford Tahoe: \$80 for all. Contact Leslie Parker, 812/464-1954 (days), 270/685-5618 (evenings), or leparker@usi.edu.

1993 Buick Regal Custom - 123,000 miles. Good condition \$2,500 OBO. Call 812/464-1989.

Home – 1846 Cornerstone Point, two story, four bedroom, two-and-a-half baths, 2,200-plus sq. ft., additional 200 sq. ft. with the three-season sun porch. Open floor plan, combo living room/dining room with bay window. Eat-in kitchen with oak cabinets. Family room opens to custom built, cedar-walled three-season sunroom. Den/office off family room. Large fenced backyard with 12 x 16 yard barn. Beautifully-landscaped yard. Two-car garage. Twenty to 30 minutes from USI. Close to shopping, churches, and schools. Mint condition. Call Richard Greer, 812/483-4273

Tires – excellent condition. Michelin Symmetry all-season B/W P225/60R16 M&S 8/32, two at \$40 each. Toyo 800 Plus W/W P225/70R15 M&S 6/32, four at \$7.50 each. General Ameri*G4S B/W P205/65R15 M&S 6/32, four at \$7.50 each. Toyo 800 Plus B/W P185/70R14 B/W 6/32, two at \$7.50 each. Call Pat, 812/426-0002.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Marketplace," a free service available to University employees and retirees, publishes information of a non-commercial nature that may include items for sale or rent, desired items or services, available services, free items, and fund raisers. The editorial staff reserves the right to decline any submission and to enforce the column deadline.

Friday, September 19, is the deadline for submitting information for the next "Marketplace." Submissions may be made by calling 812/465-1192.

In appreciation

"Thanks to all of you for the flowers, cards, and care packages following my recent surgeries. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, kind words, and encouragement, and feel very blessed to know you."

- Melody Sponn, Accounts Payable supervisor

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