

University Notes

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History major helps revive the Alhambra Theatre on its anniversary

Andy Jeffries, a Ladoga, Indiana native and USI senior history major, spent the summer months as an intern for Alhambra Theatre, Inc.'s board of directors, researching the theatre's history, scanning old newspapers, and interviewing people who patronized the theatre before it closed in 1956.

He will give a public presentation on his research in honor of the 94th anniversary of the Alhambra Theatre's grand opening. The Alhambra Theatre's Anniversary Celebration will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, September 27, in front of the theatre. Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Betsy Hopkins, president of Alhambra Theatre, Inc., will offer remarks before Jeffries' presentation. The public is invited.

Jeffries said Evansville's Alhambra Theatre was one of many influenced by the Alhambra palace in Spain. "The original Alhambra inspired Romantic Era art," he said. "The Moorish style of architecture captured the imaginations of a lot of Romantic Era artists, writers, and so forth. That is probably what led Schlotter to design the theatre in this way."

Alhambra theatres opened all over the world, but according to Jeffries, only one American Alhambra Theatre - a traditional playhouse built in New York in 1905 - predates Evansville's. "That would make Evansville's Alhambra the first dedicated movie theatre of its name in the country," he said.

With its Moorish domes and archways and distinctive brickwork, The Alhambra Theatre was the jewel of Evansville's Goosetown neighborhood when it opened on September 27, 1913.

Designed by architect Frank Schlotter, the theatre cost \$18,000 to build and was one of the largest movie theatres in Evansville. It included a cigar shop and a confectionary, and spurred new business in the area now designated as the Haynie's Corner Arts District.

The Alhambra Theatre and other neighborhood theatres showed second-run films. "The downtown movie theaters would show the movies first, and they would be shown in the neighborhood theatres later. These were the same movies shown anywhere else in the country, and the serials and newsreels would have been the same, too."

A woman who grew up on Parrett Street told Jeffries that when she was a little girl, admission to the theatre was a nickel, but her father gave her six cents so she could buy popcorn, too. "She used to love going there to watch the serials more than the movies themselves," he said. "She loved Zorro and Gene Autry."

The theatre attracted adults during the week and children on Saturdays. Because the neighborhood was close-knit, ushers would often admit for free children who couldn't afford to pay.

The Alhambra Theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. It is one of Evansville's last remaining neighborhood movie theatres.

"When the theatre was built, businesses came, and when the theatre did well, businesses did well. When the theatre closed up,

businesses couldn't attract customers," Jeffries said. "The whole economic scene of that area is tied to that theatre."

With the help of Stewart Sebree of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Alhambra Theatre, Inc. recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Efroymsen Fund of the Central Indiana Community Foundation for exterior renovations to the theatre.

For more information about The Alhambra Theatre's Anniversary Celebration, contact Wendy Knipe Bredhold at 812/461-5259.

Jesus: The Missing Years

What if Jesus had written an autobiography?

What if he'd stored it in a cave, like the Dead Sea Scrolls, and it had only now been discovered?

Dr. John Gottcent's new novel imagines just such a series of "what ifs."

Gottcent, professor emeritus of English, taught biblical literature at USI for more than 30 years. During his USI career, which began in 1970, Gottcent was the founding director of the University Core Council; served on the Executive Council of the national board of the Association for General and Liberal Studies; was state faculty representative for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education appointed by the governor; and was chosen by his colleagues as the USI Integra Bank Distinguished Professor in 2000.

He retired in 2006 and quickly got to work on *The Autobiography of Jesus of Nazareth*, which addresses the lingering questions Gottcent had about an 18-year gap in the Gospels, the written record of Jesus' words and deeds.

"There's a famous story about Jesus at age 12 mowing the rabbi in the temple, but we don't hear about him again until age 30. We're missing 18 years, and those are formidable years in many people's eyes. Jesus himself wrote nothing, so what went on in the missing years? What must his own thoughts have been?"

He doesn't expect everyone to agree with what he has written. "Some will think it's too liberal a viewpoint and others will think it's too conservative. When you talk about somebody as important to our culture and as controversial as Jesus, it's inevitable you're not going to please everybody, so I didn't try to."

The novel is his first attempt at fiction. "The books I wrote while I was teaching were all academic," he said. "This is a different kind of experience. It was fun, and I'm obviously very interested to see how the public is going to respond."

Gottcent's busy retirement also includes writing two columns for the *Evansville Courier & Press*, "Snapshots of Evansville History" every other Sunday and "Retiring Thoughts" on alternate Fridays, in addition to occasional public speaking engagements.

"I'm at least as busy as I used to be, but it's a fun kind of busy," he said.

He will discuss his novel on the Fox 7 morning show "A.M. Evansville" on September 17; at Zion United Church of Christ in downtown Evansville at 7 p.m. September 18; and at a men's break-

fast at Bethlehem United Church of Christ on Oak Hill Road at 7:30 a.m. October 6.

Book-signings will be held at the USI Bookstore from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. September 26 and at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on Green River Road on October 13.

The Autobiography of Jesus of Nazareth is published by PublishAmerica Press of Fredericktown, Maryland.

Reid to read "Honeydew"

Nicole Reid, assistant professor of English, will open the fall 2007 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquia Series by reading a short story, "Honeydew," from her recently completed short story collection, *We Want it Back*. She will read the story at 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 28, in Kleymeyer Hall in the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center.

"Honeydew," already published in *The Southern Review*, is about a young woman who has had a cicada hibernating in her armpit for 13 years, waiting to emerge. An excerpt:

"These are the early cicadas, four years ahead of schedule, chirping, shrilling, blistering through their skins. Thirteen years ago the night was electric with their noise, and one burrowed right into me—that little flab of skin beneath the arm socket. Thinking me a tree because I lay so still at the thought of what we'd just done beneath the water oak, Wallace and me. It broke through my skin and climbed deep within, planning to live there for its next seventeen years, sucking and sapping what it can from me. And so there must be something in people akin to the marrow of a tree's sweet pulp, because my locust is alive and waiting."

Reid is the author of the novel *In the Breeze of Passing Things* (MacAdam/Cage, 2003). Her stories and poems have appeared in *Quarterly West*, *Meridian*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Confrontation*, *turnrow*, *New Orleans Review*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Grain*. She is the winner of the 2001 Willamette Award in Fiction, and also won awards from the Pirate's Alley William Faulkner Short Story Competition, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Society, and *Glimmer Train*.

Reid joined the University in 2004. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing from George Mason University. She teaches creative writing, is co-director of the RopeWalk Reading Series, and faculty advisor to the Student Writers Union and *The Aerie*.

The colloquium is a free lecture series featuring faculty research in the College of Liberal Arts. For more information, go to www.usi.edu/libarts/colloquia/ or contact Dr. Teresa Huerta, colloquium coordinator, at 812/465-7053.

London calling: women's soccer makes trip to England

The members of the USI women's soccer team traveled to London in August to play a series of matches in the sport's birthplace. It was a trip the players will always remember, not just for the chance to play in England but also the persistence and elbow grease it took to make the journey a reality.

It started with an idea the team members had four years ago. "As freshmen we always talked about going somewhere as seniors," senior Katie Barisano said. "We never really thought that it would happen though."

Last year, however, Barisano and some of her classmates revisited the thought of making a big trip and came up with the idea of England.

"A bunch of us seniors and some others on the team decided we wanted to do something big because we heard that the team had gone to Hawaii in the past," said senior Katie Grossman.

"We all got together and Coach Engelbrecht said 'Hey, if you really want to go, you can do it by fundraising,'" Barisano remembered.

USI Head Coach Krissy Engelbrecht laid out stringent goals for the players. "Each player had to raise \$2,000 as part of the Walk for Women's Athletics," she said. "They also had fitness tests that they had to pass before they left for the summer. In order for them to play, they had to pass fitness tests when they came back for pre-season camp."

The team set monthly financial goals that helped their progress. Other fundraisers such as candle sales and car washes helped the team earn money, but also forced the players to balance fundraising with soccer and classes.

When the fundraising mark was reached, red tape and passports provided new challenges. "It was pretty hectic because of the paperwork," Engelbrecht said. "The main obstacle was getting everyone's passports in. We had a player that didn't get her passport until two days before we left."

Getting everything in line during the summer was essential so the team could concentrate on soccer during preseason camp. As a trip across the Atlantic loomed, players worked hard to keep their focus on soccer.

"It was hard," Barisano said. "We'd lose focus because we knew that we were getting ready to travel out of the country within a few days. But I think it made everyone determined."

"It took a lot of hard work," Engelbrecht said. "They were training for soccer, going to classes; and on top of that, fundraising for the trip. But it got them out in the community and I think they enjoyed that."

They enjoyed the trip more, winning two of the three matches they played, seeing the sights of London and solidifying their bonds of friendship.

While in England, the team went up in the London Eye, visited Buckingham Palace and Big Ben, and even dropped by the David Beckham Academy, the development center founded by the sport's most famous player.

"I have to say that was my favorite part," Grossman said of seeing the David Beckham Academy. "I didn't think it was going to be that big. But his coach showed up and taught us a few things. Most of all I think I liked the stories he had of David Beckham and a bunch of the players."

In their first match, the Eagles got off to a rocky start in a 3-0 loss to Milwall on August 10. They rebounded two days later to post a 3-1 victory over Enfield behind goals by Grossman, sophomore forward Rachel Caksackkar, and sophomore midfielder Kara Georgeff. Caksackkar's goal was USI's first goal on foreign soil, while Grossman scored the game-winner.

USI closed the exhibition tour August 14 with a 4-0 triumph over Cambridge. Senior defender Mallory Minor scored twice, while Georgeff and sophomore midfielder Shauni Boudia each had a goal.

"It was the most amazing thing," Barisano said. "The sightseeing stuff was great, but to play soccer there was something that you can't really explain."

New housing option in New Harmony

A new guest house in New Harmony is available for University speakers and other visitors. The rectory of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is Historic New Harmony's new guest house. The single-family Harmonist house, one of the resources of New Harmony's National Historic Landmark District, is located at the entrance to the Harmonist Cemetery. This spring USI purchased the rectory and church property.

USI faculty and others who need overnight accommodations for speakers and guests can make reservations. The cost is \$30 per person per night. The facility can be reserved through the Scheduling Office at USI with fiscal agent approval.

The first guest house was a Victorian cottage donated in 1995 by James A. Sanders, director emeritus for Corporate and Foundation Relations and former director of Historic New Harmony. Over the years, the house has provided affordable accommodations for hundreds of people who have come to enrich New Harmony. In June 2007, the first guest house was sold at auction and the furniture was moved into the new guest house. Proceeds from the sale were put into the D.W. Vaughn Endowment Fund of the USI/New Harmony Foundation.

This fall, the original Harmonist portion of the new guest house, which was the home of David Koenig during the Harmonie Society days, will be painted white like the David Lenz House. The later addition to the house will be painted with what preservationists call invisible green. Colors throughout the house are in shades of green, red, gold, and tan.

Historic New Harmony is sponsoring a contest to name the new guest house. Everyone is invited to suggest a name. The person whose idea is selected will win a free weekend at the guest house, courtesy of Historic New Harmony. Entries should be submitted before Thursday, November 15 to harmony@usi.edu with a brief paragraph about why the name was chosen. Staff of Historic New Harmony will judge the contest.

Names in the news

In appreciation

"I want to thank the USI community for their expressions of sympathy on the recent death of my father, Dr. Earl R. Humble." - Ruth Miller, director of the David L. Rice Library.

Welcome

Carrie Andersen has accepted a position as instructor in mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. She holds a Master of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Louisville and a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and mathematics education from USI. Andersen was formerly employed as a mathematics teacher and volleyball and track coach at Zionsville Middle School.

Oana Armeanu has accepted a position as assistant professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a doctorate in political science and a Master of Arts degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Master of Arts degree in political science from Central European University Budapest Hungary, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest, Romania. Armeanu was formerly employed as a visiting assistant professor at Southern Methodist University.

Glenn Ballard has accepted a position as instructor in mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. He holds a Master of Arts degree in mathematics education from the University of Evansville, a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Indiana State University, and an Associate of Science degree in mathematics from Vincennes University. Ballard was formerly employed as a mathematics teacher at Harrison High School and an adjunct faculty member at USI and the University of Evansville.

Leann Beaven has accepted a position as instructor in mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the University of Evansville and a Master of Arts degree in education from Western

Kentucky University. Beaven was formerly employed as an adjunct mathematics faculty member at USI.

Eun Jung Choi has accepted a position as instructor in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of Arizona and a Master of Arts degree in sociology from Korea University. Choi was formerly employed as a senior researcher at Korea University.

John Donnelly has accepted a position as assistant professor in mathematics in the Pott College of Science and Engineering. He holds a doctorate in mathematics and a Master of Arts degree in mathematics from Binghamton University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from the University of Albany. Donnelly was formerly employed as an assistant professor at Mount Union College.

Denise Lynn has accepted a position as visiting instructor in history the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a doctorate in U.S. history and a Master of Arts degree in U.S. women's history from Binghamton University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in history of women's studies from Lemoyne College, and an Associate of Arts degree in humanities from Onondaga Community College. Lynn was formerly employed as an adjunct instructor at Columbia College and Onondaga Community College.

Ronald Mercer Jr. has accepted a position as instructor in philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts. He holds a doctorate in philosophy, a Master of Arts degree in philosophy, a Master of Arts degree in classical languages and literature, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Kentucky. Mercer was formerly employed as a full-time one-year instructor in philosophy at USI.

Donald Moore has accepted a position as instructor in English in the College of Liberal Arts. He holds a Master of Arts degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Studies from Southern Illinois Carbondale. Moore was formerly employed as an adjunct faculty member at USI.

Anne Statham has accepted a position as director of service learning in Extended Services and professor in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a doctorate in sociology from Indiana University. Statham was formerly employed as a professor in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Accomplishments

Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering, has been invited to attend the National Leadership Development and Strategic Planning Symposium on K-16 Science Education September 20-October 2 in Washington, D.C. The symposium, developed in partnership with DuPont, IBM, Intel and other corporations and foundations, is sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers, the James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy and the National Science Resources Center of the National Academies and the Smithsonian Institution. Gordon was invited by State Superintendent of Education Dr. Suellen Reed to join the Indiana team, which will include representatives from Purdue University, University of Notre Dame, and the Indiana Department of Energy.

Carolyn Roth, instructor in art, is exhibiting her acrylic painting entitled "Complex Creature" in The Blanch Ames National Juried Art Exhibition 2007 that will be displayed at the Ames Mansion at Borderland in Sharon, Massachusetts through September 29.

Brandi Schwartz, editorial associate in News and Information Services, is exhibiting a painting and photograph in the annual Heritage Days art show in downtown Princeton, Indiana. The show will run through Sunday, September 16.