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## Bigham's book examines Ohio River valley after Emancipation

In 1860, a few miles across the Ohio River from USI, 41 percent of the population of Henderson County was enslaved.

"That's one of the highest percentages in the state of Kentucky. It's very high compared with the south generally," said **Darrel Bigham**, professor of history and director of Historic Southern Indiana.

In his new book, "On Jordan's Banks: Emancipation and Its Aftermath in the Ohio River Valley," Bigham examines the lives of African Americans in communities on both sides of the Ohio River before and after the Civil War.

He describes how communities in 25 counties along 665 miles of the Ohio were shaped by the presence or absence of slavery, including Kentucky's entire Ohio River boundary to the south, and parts of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to the north.

"In terms of the amount of territory and time, it was a pretty ambitious effort, but I think it helps to look at an issue regionally rather than state by state," Bigham said. "My main concern was to see the Ohio River not just as a dividing line but also as a uniter. I tried to transcend political boundaries and look at what people had in common as well as where they differed.

"There have been a lot of studies of African Americans in towns and cities along the Ohio, and there have been studies of people in the various states, but not an effort to compare and contrast where you essentially transcend state boundaries and look at the river as a common boundary. It was America's first interstate highway, one could argue."

Thomas L. Owen, archivist for local history at the University of Louisville, said Bigham's book "expands our understanding of a complex topic, as it rejects the Ohio River as a divide but instead makes it the center of a vast region for examining black/white relationships."

Bigham said that while he doesn't want to overstress the similarities between communities north and south of the river, "I do want to point out there is a lot of continuity, because the people on the north side were of the same backgrounds as those on the south side. In terms of racial values, they were not at all receptive to being around black people.

"In public interaction with white people, the informal rule was black people would stay out of areas white people frequented. The chief difference was that in Kentucky, there were more formal restrictions, laws, and ordinances, and on the north side there were such restrictions on paper, but they tended to be more unwritten. Separation by residents on the north side tends to be by custom rather than by ordinance."

"On Jordan's Banks: Emancipation and Its Aftermath in the Ohio River Valley" is published by The University Press of Kentucky and will be available at the USI Bookstore. Official publication date is November 15.

## "The Contemporary Spanish Theatre as a Mirror of Contemporary Europe"

David Hitchcock, assistant professor of Spanish, will present "The Contemporary Spanish Theatre as a Mirror of Contemporary Europe" as part of the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquium Series at 3:30 p.m. Friday, November 18, in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center.

He will discuss the dramatic evolution of Spanish theatre since the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975.

"Under Franco, Spain was a closed society," Hitchcock said. "The death of a dictator and the democratization of a nation removed barriers that separated Spain from Europe culturally and economically.

"I'm going to talk about how that evolution has made Spain more Europeanized in terms of the kind of concerns that can be presented in art. Concerns such as drug abuse, immigration, sexuality, gender roles, and class are more freely presented. All of those would have been taboo themes during the Spain of 30 years ago."

Hitchcock wrote his dissertation on contemporary Spanish playwright Francisco Nieva, who began his career during the Franco era and is one of the leading figures in this period of transition.

"I just enjoy the whole medium, and so the Spanish theatre has always been exciting to me, going back to the golden age of Cervantes to Garcia Lorca in the 20th century. It's a very direct way of expressing reality," Hitchcock said.

"In so many ways, Spain's theater has stopped being stereotypically Spanish. The Spain of bullfighters and flamenco is not the Spain you see presented on its stages today."

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information visit [www.usi.edu/libarts/colloquia/](http://www.usi.edu/libarts/colloquia/).

## Retirement pursuits: Dal Herring

At the end of fall 2005, **Dal M. Herring**, professor of journalism and chair of the Department of Communications, will have been teaching for 42 years. He has taught in junior high schools, high schools, a junior community college, and three universities, including a year as an exchange professor at the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute in China in 1989.

Herring was already an advocate for First Amendment free expression, but his experience in China made his appreciation of those freedoms more profound.

"If you've ever lived in a communist country where there is no freedom of the press, or civil liberties as we know them, you understand how valuable and precious our liberties are in this country," he said.

The Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute was located six miles from Tiananmen Square. Herring said the protest grew slowly.

"First the students started boycotting classes and protesting,

and then all of the sudden workers were involved in it. Before it was all said and done, there were a million people on that square," he said.

"Before the crackdown, there were people from all over China. It was like a celebration - a joyous thing. The government thought it would run its course, but it didn't. After a couple of months, they had had enough."

Herring's wife, Donna, was teaching a speech class at the same university. Some of her students disappeared at Tiananmen. "They never came back. No one knows what happened to them. The government just bulldozed the bodies," Herring said.

A few days after the massacre, an administrator at the Beijing Second Foreign Language Institute helped the Herrings return to the U.S. To read an article Herring wrote for the *Evansville Courier & Press* on the 10th anniversary of Tiananmen Square, click here.

When Herring came to USI in 1990, **Robert L. Reid**, then vice president for Academic Affairs, recommended he apply to the East-West Center's Asian Studies program at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. The East-West Center is an education and research organization established to strengthen relations and understanding among the nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. Herring spent a month in Honolulu for orientation in 1993; a month in Japan in 1995; and a month in Southeast Asia in 1998.

Herring helped pioneer USI's distance education curricula. He has delivered lectures and published articles on First Amendment rights, and has worked with free-press groups. The Society of Professional Journalists has awarded him for his work on behalf of freedom of information.

His retirement is effective June 30, 2006, but he will be on sabbatical in spring 2006. After retirement, he plans to "read, read, read," travel, spend time with family, and pursue hobbies. He also plans to teach courses as an adjunct in fall 2006.

"I've been told that's a good thing to do mentally and emotionally," he said. "You teach a little before you completely end your teaching career."

He and Donna, a special education teacher at Bosse High School, recently bought a retirement home in Evansville.

"After she finishes teaching at the end of spring, we might take a cruise through Alaska's inside passage," he said. "Alaska is the only state in the union we've never visited."

## Getting prepared for our Big One

The Greater Evansville Area is vulnerable to the threat of an earthquake because of its proximity to the New Madrid and Wabash Valley Seismic Zones. What do we need to do to reduce that threat?

The Tri-state Earthquake Hazards Geological Mapping Advisory Committee, made up of geological experts, city officials, and safety and infrastructure personnel, was organized to answer that question and serve the objectives of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). The NEHRP began a five-year plan to assess earthquake hazards in the Evansville area in 2003.

The advisory committee had its quarterly meeting on November 3 in New Harmony, Indiana, followed by a brief dedication ceremony for a new strong motion sensor at the Granary. The instrument joined a network of seismological instruments in and around Evansville.

"You need a network," said **Paul Doss**, associate professor of geology and a member of the advisory committee. "You can not have a single instrument to precisely locate and characterize

earthquake activity. Different instruments are capable of giving different information."

The new sensor records seismic activity of different magnitudes and frequencies than the seismometer located at USI. It was funded in part by the Blaffer Foundation. The NEHRP funds research, but it does not provide all the dollars to develop an instrumentation network.

"Society is at risk from natural hazards, but is often ignorant of those hazards, and yet there is a lot of effort to try and understand the risk, and prepare the community for it," Doss said.

He said there is a "significant probability" - 30 to 40 percent - of a large earthquake hitting the New Madrid Seismic Zone within the next few decades.

An earthquake occurred in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, an extension of the New Madrid system, in June 2002.

"There was a fair amount of damage to hundreds of chimneys and some plate glass windows from that earthquake, and that was a little earthquake," he said.

## RopeWalk Reading Series: David Schumate

**David Schumate** is the latest writer in the 2005 RopeWalk Reading Series. He will read at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 17, in Kleymeyer Hall in the Liberal Arts Center.

Schumate teaches at Marian College in Indianapolis. His prose poems have appeared widely in literary journals including *North America Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Maize*, *Southern Indiana Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. His book of prose poems, *High Water Mark*, (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004) was awarded the 2003 Agnes Lynch Starrett prize for first books and received first place in the poetry category of the Best Books of Indiana Competition of 2005.

His work has been featured on Garrison Keillor's NPR program, "Writer's Almanac" and in Keillor's anthology *Good Poems for Hard Times*.

The RopeWalk Reading Series is made possible through the support of RopeWalk Writers Retreat, *Southern Indiana Review*, USI Society for Arts & Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts, Indiana Arts Commission, and USI Student Writers' Union.

All readings in the series are free and open to the public. For more information, contact **Jim McGarrah**, assistant professor of English, at 812/461-5208.

## USI art faculty in East/West/North

There will be a reception for the Evansville Museum's "19th Annual East/West/North: A Collaboration," showcasing the work of art faculty from USI, University of Evansville, and Ivy Tech, from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, November 19.

USI art faculty with pieces in the exhibition include **Michael Aakhus**, professor of art and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts; **Kathryn Waters**, professor of art and chair of the Art, Music, and Theatre Department; **Joan Kempf**, associate professor of graphic design; **Xinran Hu**, assistant professor of graphic design; **Carolyn Roth**, instructor in art; **Jason Baldwin**, instructor in art; **David Huebner**, art workshop supervisor; and adjunct instructors **James Parrent**, **Alena Richards**, **Elicia Burnett**, **Mark Magan**, **Stephen Herron**, **Janet Lindholm**, and **Ann Hanat**.

The exhibit runs through January 15 in the museum's Old Gallery. If you plan to attend the opening reception, call the museum at 812/425-2406 by Wednesday, November 16, to make a reservation. The exhibit opens to the public on Sunday,

## Fellowships pay for graduate school

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, a federally endowed and privately funded program designed to strengthen instruction about the Constitution in the nation's schools, will award generous fellowships in 2006 for master's degree level graduate study of the framing and history of the U.S. Constitution. College seniors and college graduates who intend to become secondary school teachers of American history, government, or social studies are eligible for the fellowships.

Through a nationwide competition, James Madison Fellowships will be awarded to at least one legal resident of each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories. After completing study under their fellowships, James Madison Fellows are required to teach American history, government, or social studies in grades 7-12 for a minimum of one year for each academic year of graduate assistance they receive.

Fellowships carry a maximum stipend of \$24,000 for up to two years of full-time study for college graduates, which is used to cover the costs of tuition, required fees, books, and room and board.

Fellows must enroll in graduate programs leading to master's degrees in American history, political science, or education offered by any accredited U.S. university. Participation in an accredited four-week Summer Institute held at Georgetown University on the principles, framing, ratification, and implementation of the Constitution and Bill of Rights is required of all Fellows, normally during the summer after the commencement of study. Fellows' attendance at the Summer Institute is paid for by the Madison Foundation.

For more information, contact **Maurice Hamington**, assistant professor of philosophy, at 812/464-1722.

Application materials may be downloaded from [www.jamesmadison.com](http://www.jamesmadison.com).

## High School Media Day is 15

The 15th annual High School Media Day, sponsored by the University and the *Evansville Courier & Press*, will attract hundreds of high school students to campus on Friday, November 18.

The keynote speaker will be **Judith Clabes**, president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The E.W. Scripps Company. She will discuss "The Changing World of Journalism" at 9 a.m. in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center. The public is welcome.

Clabes was editor of *The Kentucky Post* for 13 years, editor of *The Sunday Courier & Press* for five years, and a trustee of the Foundation. Her 30-year career with Scripps began at The Evansville Press. She was a syndicated columnist for Scripps Howard News Service and has published numerous articles in professional and general circulation publications. She was elected to both the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni and the University of Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame, and received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from USI in 1990 and an Honorary Doctorate of Law from Thomas More College in Kentucky.

**Dal Herring**, chair of the Department of Communications and professor of journalism, said that 30 students attended the first High School Media Day. Now, about 23 high schools from Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois regularly participate.

Students attend workshops led by USI communications faculty and local media professionals. Topics include radio, television, public relations, ethics in communication, digital photography,

and other media-related subjects. High school newspaper and yearbook staffs compete for awards handed out at a luncheon that day. The competition is judged by *Courier & Press* staff and USI faculty.

USI students also get involved. The staff of *The Shield* and the USI chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists assist with High School Media Day. A member of *The Shield* staff will lead a workshop session.

This is the first year that High School Media Day will be held in the fall. In the past it has been held during spring break, when few students are on campus. "The high school students will feel the energy of the University, and I think that will make a big difference," Herring said.

## Names in the news

### Welcome

**Aliya Wisheart** has accepted a position as cashier in the Business Office. She is a USI sophomore pursuing a degree in early childhood education and was previously a student worker in Printing Services.

### Accomplishments

**Charles T. Barber**, professor of political science, participated in the annual conference of the International Studies Association-Midwest October 21-22, in St. Louis. He chaired the panel, "International Actors in Global and Regional Context," for which he served as a discussant.

**Raymond Leung**, associate professor of physical education, is the recipient of the 2005-2006 Midwest Scholar Award in recognition of his meritorious publications, scholarly service and leadership, and professional commitment. He was selected by the Recognition and Awards Committee of the Midwest District of American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AHPERD). This honor was presented at the Indiana AHPERD Conference.

An article by **Maurice Hamington**, assistant professor of philosophy, entitled "Public Pragmatism: Jane Addams and Ida B. Wells on Lynching" will be published in *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* (Volume 19, Number 2). You can read the article at [muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_speculative\\_philosophy/v019/19.2hamington.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_speculative_philosophy/v019/19.2hamington.pdf).

### In the community

**Brian Metscher**, assistant professor of biology, will appear on the live program, "Shively & Shoulders" at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 17, on WNIN Channel 9. The segment is on the topic of "intelligent design."

## FYI

### University Core Curriculum

The University Core Council has received petitions to add the following courses to the categories indicated:

- For Category C3: Science - Biology 131: Biological Concepts

- For Category B1: Ethics - Philosophy 311: Ethics in the Professions

Faculty wishing to examine or respond to the petitions should contact John Gottcent, University Core director. The Council will act on the petitions after 10 instructional days have elapsed.

### **USI AAA Scholarship available**

Each year, the USI Administrative Assistants and Associates organization presents a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student. The applicant must be a full-time student one semester prior to applying for the scholarship, and be full-time when the scholarship is taken; must maintain a 3.0 GPA; and must be in need of financial assistance, but may be receiving other financial aid. The scholarship recipient will be selected by members of the USI AAA. The scholarship will be awarded during Honors Week in March 2006. Applications are available online at [www.usi.edu/aaa](http://www.usi.edu/aaa), or from Rice Library at the circulation desk. For more information contact **Donna Hopf**, senior library assistant, at 812/464-1906 or **Mary McGrew**, senior administrative assistant in the College of Business, at 812/464-1962.

### **Biology Club annual Poinsettia Sale**

The USI Biology Club is accepting orders for its annual Poinsettia Sale through Monday, November 28. The club is selling four-inch pots in burgundy and pink for \$5; six and a half-inch pots in red for \$8; eight-inch pots in red and pink for \$12; and 12-inch pots in red and pink for \$16. Orders can be e-mailed to [usibiologyclub@yahoo.com](mailto:usibiologyclub@yahoo.com). Faculty and staff should include office phone number and office location; the plants will be delivered. You also may order by calling **Lisa Staples**, administrative assistant in the Biology Department, at 812/465-1084. Proceeds will benefit Gulf Coast hurricane relief.

### **USI Theatre mounts area premiere of "Metamorphoses"**

USI Theatre's "Metamorphoses" runs November 9-13 and November 15-20 in the Mallette Studio Theatre in the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center. Performance times are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Single ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors 60 and over, and \$4 for USI students. Tickets may be purchased by calling the USI Theatre box office at 812/422-3970. Tickets also may be purchased at the door; the box office will open one hour before each performance.

### **Open enrollment ends November 18**

Employees can learn more about new optional vision coverage and other health insurance benefits at an Open Enrollment Fair from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, November 14, in Carter Hall A-B. Small group meetings to discuss 2006 plans and to answer questions about flexible spending accounts will be held at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. Monday, November 14, in Carter Hall C, and at 5 a.m. Tuesday, November 15, in FA 166. Open enrollment will be the only opportunity during the 2006 calendar year to change coverage and add dependents to the health insurance plan, unless a qualified change in family status occurs. Enrollment papers must be completed by November 18, 2005, to ensure coverage effective January 1, 2006. If you are unable to attend one of the group meetings or the open enrollment fair, but are interested in talking with someone about your health insurance coverage, contact Michelle Davis at [mdavis@usi.edu](mailto:mdavis@usi.edu) or 812/464-1781, or Angie Brawdy at [abrawdy@usi.edu](mailto:abrawdy@usi.edu) or 812/464-1988.

### **Bookstore to host alumnus book-signing**

The USI Bookstore will host a book-signing and reception for **Sgt. Rick Reed '92** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, November 28. Reed is commander of the Evansville Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit and is co-author with Steven Walker of the true-crime book *Blood Trail*, published by Pinnacle Books. The

book documents the case of Joseph W. Brown, who is incarcerated in the Wabash Valley Correctional Center for the murder of an Evansville woman and claims to have raped, tortured, and murdered 13 other women in a seven-state killing spree. Reed was the lead investigator on the Brown case.

### **International Education Week**

The University will observe International Education Week, November 14- 18, with a wide range of programming and activities. The national program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to encourage study abroad and international exchange. Events begin with an opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday, November 14, in Carter Hall D in the University Center. Jantown founder **John Hayden**, of Seattle, Washington, will present an interactive musical performance using instruments from all over the world. For a complete schedule of events, go to [www.usi.edu/newsinfo/release/press\\_detail.asp?num=1816](http://www.usi.edu/newsinfo/release/press_detail.asp?num=1816).

### **Assessment Day 2005 is November 15**

USI students who are first-time, full-time freshmen, juniors who started their college career at USI, and seniors majoring in select programs will participate in testing during Assessment Day on Tuesday, November 15. Testing will take place in the Health Professions Center, Education Center, Orr Center, and Liberal Arts Center. Three testing sessions will be offered at 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 6 p.m. Students will be notified by mail and/or through e-mail ([usieagles.org](mailto:usieagles.org)) as to the time and place of a testing session. Students are required to participate. Students without an excused absence will have a hold placed on their pre-registration privileges, and will register during open registration. Classes are not scheduled for Assessment Day, and there will be no early registration that day.

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