

Advances

Volume 9, Number 1 Winter 2008 News from the IU School of Liberal Arts

Shakespeare Cometh...This Spring

By Nicole Schumucker, English Major



Various troupe members as Petruchio's servants in the American Shakespeare Company's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The IU School of Liberal Arts welcomes the American Shakespeare Center's (ASC) **Piercing Eloquence Tour** to the IUPUI campus between February 25 and March 2, 2008. The ASC, one of the

country's most sought after pedagogical acting troupes, will recreate authentic Elizabethan theatre, including use of a stage surrounded by the audience on three sides. They will perform three of William

Shakespeare's most controversial plays: *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Henry V*.

ASC's dedication to original production techniques doesn't hinder their ability to make Shakespeare relevant to today's audiences; their workshops explore the ever-relevant themes of leadership in *Henry V*, bigotry in *The Merchant of Venice*, and women's liberation in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The aim of the ASC is both entertain and educate. The troupe will offer performances and workshops to area high schools as well as "Shakespeare in the Courtroom," featuring the courtroom scene from

The Merchant of Venice with a faculty and actor panel discussion at the IU School of Law-Indianapolis.

"These actors bring Shakespeare to life," says Associate Professor of English Drama and Director of Shakespeare and Early Modern Performance Studies **Terri Bourus**. "We are very excited to bring this valuable opportunity to IUPUI and central Indiana. The ASC is performing in universities and high schools across the country to wide-spread critical acclaim with a record of success in the growth of the arts and enhanced education of students."

IUPUI and IU faculty, staff, and students may attend the events free of charge. Performances throughout the week are open to the public for a modest ticket price.

American Shakespeare Center Performances

At the Christian Theological Seminary. Tickets: \$10
Q&A follow all performances.

Henry V

Thursday, February 28, 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 1, 7:00 pm

The Merchant of Venice

Sunday, March 2, 2:00 pm

Information about the American Shakespeare Center
<http://americanshakespearecenter.com>

Indianapolis performance and workshop information
<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/shakespeare>



The IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI in association with
the Department of Communication Studies
Presents the Nineteenth Annual Joseph Taylor Symposium

"You Talkin' to Me?"
Political Messages/Multicultural Perspectives

Friday, February 29, 2008 • IUPUI Campus Center
420 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN

CREATE-ing a Legacy: The Reibergs

By Nicole Schmucker



Louise and Rufus Reiberg

In his spare time, **Rufus Reiberg**, the first chair of the English Department, could be found tromping through the woods-blazing trails and chopping down trees for his latest woodworking project. One of his works, a rustic coffee table with irregularly curving edges, sits in the living room of the house that he and his wife, **Louise Reiberg**, shared before his death in 1995.

Their son **Robert Reiberg**, a potter, and his wife **Sandra Reiberg**, the Director of Arts and Humanities at Broad Ripple High School, moved into his parents' historic home, situated in the heart of Indianapolis' Meridian Kessler neighborhood, after Louise died in 2006.

"I get my love of crafts from my dad and an appreciation of fine art from my mom," Robert says. "There were always woodworking tools and art books lying around the house. We grew up with all these images of art ingrained in our minds."

From Rufus' book collection, spanning numerous shelves and stacked three rows deep, to Louise's paintings and ceramics, the home still reflects the couple's

personality. One of Louise's creations, a bowl with a large smiling face on the lid, decorates a table in the hallway. Robert says the face is similar to ones she drew to accompany stories she invented for him and his sisters, **Judith Diggle** and **Dorothy Brooks**, when they were kids.

Spoken words permeated the daily life of the Reiberg family; between Rufus' spontaneous recitation of poetry and Louise's imaginative ongoing bedtime sagas, their children and grandchildren cultivated a love of storytelling and theater. Their daughter, **Dorothy**, directs, produces, and acts in plays in a community theater in Mohawk Valley, New York; and their grandson, **Eric Reiberg**, majored in theater at Indiana University. But the Reibergs' influence reached beyond their family.

IUPUI alumni and faculty remember Rufus' passion for literature and poetry, and Louise's love of art and her faculty wives

drawing club. The School of Liberal Arts passes on their legacy every year with the **Rufus and Louise Reiberg Reading Series**, a celebration of the spoken word of writers, poets, and community activists now celebrating 10 years.

Robert says he enjoys attending the series, and his mother always had a front row seat at the events. "I love spoken word, but I never had the talent for reciting poetry like my dad," he says. "I used to spend hours memorizing a poem and get up the next day and not remember a word of it."

In its 10 years, the Reading Series has brought scores of wordsmiths to the university and city. This distinguished history will be recognized at the 10th anniversary event on Thursday, April 3rd featuring poet **Lynnell Edwards**.

The Reibergs' legacy of the arts resonates today—through their family, the English Department faculty, and the voices of poets and writers at Reiberg events.

The IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, University Library, and University College present The 2007-08 Rufus and Louise Reiberg Reading Series

Thursday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Bill Johnston

Director of the Polish Studies Center at IU Bloomington and translator of contemporary and classic Polish literature



Thursday, February 28, 7:00 pm

International Women's Day Celebration

Poets, writers, dancers, and activists from our community! Co-sponsored by the IUPUI Women's Studies Program. Preceded by a reception at 6:30 pm



Thursday, March 27, 7:30 pm

Cornelius Eady and Mitchell L.H. Douglas

A duet by writers from Cave Canem, a network of established and emerging black poets

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 pm

Reiberg 10th Anniversary Reading Lynnell Edwards

Called "a poet of gargantuan love for life"
With remarks by Dean Emeritus John D. Barlow.

Saturday, April 5, 7:30 pm

Joseph Bruchac

Abenaki poet and storyteller
Part of the Etheridge Knight Festival for the Arts.

Events are held in the Lilly Auditorium, University Library lower level. Visitor parking is available in the North Street Garage. Map and directions are available at <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu> Contact Karen Kovacic, kovacic@iupui.edu or 274-9831.

Impacting the Future



IU Foundation Office of Gift Planning. Top row from left: Judi Tichenor, John T. Keith, Carmella Hise. Bottom row: Estacia Medlen Brandenburg, Brian D. Yeley.

Do you want to make an impact, but think that you can never afford to make the kind of gift that hits the philanthropic headlines?

For many people, the largest gift of a lifetime may come only through their estate plan. Gift planning options allow you to make a charitable gift that will serve your own financial and estate planning needs and provide support to your university for generations to come. We are fortunate that the IU Foundation has a staff of dedicated professionals in its Office of Gift Planning who can help you think about your giving creatively and provide you with a variety of helpful tools that allow you to give more than you thought possible.

Gift plans include those gifts, whether given currently or deferred, that require the assistance of financial advisers or other professionals to complete. A gift plan requires your careful consideration in light of your estate and financial plans. Gift plans that include real estate, securities, and other assets may also be used to establish a life-income gift plan to benefit you or others you love.

Five attorneys who are specialists in the area of gift planning are available through the Office of Gift Planning of the IU Foundation to assist you, free of charge.

For more information, please contact Estacia Medlen Brandenburg, embrand@iupui.edu, (317) 278-5653.

**Know an extraordinary Liberal Arts alumnus?
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Alumni Award. Email ssdavis@iupui.edu
for more information.**

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subscribe to the Alumni E-mail Newsletter!!**

IUPUI's Jag Players



Campers at the 2007 Good Friends Summer Drama Camp with teacher Jamison Garrison.

The Jag Players bring dramatic performance (both large scale productions, and small performance pieces) to the IUPUI community and provide IUPUI students a forum to perform, write, direct, and design dramatic works as a means of personal and professional development.

Jag Players Advisor, Donna Edmond, says "The Jag Players provides a creative outlet for students interested in performance. The students meet monthly and to go to local shows as well as to discuss ongoing projects for production. The group is currently working on a project for a spring production."

At the IUPUI Natatorium this summer, the Jag Players will participate in the Drama

and Dance Camps offered by the Communication Studies Department and Theatre Program. In the dance camps kids will explore hip hop, musical theatre, ballet, tumbling and more. In the drama camps, the campers will create fun, clever, performance pieces in the classroom. For children between 5-12, the camps provide the Jag Players an opportunity to gain experience in theatre education. The summer camp is in its second year of operation and has already expanded from 2 to 6 camps.

Whether helping with the camp, participating in local theatre, or producing their own plays, the Jag Players bring drama to life for IUPUI students and the community.



WINTER COLLEGE

February 15-17, 2008

**Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa
Fort Myers, Florida**

Join fellow alumni and friends at the Alumni Association's Winter College in Fort Myers in February, 2008.

Participants will experience a dynamic weekend of educational workshops, lectures and lively discussions, while enjoying sumptuous food, luxurious accommodations, and the warm Florida sun. The Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa will serve as our headquarters.

Accomplished faculty will join us for the weekend to lead our educational program.

For additional information email: www.alumni.iupui.edu or email ssdavis@iupui.edu or call Stefan Davis at 317-274-2317 or toll free at 866-267-3104.



A Tribute to the Drs. Webb

By Paul J. Siddens III, Ph.D. (BA Communication Studies, 1976)

Associate Professor of Communication Studies, University of Northern Iowa



Dorothy and Edgar Webb

From 1972 to 1976, I was an undergraduate double major in Speech and Theatre at IUPUI. Some of my fondest memories of IUPUI are being a part of that theatre program. In particular, I am grateful to **Drs. J. Edgar and Dorothy Webb**, who were the full time faculty who developed and nurtured that program.

They gave me the opportunities to play such interesting and dignified characters as Henry VIII in *A Man for All Seasons*, Dunois, the Bastard of Orleans in *Joan of Lorraine*, and the Bishop of Lax in *See How They Run* by Edgar. I also very fondly remember playing just as interesting, but slightly less dignified characters, like Toby Butter in *The Magic Pouch*, and Cowpoke Paul for creative drama touring warm-ups.

Those of us who were majors and minors, as well as the countless others at IUPUI, and from the community, who worked in the program, are indebted to them for many reasons. The Drs. Webb are now retired, and I wish to acknowledge their legacy at IUPUI, and thank them for the significant positive impact they had on my personal and professional lives.

Edgar began the Theatre program at IUPUI in 1967, and was joined by Dorothy in 1968. At that time, the theatre program operated from the Marrott Building, at 9th and Meridian. The theatre, costume and make-up shop, and scenery construction shop were all in the basement. In fact, at one time the theatre itself was a swimming pool.

Some people thought the Marrott Theatre limited the program due to its small size and unusual dimensions, but Edgar and Dorothy used the facility to teach us how to see the possibilities in a performance space, and how to be creative in staging performances.

In looking back on thirty years of working in professional and educational theatre all across the Midwest, I believe that the most valuable skills I learned from our program were being able to see the possibilities in any space in which I worked and being able to produce theatre in almost any environment I was given. We didn't need Clowes Hall to produce plays, all we needed was the Hideaway Cafeteria in the basement of the Library to do "Lunch and Munch" Theatre.

In 1981 the program moved to larger facilities in the Mary Cable Building on the Michigan Street campus. It remained there until the program came to an end in 1993. While the facilities and program were relatively small compared to programs at Bloomington, West Lafayette, and Evanston, IL, the creativity and energy were boundless, and the faculty were every bit as skilled and professional.

Edgar taught and practiced most often in the areas of acting, directing and theatre history, and Dorothy focused most often in the areas of theatrical design, technical direction and children's theatre. Both the Webbs are skilled in all facets of theatrical production, and they frequently changed roles in the program. In fact, Dorothy began working as a Theatrical Designer and Technical Director at a time when very few women were able to work in those areas.

What made Edgar and Dorothy great teachers and theatre professionals was that they let students learn by doing. We not only learned the theories behind theatrical production, we were given opportunities to practice them. We acted, directed, edited and wrote scripts, designed sets, lighting, and audio, constructed sets and props, built costumes, and set and focused lights. We were able to learn theatrical production by actually applying and testing theories we were taught in practical settings. In many ways the smaller size of our program was a benefit to its students, allowing all of us opportunities to participate in main stage productions.

Edgar and Dorothy also saw to it that we had opportunities to do theatrical production in many different touring situations. We did theatre in basement

cafeterias and main stage productions in the Union Building. We toured many children's theatre productions throughout central Indiana. These opportunities to take shows on the road taught us to improvise and adapt to make productions fit into different venues. They also showed us the importance of sharing theatre with different audiences.

But perhaps most important of all, Edgar and Dorothy love theatre and the arts, and they prepared us to be theatre professionals by teaching us not only the theory and practice of virtually all areas of theatrical production, but also by instilling in us their love of theatre and the arts. We learned to engage in theatrical production with passion and commitment.

These days, I'm told that the embers that Edgar and Dorothy lit those many years ago continue to send out light. Classes in theatre performance, writing and literature continue to be offered, and there is still a student theatrical group (now called the JagPlayers). The costumes from Cable Building were rescued and are in use by classes, and in February, a troupe of actors from the **American Shakespeare Center** will be in residence, offering workshops on such things as swordplay and staging.

The Cable building is gone and a new campus center is rising just west of Cavanaugh. Inside, there is a food court—with space for small scale performance (shades of "Lunch and Munch!"). Today's students will have the chance to learn as we did, that great live theatre can happen wherever actors and audience come together. We can take inspiration from Dorothy and Edgar Webb—who knew this, and understood that all we really needed was to believe.

Introducing

The African American and African Diaspora Studies Undergraduate Research Program

By Ronda C. Henry, Ph.D., Public Scholar of African American Studies & Undergraduate Research; Assistant Professor of English



Ronda C. Henry

Greetings!

My name is Dr. Ronda C. Henry, and I joined the School of Liberal Arts in August as the Public Scholar of African American Studies and Undergraduate Research. I am writing to introduce myself to you and to share information about a new program created by IUPUI and the School of Liberal Arts to promote the development of undergraduate research and professional experience. The program's scholarly and academic activities and the scholarship and research produced by the students will focus on African American and African Diaspora Studies—a course of study focused on people of African descent still living in Africa and those populations scattered around the globe since slavery and colonization.

The undergraduate research program begins in Fall 2008 and provides scholars from all races and backgrounds with full, in-state tuition (for between 12 and 15 credit hours per semester) and a \$2000 stipend for the academic year.

Students admitted to the program will work with faculty research mentors to develop research projects, which will culminate in the presentation of their work at a conference or student forum; additionally, each student will participate in an internship with one of our community partners, which specialize in enriching and/or supporting the lives of people of African descent in Indianapolis. Students are eligible to remain in the program for up to four years. When they graduate, they will not only have completed the academic training necessary for graduate school, they will also have the experience and contacts to begin a professional career.

As you can tell, this is a great program for students. It also demonstrates the commitment of IUPUI and Liberal Arts to the lives, histories, and traditions of people of African descent, and to developing a cohort of academically and professionally equipped graduates who are prepared to make an impact on a culturally diverse world.

Yours,

To learn more about the AAADS Undergraduate Research Program, please contact me at 317-278-0885 or ronhenry@iupui.edu

American Shakespeare Center Shakespeare in the Courtroom

IU School of Law-Indianapolis, Inlow Hall
Open and free to the public.

The Merchant of Venice *

Tuesday, February 26, 5:30 pm

* Courtroom scene only. Panel discussion with actors and faculty follows.

<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/shakespeare>

Advances is a publication of the IU School of Liberal Arts Office of Development & External Affairs.

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visit us online @ www.alumni.indiana.edu.

Liberal Arts Website Gets a Makeover

By Shawn Plew, Webmaster

Since mid-April 2007, we've been working hard to build a great new website for the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI - one that reflects the top-notch academic environment, culture of civic engagement, and community of faculty and staff.

The new IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI website takes advantage of the universal code of the modern web, eXtensible Markup Language (XML). Thanks to XML, you can now browse our website on your web-enabled phone and subscribe to our content using our RSS feeds or video Podcasts.

Our website utilizes the best of the Web 2.0 world: Photo galleries, video and photo slideshows with Adobe Flash, RSS feeds of the latest events—it's all there.

We've come a long way from our old website. We've moved into a new server. We're rolling everything into an easy-to-use Content Management System. We even built an all new schoolwide events calendar. We're not through yet, though, not by a long shot.

We have big plans for our new home, including:

- New scholarship registration systems and searchable databases
- An improved Faculty & Staff Directory, with a new look and better functionality
- An online ClassNotes directory to make it easier for alumni to share their news and keep up with others'
- Better integration with IUAA resources, archives of e-newsletters, and featured alumni profiles

What does this makeover mean for you? More exciting content, a better system of checking out our news and events, more photos and features, and more reasons to visit our site regularly.

Check out the latest developments at the usual URL, <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu>. And, don't forget to tell us what you think using the feedback form on the top of the new page.

