

# THiNK

MAGAZINE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS | *Spring 2010*



**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY







Mara Battiste, a first-year MFA student in art and design, recently displayed her work in the emerging field of electronic and time-based art (ETB) at a pair of exhibits in downtown Lafayette. Battiste describes the multi-media video installation shown here, titled "History Repeats," as "a satirical, tongue-in-cheek narrative that questions and explores the ideas of constructed feminine identity, emotional dependence, and the internal struggle of resisting learned expectations and breaking negative cycles." To learn more about Purdue's ETB curriculum and view a gallery of student and faculty works, visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/vpa/etb](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/vpa/etb). Photo by Andrew Hancock





# THiNK MAGAZINE

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## THiNK Magazine

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**ON THE COVER.** A memorial to Jews in Budapest, Hungary, who fell into the river after being executed by Nazis and Arrow Cross militiamen during World War II, "Shoes on the Danube" evokes issues explored in "Monuments and Moments" beginning on page 10. *Photo by D. Csörföly*





While universities are often thought to be steeped in tradition and slow to change, those of us who know the university culture well understand that change is a constant and desirable part of our lives. We change to improve our teaching and our curriculum. We change the way we investigate the questions that drive our scholarship, research, and creative work — and often the very questions we pursue. We change our organizational structures to facilitate exciting new collaborations.

This year at Purdue and in the College of Liberal Arts, we are experiencing a number of changes. Professor Timothy D. Sands is Purdue's new executive vice president for academic affairs and provost. He succeeds Randy Woodson, who has been named chancellor at North Carolina State University. Those of us in the College of Liberal Arts will be working closely with Provost Sands on another significant change over the coming months: the establishment of a College of Health and Human Sciences, approved by the Board of Trustees at its February meeting.

The College of Health and Human Sciences will replace the College of Consumer and Family Sciences and will include, in addition to the four departments currently

in that college, the Schools of Nursing and Health Sciences and three departments from the College of Liberal Arts: Health and Kinesiology; Psychological Sciences; and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. The College of Health and Human Sciences promises to provide students and faculty with new opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and research, particularly in the critical areas of health and medical sciences.

For Liberal Arts, this reconfiguration presents an exciting opportunity to revisit our mission and focus. We will be a more coherent college, built upon three very strong areas, the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences, working in nine departments and seventeen interdisciplinary programs.

Change requires vision, and this spring, I am working with a group of faculty and others invested in the College of Liberal Arts to develop a strategic plan that will articulate our shared values and goals and our plans for achieving them. I welcome your input into the discussion. Thank you for all of the ways that you support the outstanding work being done in our college, and please enjoy reading about some of that work in this issue of *THiNK*.

With best regards,

IRWIN WEISER  
*Interim Dean*



## TELL US WHAT YOU *THiNK*!

Did an article in this issue move you, make you think, or raise a question?

We're interested in your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. E-mail us at [thinkcla@purdue.edu](mailto:thinkcla@purdue.edu) or write to *THiNK Magazine*, College of Liberal Arts, 100 N. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098. Letters may be edited for length or clarity, and we regret that we may not be able to print all letters.

I truly enjoyed the article, "Service on the Syllabus," in the spring 2009 edition of *THiNK*. I work for a local nonprofit that provides services to more than 2,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Our services are better because of our relationship with Purdue University.

The Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) program, for example, has helped the adults in our workshop develop easier ways to complete a job and, in turn, earn a paycheck. Student volunteers also have helped by reading to the preschoolers we serve and befriending the adults.

As an alumna, I am proud that Purdue, particularly the College of Liberal Arts, is encouraging engagement. I hope the students are getting as much out of it as we are!

### RHONDA JONES

BA 1988, Communication  
Director of Development and Communications  
Wabash Center  
Lafayette, Indiana

When David Anthony Santogrossi died on January 28, 2010, the College of Liberal Arts lost one of its greatest champions. As associate dean, he had primary responsibility for undergraduate education in a college that truly values such efforts.

Whether working on budget numbers, writing memos, attending meetings, or going to the many academic events associated with his position, David worked with enthusiasm and purpose. For him, it was all in service of his professional passion. He was a celebrated teacher and a lifelong learner, which made him an especially gifted administrator.

For David, bettering undergraduate education wasn't a job, it was a calling. It is no accident that his brothers and sisters identified supporting two undergraduate scholarships as a way of memorializing him. Educating students is central to who David was.

Even now, I am caught by the past tense in the last sentence. David is gone, but his work lives on for the myriad of colleagues, friends, and students who loved him. We will cherish his memory by keeping alive his dream of bettering undergraduate education. May he rest in peace.

### MARGARET MOAN ROWE

Professor of English  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana



To read David Santogrossi's obituary and the memorial resolution in his honor, visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/news/santogrossi](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/news/santogrossi).



## THiNK TAKES HOME GOLD

The Council for the Support and Advancement of Education (CASE) recently honored *THiNK* with a 2009 Pride of CASE Gold Award as the "Most Improved Alumni/Institution Magazine" among colleges and universities with a full-time enrollment of 10,000 or higher.

"This magazine had the feel of a gallery or museum piece," commented the judges. "We expected to be blown away after picking up an issue and being amazed by the tremendous cover. And we were by everything that followed. ... *THiNK* is perfect for a college of liberal arts.

"The cover photography is tremendous and there is no drop-off inside, including the use of stock photos. Kudos as well for the use of white space, the standing heads, typography, choice of paper and the perfect-bound spine. All combine to make a truly excellent publication."

CASE is education's leading resource for knowledge, standards, advocacy and training in alumni relations, communications, fundraising, marketing and related activities.

**W**hen John Contreni stepped down as dean, my longtime friend, Irwin "Bud" Weiser, began serving as interim dean of Purdue's College of Liberal Arts. While Bud will face a number of challenges, I know that he will be equal to the task.

This being said, I would be remiss if I didn't publicly thank John for orchestrating the quantum leaps the college took during his tenure as the Justin S. Morrill Dean. Under his leadership, the college became more visible and vibrant. The very magazine you are now reading is a testament to John's vision. While the *Liberal Arts Magazine* was good, *THiNK* is spectacular. The implementation of "Experience Liberal Arts" month and "LA Influentials" are also examples of his innovations.

While budgetary considerations are impacting the programs that were instituted under John's watch (for example, only one issue of *THiNK* will again be published this year rather than two), the tremendous value of his

contributions to the college should be recognized and continued.

Thank you, John, for your outstanding leadership of the College of Liberal Arts and for your service to Purdue!

**THOMAS A. JENKINS**

BA 1965, English  
Former president, CLA Alumni Board  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**I** wanted to send my kudos for an excellent job with *THiNK*! I love the layout and the white space, am very impressed by the photography, and always engaged by the writing. I was most taken by the "Uniting for Change" piece in the spring issue — a fine example of bringing mindfulness to a topic that is so often presented in absolute terms.

Keep up the good work!

**BARBARA HANCOCK**

BA 1975, Philosophy  
Louisville, Kentucky

**I** enjoy reading *THiNK*, but as someone who wants to be as friendly to the environment as possible, I wonder if there is a way to receive the magazine electronically.

**HANNAH DOCKRILL SASSER**

BA 2010, English

*Editor's note: We share your commitment to environmental sustainability. THiNK is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which sets the highest standards in the publishing industry, and each edition is available in a digital format on the College of Liberal Arts home page at [www.cla.purdue.edu](http://www.cla.purdue.edu). Opportunities to produce the magazine through more user-friendly and interactive electronic platforms are also being explored.*





## *Bodies of Work*

Like the poetry it inspired, English professor Marianne Boruch's experience in Purdue's Faculty Fellowships for Study in a Second Discipline has numerous layers of meaning.

First, the award-winning poet explored the visual and performing arts through Professor Grace O'Brien's course in life drawing. Using what she learned in her art course, Boruch added a third layer to her study when she drew what she saw and sensed during a gross human anatomy laboratory class offered on the West Lafayette campus through the Indiana University School of Medicine.

The 22-year CLA faculty member reports that she also received creative advice from a resident muse of the storied lab. "One of the cadavers we dissected insisted on taking over," says Boruch. "I didn't go easily, but she basically pushed me aside to speak for herself, to give her take on life on the planet.

"Though detail and event are directly drawn from what I noticed, I imagined a great deal, in particular all the personal bits having to do with my wily speaker's life."

That unique combination continues to inspire what will be her eighth collection of poems, excerpted at left with her artwork, as well as *Cadaver, Speak: Poems from the Dissection Lab*, an eclectic reading of a completed sequence in that manuscript, performed last October by medical students and poets enrolled in Purdue's MFA program in creative writing.

"I wanted to share the exciting interdisciplinary nature of the fellowship I received and bring together groups deeply committed either to poetry or medicine," says Boruch. "In the usual scheme of things, they might never meet."

*By Eric Nelson*

*In the studio, there's the sound  
of the brush, or the conte crayon, or the pencil.  
Fifteen wish whishings  
make the quiet  
more quiet. It goes on a long time, a near*

*nothing at all, a passing, until the ends—  
who cares about ends. I was drawing, wasn't I?  
And what did I  
have to do with it? Some weird lonely shape  
hurtling up through the paper.*

*from the poem "Tool and Shade,"  
by Marianne Boruch*





## Giving Voice to the Future

In many ways, the work being done by faculty and students in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences is ahead of its time.

Currently contained within the College of Liberal Arts, the department's programs are ranked among the best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Academic Analytics*. It also houses the M.D. Steer Audiology and Speech-Language Clinics, which provide more than 10 clinical programs to the public and log more than 2,200 patient-visits a year.

In addition, the department is home to the Neural Systems for Language Processing Lab, where PhD candidate Amanda Hampton Wray and undergraduate Erin Coffey (above, left to right) help Professor Christine Weber-Fox conduct cutting-edge research in stuttering using electrode-fitted caps that record event-related brain potentials.

Unfortunately, facilities haven't kept pace with the work being done within them. "Today that fine teaching, brilliant research, and excellent and compassionate clinical care are

in the lower floors of Heavilon Hall in a space that was built 52 years ago," says professor and department head Robert Novak.

That will soon change thanks to a \$10 million gift from 1959 alumna Marybeth Higuera to fund the Lyles-Porter Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences facility, which will bear the name of the donor's families. "My parents, my brothers, and one of my sons were Purdue graduates, and my grandfather was a professor here," says Higuera, a former speech pathologist. "This university is a rich part of our lives."

Extending that legacy sounds especially good to Weber-Fox, who is also an alumna of the program. "Mrs. Higuera's generous gift is an incredible investment in our department's future," she says. "It's a huge boost and will help us to advance the highest standards in research, teaching, and service."

*By Eric Nelson*



## DRIVEN to Make a Difference

**E**ydeé Colome is driven. Colome, a junior from Chicago majoring in law and society with a minor in communication, is among a growing number of liberal arts students dedicated to Diversity and Retention Initiatives through Volunteering, Education, and Networking (DRIVEN).

The organization, open to both minority and majority students, was formed in 2004 to provide opportunities to practice skills that will help them be successful in the classroom and in their careers.

"This really is a student-driven organization," says CLA Director of Diversity Initiatives David Clark, the group's advisor. "Our students take more pride and are more devoted to the group because they're setting the agenda."

Colome, pictured above (third from left) with other DRIVEN members, joined the organization her freshman

year. Today, she serves as its president and as a member of the Liberal Arts Dean's Ambassadors and the Emerging Leaders program.

"DRIVEN gives me the opportunity to bond with many different people and a chance to educate others about the importance of diversity and community interaction," Colome says. "It's not just any organization — it's a group of culturally diverse friends coming together to make a difference in their own lives as well as in the community."

Christopher Munt, coordinator of Student Diversity Services for the Diversity Resource Office at Purdue, agrees. "Organizations like DRIVEN are developing confident, inspired students who become confident, successful alumni. The benefits to the campus community now and in the future are immeasurable."

*By Grant Flora. Photo by Mark Simons.*



## On the Fast Track

Greater Lafayette cable subscribers who tune to Comcast Channel 5 on Friday nights can watch CLA communication majors hosting an award-winning video newsmagazine, *Fast Track*. The program gives students valuable, hands-on experience in all facets of TV news, helping them land jobs in the broadcast industry after finishing their degrees.

*Fast Track*, which began five years ago, is produced by communication professor Pat Rochon, who has an MFA from Yale and won two regional Emmys while working at a Boston TV station. Scott Schroeder, who directs the Communication Technology Center, helps with videography.

To work on *Fast Track*, students must first pass Introduction to Video Production. “That’s where they learn how to make the magic happen,” says Rochon. Following auditions to become anchors, reporters, or crew, the students then plan, write, and produce the weekly program in the Department of Communication’s studio in Stewart Center.

A pair of 2009 grads, Kyle Bloyd and Laura Hoffman, recently earned national recognition and a “Best Reporting” award from College Broadcasters Inc. (CBI) for their story about a Purdue staff member whose house had burned down. *Fast Track* also took top honors in the “Student Newscast” category at last year’s Chicago/Midwest Emmys.

As a service to the Latino community — as well as to provide foreign language experience to students — *Fast Track* produces a Spanish version of the newsmagazine called *Fast Track te Informa*.

Cecilia Tenorio, a native Argentine and director of the CLA Community Assistance Program, helps students write, translate and present the stories in Spanish, including some with subtitles to support English language acquisition. “The translation and presentation work are amazing opportunities to learn by doing,” says Tenorio, shown at right with anchor Ale Encarnacion and Schroeder.

To see the work of these talented students, visit <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/fasttrack> or search for “Fast Track Purdue” on YouTube.

By Barbara Hart Dixon. Photo by Mark Simons.









# Monuments and Moments

**H**istory and memory, as well as the connections they share, are slippery at best. Still unformed in the minutes, days, and even years after an event's occurrence, each is instead shaped by political partisanship, scholarly advances, and individual recollections that frequently conflict and change over time.

As evidenced by the lingering controversy surrounding plans to memorialize the tragedies of 9/11, the physical monuments and cultural traditions seeking to honor the past are also subject to interpretation and debate. But for faculty and students in Purdue's College of Liberal Arts, such manifestations are often the most accessible starting point for reconciling these contextual gaps.

What remains at the end, of course, is far from being written in stone.

## Living History

On a Friday late last August, Kristina Bross, an associate professor of English, asked the honors students in her Living History course to meet at Felix Haas Hall. She didn't tell them why. They may have passed the old red brick building many times before. Some may have even noticed the words "Memorial Gymnasium" etched in the concrete above its main entry. But Bross wanted them to explore the building as a monument and discover what historical evidence remained.

Stone engravings and plaques, both inside and outside the building, tell the story. On Halloween 1903, a train traveling to Indianapolis — full of Purdue football players, coaches, band members, and fans en route to a game against the rival Indiana Hoosiers — collided with a coal train just minutes from Union Station in Indianapolis. Seventeen were killed, including 14 players. Many more were injured.

One injured player, team captain and student body president Harry "Skillet" Leslie, took the lead in raising funds to honor his fallen teammates. With the help of the Big Four Railroad, he helped secure \$88,000 in donations, and Memorial Gymnasium was dedicated in 1909. Leslie, who would become the governor of Indiana, walked with a limp for the rest of his life, forever tied to a tragic piece of Purdue history.

*LEFT: Cadets pay their respects to Capt. Timothy I. McGovern as his rifle, boots, and helmet form the "Battlefield Cross" at a memorial service conducted by Purdue's Army ROTC Boiler Battalion on November 20, 2007. McGovern, a 2001 Purdue graduate, was killed during combat operations in Iraq.*

*Photo by Andrew Hancock*

*ABOVE RIGHT: Flags grace the gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day. Photo by Kathleen T. Rhem*

# Monuments and Moments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



*On Halloween in 1903, 17 people were killed when a train filled with Purdue football players, coaches, band members, and fans on their way to a game collided with a coal train just outside Indianapolis. Purdue archives photo*

“One of our opening exercises was to look at archived materials from that moment — all of the telegrams from family members wondering where their kids were and the letters of condolence,” Bross says.

With the building renamed for Haas in 2006, Bross asked her students to view it as a palimpsest memorial — suggestive of an erasure. Students held a spirited debate about the ethics of renaming a memorial site, however noteworthy the namesake might be. Other questions followed. “We talked about how long you should remember,” Bross details. “When do you give up memorializing? What would be a fitting memorial today?”

As it turns out, in 2003, a full century after the train tragedy, the athletic department dedicated the tunnel the football players run through at Ross-Ade Stadium to “the memory of the 17 and the spirit of Leslie, President Stone, and the Boilermakers of 1903.”

Bross emphasizes that her course was not intended to be a morbid introduction to Purdue history, nor was it even a history class. They also looked at sports memorabilia on display at Bruno’s restaurant, observed the reenactments

of 18th century French fur traders and Indians at the Feast of the Hunters’ Moon, and delved into other local historical sites. “What’s interesting about these sites of memory was discovering how they overlapped,” she notes.

“We then turned to historical fiction,” says Bross. “We focused on Toni Morrison’s novel, *A Mercy*, which is set in 17th century New England. We thought about the way Morrison constructed historical fiction about people and voices who haven’t survived in the archive.”

## Selective Forgetting

One of the most famous battle cries, certainly from within U.S. history, is “Remember the Alamo.” When an editor suggested to Randy Roberts that he write a book on the subject, the professor of history countered, “Okay, but I don’t want to do a book on just the Alamo. I want to deal with how we remember it.”

A prolific writer who has published books on such American icons as screen legend John Wayne, Roberts was particularly interested in how Hollywood came to deal with memories of the Alamo from movies with the Duke and



Davy Crockett in the Cold War years through the end of last century. About half of *A Line in the Sand: The Alamo in Blood and Memory*, written with James S. Olson, is about its history, he says. The rest deals with how the 1836 battle is remembered.

“Here’s an event where the participants on the Texas side were all killed,” Roberts notes. “So how does the news get out? What battles were the Daughters of the Republic of Texas fighting in terms of preserving the site? What do they want that site to represent?”

Though losing the battle, Texas would ultimately win the war and its independence from Mexico. Nevertheless, the Alamo is far more remembered than the Battle of San Jacinto, where General Sam Houston claimed victory in 18 minutes, Roberts says.

Roberts also examined the Alamo from its various points of view. “It’s a contested ground,” he says. “For Mexicans, it’s a site of great victory. But it’s also a creation myth for Texas. The Alamo is the central image of Texas history.”

But once tied to memory, history can also be a great burden, adds Roberts, quoting William Faulkner: “The past is never dead. It’s never even past.”

With the complexity of life along the Texas and Mexico border — to this day a history rich in bloodshed, racism, and different versions of the truth — Roberts ends his book with advice from a movie that runs counter to what many Texans grew up hearing. John Sayle’s 1996 movie, *Lone Star*, concludes with “Forget the Alamo. Start from scratch.”

Another Purdue professor, Caroline Janney, has also explored perspectives from a losing side. A Civil War historian, she discovered the true origins of Memorial Day that might surprise many. In *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies’ Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause*, Janney details the independent women’s groups, mostly from Virginia, who began organizing Confederate cemeteries in May 1865, less than one month after the end of the Civil War. The very first Memorial Days, which in some states would come to be known as Decoration Day, took place in April and May of 1866 — below the Mason-Dixon Line.

“The reason it’s important that women took the lead in the South is that they were seen as nonpolitical,” Janney says. “The irony of all this is that women had been arrested and held in prison for treason during the course of the war. But when the war was over, white southerners believed that

*A cenotaph commemorating the Texans and Tejanos who died during the famous Battle of the Alamo in 1836 stands in front of the former Spanish mission at the center of Alamo Plaza in San Antonio, Texas. Photo by David R. Tribble*



# Monuments and Moments

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the women's gender protected them from being charged with treason in the same way that former soldiers or confederate leaders would."

Politically charged speeches filled the air as a crowd as large as 60,000 attended a Memorial Day celebration in 1867 in Richmond, Virginia, a year before the Union began any commemoration of the dead, Janney says.

"It all goes hand in hand with how the war dead are going to be treated. By 1863, the federal government had a program in place to create national cemeteries. Gettysburg was created in 1863, and Arlington National, which was Robert E. Lee's home, followed in 1864. What a great insult to the most important commander of the Confederate Army to put a Union cemetery in his yard," she contends.

With most of the 360,000-plus Union dead in unmarked graves across southern battlefields, there was an outpouring from the north to secure better resting places for those soldiers, Janney explains. "A group that came to be known as the U.S. Burial Corps began exhuming remains from the South. So the national cemetery system was really born in the Civil War."

For Janney, the notion of memory is always contentious. She points to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in downtown Indianapolis, the largest Civil War memorial

in the nation. The southern side of the monument, looking down South Meridian Street, shows the Confederate battle flag being trampled.

It's a politicized depiction Janney finds ironic given the notions of reconciliation and the national unity at the time of its dedication in 1901. "You have to keep in mind whose memory is being carved in stone," she says.

## Legacies of War

For researchers and teachers in other disciplines, the study of memory and memorials is just as important. "Memory is something general and unspecific," suggests Andrew Buckser, a professor of anthropology. "Anthropologists who look at memory tend to look at why it takes its specific form. How do you pick out the things that you do?"

Buckser describes the chaotic "present tense" of time. Later, an authoritative version of the story, usually developed within the social context, starts to take shape. His book, *After the Rescue: Jewish Identity and Community in Contemporary Denmark*, tells the dramatic story of the Jews — both now and then — who escaped the Holocaust in World War II with the aid of the non-Jewish Danes.

Hoping to remain neutral, Denmark put up little resistance to the powerful Nazi regime and was taken over



## MULTIPLE MEMORIES

Erected as a memorial to veterans of the War for the Union (1861–65), the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument in Indianapolis also commemorates the War with Mexico (1846–48), Indian and British Wars (1811–12), War of the Revolution, and the capture of Vincennes from the British on February 25, 1779.

There are a number of art works either built into the monument or placed throughout the grounds, including the statuary groups "War," "Peace," "The Dying Soldier," and "The Homefront," as well as the four statues at the corners of the monument representing the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and navy.

The "War" sculptural group (left) gives a feeling of aggressive action as Columbia charges into battle with her torch held high, surrounded by soldiers in the throes of combat. The sculpture includes a cavalry scout, men on horse, a drum, and a cannon.

Source: [www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov). Photo by Kay Schlumpf.





*The Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, Germany, was designed to represent an ordered system that has lost touch with human reason. Photo by Pim Zeekoers*



MEMORIAL DE  
1914 VERDUN 1918

Canon de 240 mm modèle 1916  
Longue portée - 1916  
Ce canon a été utilisé pendant la bataille de Verdun.  
Il a été construit à la Manufacture d'Armes de Saint-Étienne.  
Il pèse 120 tonnes et peut tirer à 15 km.  
Il a été utilisé pendant la bataille de Verdun.  
Il a été construit à la Manufacture d'Armes de Saint-Étienne.  
Il pèse 120 tonnes et peut tirer à 15 km.  
Il a été utilisé pendant la bataille de Verdun.



# Monuments and Moments

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*ABOVE: Honoring the Danish people for rescuing the majority of Copenhagen's Jewish population during the Holocaust, this monument on Denmark Square in Jerusalem, Israel, recalls the boats on which Jews were smuggled to Sweden. Photo by Hovev Landoy.*  
*LEFT: The Verdun Memorial in northeast France commemorates one of the deadliest battles of World War I. Photo by Wolfgang Staudt.*

by Germany in some six hours in 1940. Germany allowed the existing government to stay in place for three years and decided not to do anything with the country's 7,000 Jewish residents, states Buckser. When word came that they would be rounding up Jews in October 1943 and sending them to concentration camps, an almost spontaneous resistance sprang up to rush them to safety.

Buckser describes dramatic efforts to smuggle people into hospitals, and then employ ambulances to transport them north to fishing boats and ultimately to the safe shores of Sweden. A complete stranger might hand out house keys to a Jewish person in the street, offering a temporary hiding place. On streetcars, a group of Danes might shield a Jew from Nazi eyes.

As a result, the Germans captured just 482 out of some 7,000 Jews in Copenhagen, despite its occupation during the entire course of the war, Buckser says. Of those caught, most were rescued from concentration camps before the end of the war; only 53 died.

The subsequent memorials to the heroic story, such as the Museum of Danish Resistance in Copenhagen, have helped solidify Denmark's role not as an allied nation with Germany, but one that managed to peacefully save thousands of lives, Buckser asserts.

For Buckser, the construction of monuments is almost

always the outcome of a battle that memory wins. "Memorials take on a real cultural importance," he says. "They're not just pieces of granite. They're the focus of a lot of ideas."

Roberts also has examined the ravages of war from a historical perspective, leading groups of undergraduates on tours of European battlefields and museums over two consecutive spring breaks. They explored the streets of Paris and talked about the liberation of France from Nazi control in August 1944, crawled into the deadly trenches and foxholes of World War I, toured Omaha Beach and other significant World War II sites, and even visited Waterloo, the site of Napoleon's 19th century defeat. "The tour shows the legacy of war and what the wars were about," Roberts says.

One particularly vivid image rests in Verdun, home to a 10-month battle in World War I that killed more than 1 million people. Students looked down through windows of an ossuary to see "femur bones piled like cordwood and skulls half blown away," Roberts says. "It's a pretty stark anti-war reminder."

But for all the reminders that monuments and memorials offer — however graphic or symbolic, stylized or worshipful, contested or accepted — they remain a product of collective memory. And ultimately, they endure as a concrete calling to keep both victories and losses alive.

*By William Meiners*

# Lazy in Title Only

**Y**ou know the type: those precocious, in your face, incredibly verbal children. Annoying, aren't they? Turns out that when they grow up, as much as we wish for payback, that attitude can in some cases take them far.

Meet Jen Lancaster (BA 1996, Political Science), a former citizen of the corporate world who emerged as a bestselling author in 2006. She doesn't hesitate to admit that she was a brat as a kid and that some people still consider her to be one. That personality, in fact, is at the heart of her writing.

Her books, starting with *Bitter is the New Black*, are wry, mouthy, sassy 'chick-lit' that chronicle her daily adventures and offer keen observations on the world around her. Prolific woman that she is, she has produced a new work annually since her debut as a writer. Her fifth book, *My Fair Lazy*, will be published in May.

"My biggest goal during childhood was to be able to work little bits of profanity into conversations with grown-ups without getting into trouble. And now as an adult,

every single one of my books has the word 'ass' worked into the title or subtitle, which secretly delights me. I feel like my childhood has finally come full circle," she says.

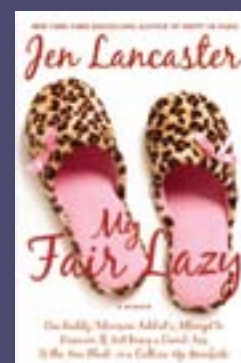
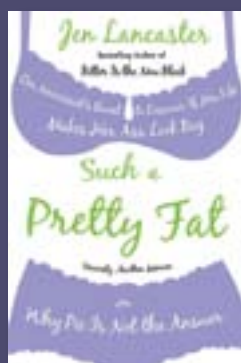
Lancaster lives in Chicago with her husband, John Fletcher (BA 1995, Communication), who figures prominently in her storytelling as "Fletch," the ever patient and more reasoned half of the pair. In contrast, she is a bit more of a loose cannon. If you believe what you read, she likes a stiff drink, has been known to redecorate impulsively, and loves animals to zoo-like excess. Her book chapters bear titles like "Gentlemen, Start Your Cheesecakes" and "Loathe Thy Neighbor."

A devotee of cute shoes, pretty purses, and spa treatments, Lancaster's world unraveled when she was laid off in 2001. She spent the next year unsuccessfully trying to find a new job, worked as a temp, sank low, and was reborn through the popularity of her Web site about being unemployed, which inspired her to write a book.

A child of metropolitan New York and Boston, Lancaster and her family moved to Huntington, Indiana,

## WRITING HER ASS OFF

Producing five books in as many years, Jen Lancaster is as profane as she is prolific. With childlike glee, the self-proclaimed brat includes "ass" on the cover of each work. Her latest effort, *My Fair Lazy*, continues that tradition with the subtitle "One Reality Television Addict's Attempt to Discover if Not Being a Dumb Ass is the New Black, or a Culture-Up Manifesto."







when she was in sixth grade. She wrote for her high school yearbook and newspaper, enrolled at Purdue thinking she might like to be a journalist, pledged a sorority, partied more than she studied, flunked out, then returned with determination. Hooked by the 1992 presidential elections, she declared a major in political science and graduated with honors four years later.

“Ultimately, I didn’t get a job in political science, but I learned so much about critical thinking and writing in my courses that I can’t imagine anything that would have better prepared me for my current life,” she says.

Lancaster — whose books have made the *New York Times* “Bestseller List” and has met her idol, *Sex and the City* author Candace Bushnell — seems to be living a dream. And it’s one she shares openly with her fans. Just how much, though, does she share?

“I make sure I’m as honest as I can be in whatever I write, which means sometimes I end up looking like an ass for everyone’s amusement. (Did you see how I slipped some profanity in there? Years of practice ...),” she says. “I do my best to really put myself in my writing and people seem to connect with that.”

To maintain some level of privacy, she now practices what she calls “participatory journalism, where I have to

accomplish some task or try to learn something new.” That led to a book focused on weight loss and fitness, and, in her newest book, the pursuit of higher-brow culture, or what she calls a “Jenaissance.”

In the book, she says, “I come to the realization that my addiction to reality television has made my brain a bit sluggish, so I challenge myself to a year full of cultural activities, like theatre and opera and art. I intentionally put myself into situations that make me uncomfortable, to see what I can learn about myself and the world.”

Lancaster, whose blog ([www.jennsylvania.com](http://www.jennsylvania.com)) keeps fans up-to-date on happenings in her life, is hitting her stride. It’s payoff for training that began years ago as the precocious, chatty brat her readers have come to love.

“I was pretty sure I wanted to be famous as a kid, but I had no idea in what capacity,” she says. “To ready myself for pending fame, I used to pull a kitchen chair into the bathroom, I’d stand on it, and I’d interview myself. Years later, I had my first television interview and I was beyond nervous before it started. But as soon as I began talking, the whole thing felt really familiar and it occurred to me that I’d been getting ready for that moment for years.”

*By Linda Thomas Terhune. Photo by John Fletcher.*



# But Wait ... There's More

B R I G H T I D E A S B Y D E S I G N

Anyone who has visited the surreal world of late-night infomercials knows that the simple promise of “new and improved” is enough to tempt shoppers into buying things that they don’t need — from high-tech vegetable peelers and fleece blankets with sleeves to telescoping feather dusters and electronic facial exercisers.

As global challenges continue to mount, however, the temporary comfort of materialism is being countered by a demand for more genuine and lasting solutions. Conspicuous consumption is out and conscious consumption is in, making the ethics of a product as important as its aesthetics. And thanks to the work of students in Purdue’s industrial design program, there won’t be a long wait before it all comes to a store near you.

## Simple complexities

On many levels, socially relevant design is part of a larger movement toward “simplicity,” an emerging theory that proposes a complementary relationship between complexity and simplicity. As David R. Butcher explains in *Industry Market Trends*, “designers are placing new weight on a simple, easy-to-use approach to the complex, seeking fineness in function, brilliance in the everyday and, quite simply, better ways for us to use things.”

Creative pragmatism is a key characteristic of Purdue’s industrial design program, which offers a four-year undergraduate degree as well as a two-year master of fine arts (MFA) degree. “We expect our students to be innovative and original, but we also expect them to create designs that can actually be produced,” says professor and program chair Steve Visser.

A professional program within a liberal arts college further distinguishes industrial design at Purdue. “Most other programs across the country are located in art institutes or technical schools,” explains Visser. “Having a strong liberal arts education allows our students to think outside of themselves, to be





# But Wait ... There's More

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*Nora Flood (BA 2010, Industrial Design) earned first place in the 16th annual Student Design Competition sponsored by the International Housewares Association. Her design, called Escape, is a residential fire escape ladder that uses the window frame for support rather than hooking onto the windowsill. It also is easy to repack and store, allowing users to practice before an emergency arises. Photo by Mark Simons*





good researchers, to be aware of the world around them, and to integrate that understanding into their designs.”

Another key element is generational change, adds Visser. While style and fashion remain priorities, they’re balanced by an increased focus on social, environmental, and economic responsibility. “Today’s students possess a strong social awareness and are more concerned about making an impact on the world than on making money or a name for themselves,” he says. “Historically, that’s not been a typical path.”

### Practical elegance

Among the young men and women leading the trend is senior Nora Flood, who earned first place at the International Housewares Association’s 2009 Student Design Competition with *Escape*, a residential fire escape ladder that uses the window frame for support rather than hooking onto the windowsill. It’s also compact and easy to use, store, and repack, allowing homeowners to practice with it before an emergency arises.

“*Escape* was driven by my mom’s fear of having a fire in her house and not being able to get out,” says Flood. “Based on research, I identified problems with existing fire escape ladders and looked for new solutions that make the user’s experience as simple and risk-free as possible.”

Rewarding designs that help people in traumatic situations or those with physical limitations, the panel of judges was especially impressed by Flood’s unique combination of elegance and practicality.

“*Escape* is a great example of a product that identifies a real need and a strategically thought-out solution that is also beautifully designed,” said Bill Lazaroff, senior vice president of product development and design for Lifetime Brands Inc. “It makes a great deal of sense from a business and design standpoint, but most importantly, it could save lives.”

### Sustainable solutions

Another rising star is 2009 graduate Louis Filosa, who recently completed a six-month internship at the prestigious Marcel Wanders Studio in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Filosa received numerous awards during his time at Purdue, culminating with his selection as the only U.S. finalist in last year’s Electrolux Design Lab, an international competition attracting nearly 1,000 entries from undergraduates and graduate students in more than 50 countries.



## ENTER INTERACTION

A trend toward interaction design — which addresses the relationship between a device or system and its users — is already visible in the work of Purdue industrial design students.

Now debuting as a spring class, interaction design will be formally introduced with more undergraduate course offerings and an MFA specialization beginning next fall. But it’s been on the syllabi of most courses since the program’s inception, says Professor Steve Visser.

“Interaction design is to some degree integral to every product design and every student’s work, from a latch that opens a panel to digital readouts on a touch-screen device,” he explains. “It can be very simple or very complex.”

Visser says the field has become even more important to industrial design as computer technology has become more embedded in products and accessible in products. “Everyone with a remote control knows it’s the key to unlocking dozens of high-tech TV features, but if it’s not easy to operate, those features and the TV itself are essentially useless.”

Joining the CLA faculty to build the new specialty area is Cheryl Zhenyu Qian, who worked as an architect in China before earning graduate degrees in interactive arts and technology from Simon Fraser University in Canada. Qian, pictured above teaching the inaugural class, will use that background to help students understand design as a cognitive process that can complement their capabilities in creative and flexible ways.

“We want to focus on the interaction between the user and a product, and not just technology-driven products, but everyday products,” she says. “Other programs focus more on the computer interface. Purdue’s industrial design emphasis is on the human interface and how it can be improved.”

That unique approach is coming to Purdue at the request of industry, specifically Whirlpool Corporation, which provided seed funding, and its vice president of global consumer design, Charles L. Jones. “It was his and Whirlpool’s vision,” says Visser. “They wanted to see interaction design developed within an industrial design program like Purdue’s.”

*Photo by Mark Simons*

# But Wait ... There's More

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Filosa's design for *Renew*, a smart steamer that refreshes and cleans clothes, took third place among the eight product concepts that advanced to the final round. Using an infrared scanner and RFID (radio frequency identification) technology, *Renew* gathers information about a garment from specially designed clothing tags and safely disables itself if an unidentified object is detected.

"My research revealed that people are often troubled by the time and number of steps required to do laundry," says Filosa. "*Renew* is simple, quick, and smart — the three things that most consumers look for in household appliances. A garment is cleaned by simply swiping it through two steam blades, shortening laundry 'day' to a laundry 'minute.'"

Made of recycled glass and aluminum, *Renew* uses less space and energy than

traditional washing machines. It also employs a touch-screen that allows users to learn about their wardrobe preferences, including a "you may like this" feature that suggests clothing purchases based on their individual style.

Now working as a freelance product designer in Chicago, Filosa hopes to form a small creative agency that shares the mission reflected in Purdue's liberal arts curriculum and the work of classmates like Nora Flood.

"As a designer, I want to question the status quo," he says. "I want to embark on a different journey with each project and challenge the reasoning behind current solutions, summoning completely new ideas that improve people's lives."

By Eric Nelson



*Renew*, a smart steamer designed by Louis Filosa (BA 2009, Industrial Design), took third place in last year's Electrolux Design Lab, an international competition attracting nearly 1,000 entries. Made of recycled glass and aluminum, it uses less space and energy than traditional clothes washing machines.

## WINNING TRADITION

After bursting onto the world design scene with the 2004 International Bicycle Design Grand Prize, Purdue has racked up an impressive number of winning entries in competitions domestically and abroad.

The International Housewares Association (IHA) 16th annual 2009 Student Design Competition, won by now-senior Nora Flood, also recognized two of her Purdue classmates, Darius Kamran and Jordan Bailey, who each received honorable mention awards. Kamran designed the *Revo*, a safe-to-use fuel container; Bailey created the *Bru* coffee maker.

Other recent honorees from the University's industrial design program include:



## 2009 International Aluminum Extrusion Design Competition

### Alumi-Cooler

Daniel Schaumann, BA 2011

Hydro Sustainable Design Award

Used as a heat exchanger in forced induction automotive applications, the Alumi-Cooler design is a liquid-to-air intercooler device whose one-piece extruded aluminum core design, with two internal side-by-side chambers, would replace the current multi-component bar-and-fin design, which typically requires a welded tank. The cross-sectional profile of the extrusion was designed to maximize the surface area between the aluminum and the two fluids, which saves fuel and reduces greenhouse gas and carbon emissions.





## 2009 International Design Excellence (IDEA) Awards

### Teaser

Xi "Calvin" Chen, MFA 2010, with Prof. Scott Shim  
Bronze: Computer Equipment Category

*Teaser is a next generation cookbook that offers taste sampling, enhances the food preparation experience, and assists in reducing food waste. It uses a variety of interactive features, including a portable touch screen and a print system that dispenses edible flavor strips via ink-jet print technology and 18 flavor cartridges that can be swapped out to match the desired dish. Users also browse recipes, test the flavors of a dish, and adjust the ingredients to match their preferences before cooking.*

### Level

Byron Lee, BA 2009  
Bronze: Student Designs Category

*The self-leveling handlebars on the Level cooler tilt up and down, eliminating the lifting and lowering action required when carrying it over an uneven surface, such as stairs. It is slightly weighted at the base and has dividers for evenly placing the contents.*



## 2008-09 "Zinc Challenge" Student Design Competition

### Finger-Tips

Eric Chalko, BA 2011

*Finger-Tips is an electronic reading system for the visually impaired. It allows the user to enjoy the power of reading at the touch of a button, converting any electronic text document into a series of bumps associated with the language of Braille. With its slim and simplistic interface and multipurpose design, Finger-Tips could become a staple product for anyone who is visually impaired.*

## 2008 Idea-to-Product (ITP) Competition for Social Entrepreneurship

### UberShelter

Rafael Smith, BA 2008

First Place, Environmental Division, Purdue University Regional ITP Competition

Finalist, Georgia Institute of Technology National ITP Competition

*UberShelter is a concept for a portable housing unit that would help meet immediate shelter needs created by a catastrophic event, such as the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. The shelter, which can be reassembled with just a few tools, provides victims with personal living space and can be collapsed for ease in transportation. It's also made from recyclable and reusable materials.*





# Making the Case

The popular TV show *Law & Order* is in its 20th season of entertaining viewers with stories that are “ripped from the headlines.” But what if a show that claims to be influenced by reality is actually influencing reality itself?

Whether it’s *Law & Order*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Cold Case*, or *NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service*, less than an hour is needed to solve a case and put the bad guys behind bars.

“The reality is that you don’t just collect a DNA sample, put it in a test tube, push a button and in seconds have your results,” explains Tippecanoe County prosecutor Pat Harrington (BA 1980, Political Science). “It may take weeks or months before test results are returned.”

But not everyone who sits in a jury box understands the behind-the-scenes process. Instead, Harrington is hearing from more and more jurors who expect the same high-tech science forensics to be used in every case, or hidden cameras to follow every undercover officer.

“The reality is that these TV shows are distorting viewers’ perceptions about the judicial system,” he laments.

## The offense

Professor Glenn Sparks and doctoral student Susan Huelsing Sarapin discovered that people who regularly watch crime dramas, as well as crime reality programs, are more likely to overestimate the frequency of serious crimes, misperceive important facts about crime, and misjudge the number of workers in the judicial system.

“These shows have always been popular, even going back to *Perry Mason* in the 1950s and 1960s,” says Sarapin, who remembers how much her mother enjoyed watching *Mason*. “But these shows, especially about forensics, just exploded in the 1990s.”

*CSI*, or a *CSI* spin-off, and *NCIS* are often ranked in the top 10 of the Nielsen ratings. “Because they are some of the most popular shows today,

# Making the Case

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

it is important to understand how they might influence people,” Sarapin explains.

As a result, researchers around the world are looking at the “CSI Effect,” a phenomenon where careers in forensics and cyberforensics are perceived by students as glamorous and exciting, spawning new classes and degrees at colleges and universities. “CSI has increased the number of students pursuing careers in the judicial system as well as just heightening the general interest,” says Harrington, who notices more people, especially young people, visiting the courtroom just to observe a case. “That is positive because the key to our democracy is making sure that people are involved.”

## The evidence

Sparks and Sarapin, who presented their findings at a conference last fall, refer to the CSI Effect as a tangible influence. “Some of the TV shows are even cited in attorneys’ closing arguments,” Sparks says.

While other researchers have been tracking how the

CSI Effect encourages people to study forensics and criminal justice, little attention has been given to what it means in the courtroom. Conventional wisdom suggests that people are frequently acquitted by juries when there is not much physical evidence and are convicted more often in trials that have such evidence. But the reality is that few crimes have hard, scientific evidence such as ballistics, gunshot residue, or DNA evidence, the researchers say.

Sparks and Sarapin had a chance to talk with some of these viewers when they interviewed 103 of them last summer about their crime-television viewing and their perceptions of crime and the judicial system. Sparks and Sarapin discovered that heavy TV crime viewers, about a little more than a third from the sample, estimated two and a half times more real-world deaths due to murder than non-viewers.

“People’s perceptions were off in regards to a number of other serious crimes,” says Sarapin. “Heavy TV-crime viewers consistently overestimated the frequency of crime in the real world.”





## The verdict

Harrington, who has been an attorney since 1983, estimates that 150 of the thousands of cases he has handled have eventually gone to a jury trial. When selecting the jury, he always pays attention to what individuals say about their television viewing habits.

"It often gives us an idea about people's perceptions of a courtroom," he says. "Some people realize it's entertainment, but others think a crime is solved in 42 minutes. Other people think we can get DNA off of anything, and some think we have access to technology that is not even in use yet."

From the 150 cases that have gone to trial, Harrington remembers only 10 of them using fingerprints as evidence. "On TV everyone leaves fingerprints," he says. "Most crimes involve someone that knows the person, so often fingerprints are irrelevant. Even if it is an unknown person, it's not helpful information unless you have a person to match."

The other reality with crime scene analysts is that most forensic experts need to decide quickly which tests are most likely to reveal the best evidence. Spraying and dusting for fingerprints, for example, may damage DNA information, or testing for DNA may distort fingerprints.

Harrington is not the only one who will be following Sparks and Sarapin as they continue to look into this topic. When the researchers released their findings to the media in October, not only did reporters want to talk with them, but public defenders, law students, attorneys and police representatives wanted to know more about their research.

"Their interest surprised me, but it's great to see this reaction from the legal community because it reminds us that the research we are doing has a practical edge as well as theoretical," Sparks says. "That's the most rewarding kind of research to conduct. As scientists we want to develop and further theoretical ideas about the way mass communication works, and this topic allows us to tap into areas where there is a lot of practical interest."

By Amy Patterson Neubert.

LEFT: Crime dramas like CSI have made forensics science a popular course offering at Purdue. Photo by Mark Simons.



## BOYS WILL BE BOYZ

The iconic 1955 *Rebel Without a Cause* movie poster memorializes James Dean. This rebel, dressed in jeans with his tousled hair, was the poster boy for trouble 60 years ago, but now this persona would just blend in with today's crowd.

In the poster's bottom right corner, the film's tagline reads "... And they both came from good families!" The movie also was promoted with catchy quips like "Teenage terror torn from today's headlines," "Warner Bros.' challenging drama of today's juvenile violence," and "The bad boy from a good family."

Those descriptions probably seem overblown today. At least that's the reaction Jack Spencer, an associate professor of sociology, expects when he shows this black and white classic next to the 1991 *Boyz in the Hood* to students who are studying "Crime, Deviance and the Mass Media."

"The most obvious differences between these films are race, class, and place," Spencer points out. "In the 1950s, the demographic targeted for deviancy was middle-class white kids from the suburbs. More recently, *Boyz in the Hood* is about the inner-city youth minority. That's quite a difference."

These movies, or cultural texts as Spencer calls them, are visuals that bring concepts from academic readings to life. For example, students can learn about juvenile delinquency and urban-area trends from academic journal articles and then compare them to what they see in *Boyz in the Hood*.

"It's a great way to learn and apply theory," says Spencer, who is working on a book about how youth violence during the 1990s was portrayed in the news and entertainment media.

The corporate greed in *Wall Street*, dynamics of mental illness in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and police culture and identity in *LA Confidential* are other topics the students explore.

"Our class discussions encourage students to think about why the characters are doing what they are doing," Spencer says. "How does *CSI* portray victims? Do you see a sense of community in *America's Most Wanted*? What are the gender differences in *Thirteen* and in *Boyz in the Hood*? The goal is that they will never be able to watch a film again without thinking about what they learned in sociology."

By Amy Patterson Neubert. Photo by iStock.

**Purdue is in a class of its own** with the introduction of Breast Cancer Prevention 2020 (BCP 2020), a new CLA honors course at the core of the nation's first interdisciplinary cancer prevention training program.

Communication professor Jakob Jensen is one of the co-investigators responsible for securing a \$1.5 million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health to launch Purdue's Cancer Prevention Interdisciplinary Education Program.

The program reflects Purdue's growing reputation as a force in the war against cancer — and breast cancer in particular. As Stephen D. Hursting, former head of the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, remarks, "Everyone talks about doing interdisciplinary cancer and cancer-prevention research, but Purdue is actually doing it."

This collaborative network includes the Oncological Sciences Center at Discovery Park, the Center for Cancer Research, Cancer Prevention Training/Fellowships, and the Breast Cancer Discovery Group. "The focus on prevention makes us unique," Jensen says. "Our program's goal is to train high-quality cancer prevention researchers."

Spring semester's inaugural class paired students with Purdue cancer researchers and faculty members from liberal arts, consumer and family sciences, veterinary medicine, and engineering. For sophomore Courtney Sanor, BCP 2020 represented a personal crusade as much as an academic pursuit.

"I've seen firsthand what cancer does to the human body and spirit," she says. "My mom passed away from breast cancer after a four-year battle. The class was a way for me to begin fulfilling a promise I made to her, and to myself. After all, the key to stopping this wretched disease from claiming more victims is to prevent it."

For more information on BCP 2020 and related initiatives, visit [www.purdue.edu/hicc/bcp2020.html](http://www.purdue.edu/hicc/bcp2020.html).



A master puppeteer who contributed to several Hollywood blockbusters debuted his new film in March during a visit to Purdue. *Don Quixote* is the second installment in Steven Ritz-Barr's "Classics in Miniature," a series of 30-minute films featuring puppets that are based on great works of literature. Spanish professor Howard Mancing and graduate student Mass Giorgini, who are working on a film history of *Don Quixote*, consulted with Ritz-Barr on the film. The visit was sponsored by Film and Video Studies, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the Latino Cultural Center, Ivy Tech, Comparative Literature, the Department of English, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Latin American and Latino Studies.

### **The saying "You're only as old as you feel" resonates with older adults,**

according to research from Markus H. Schafer, a Purdue doctoral student in sociology and gerontology. Schafer and co-author Tetyana P. Shippee, a research associate at the University's Center on Aging and the Life Course, compared people's chronological age and their subjective age to determine which one has a greater influence on cognitive abilities during older adulthood. Nearly 500 people ages 55 to 74 were surveyed about aging as part of the National Survey of Midlife Development in the United States. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

**A series of interviews** with novelist, screenwriter, comedian, and performance poet Sherman Alexie appear in a new book edited by Purdue English professor Nancy J. Peterson. Titled *Conversations with Sherman Alexie*, the collection was released in November as part of the "Literary Conversations" series published by the University Press of Mississippi. Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian, grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington. He is the author of 17 books, including *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, a National Book Award winner.

### **Understanding human cultures is key to preserving wildlife**

in African parks and reserves, according to new research from Melissa Remis, a Purdue professor of anthropology. Local communities, for example, may see wildlife populations as a problem if they damage crops. Other groups may resent saving wildlife when they are struggling to provide for their families and could use the protected species as food. Remis and Rebecca Hardin, a professor at the University of Michigan, focus on issues specific to the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Reserve. Findings from their research recently appeared in *Conservation Biology*.





## Before the Brink

**H**ours before Lake Pontchartrain breached the 17th Street Canal levee, immersing their home under 15 feet of water, Professor Daniel Aldrich, his wife, and two children fled west with a suitcase and a slow cooker.

Although the family eventually returned to a rental in New Orleans furnished with help from synagogues and strangers, the wrenchingly slow pace of Hurricane Katrina recovery raised a question in Aldrich's mind: Why do some cities bounce back rather rapidly while others seem stymied after disaster?

Armed with an Abe Fellowship from Tokyo University, Aldrich studied such catastrophes as the 1923 Tokyo earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He discovered that community ties, not government assistance, determined whether or not residents returned and rebuilt.

"Most people think of disaster recovery as a local government issue, or a national political issue. That's really not the most interesting or important story," says Aldrich, now an assistant professor of political science at Purdue. "The real question is whether or not the community was well structured long before the shock. Those areas that are

better connected don't wait for a plan to rebuild the city."

In New Orleans, for example, many people from the Village de L'Est neighborhood returned as soon as officials allowed them, cleaning up debris and repairing houses with the help of their local Catholic parish. Two years later, when less than half of the city's population had returned, nearly 90 percent of the neighborhood's residents were back home.

While other neighborhoods in New Orleans continue to struggle, Aldrich says the recovery in Village de L'Est can be partly attributed to connections made long before the disaster, which were maintained afterward.

He has seen this pattern repeated in every catastrophe he's studied, not only in qualitative evidence — which disaster research traditionally has focused on — but also in quantitative data.

His findings could also assist officials in Haiti and Chile, who, in their well-meaning efforts to rebuild following recent devastating earthquakes, could neglect the social infrastructure so crucial to each country's long-term survival.

*By Angie Roberts. Photo of a post-Katrina second-line parade in the Tremé neighborhood by Chris Granger, The Times-Picayune*

## Ending the Drama

**I**t was after being deloused and shaved bald to begin his second stint in prison that Jack made the commitment to live for the greater good instead of simply his own.

Stripped of freedom and dignity, but not the capacity for hope and change, he began to grow back his hair for Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children suffering from cancer and other diseases.

When Jack eventually reappeared before the judge to ask for a sentence reduction and another chance, he wore his heart on his sleeve and a ponytail to his waist.

What happened next is one of numerous non-fictional revelations in *Problem Solving Courts*, a new book by sociology professor JoAnn Miller and Indiana judge Donald Johnson that explores a novel approach to criminal justice: punish, but also rehabilitate and reconnect.

Using a dramaturgical metaphor that draws on Shakespeare and other classic works, the authors present detailed case studies and research showing how the theater of law can provide alternatives to incarceration and end the tragic cycle of recidivism.

According to Miller and Johnson's analysis, successful problem-solving courts require three key elements: judicial leaders willing to dispense measured justice, offenders sincerely capable of rehabilitation, and public and private support systems that help them reenter society and become

productive citizens.

"Every case has its own unique plot twists, but the judge, the convicted, and the community always play the lead roles," says Miller. "In the best problem-solving courts, the individual transformations can be just as dramatic."

Jack's story had a happy ending. Under the court's thoughtful direction, he shed both his locks and his criminal tendencies, earning the love of his family and the trust of his peers and neighbors along the way.

Of course, not every act concludes so neatly. As Johnson notes, Indiana releases about 17,000 people from its prison system annually, and within three years some 68 percent of them are arrested for another crime. Of those, nearly 43 percent are returned to a long-term facility.

But within the problem-solving court Johnson presided over in Tippecanoe County for three years, the recidivism rate ranged from 26 percent in 2006 to just 17 percent in 2008. Although sobering, those figures are better than most reentry courts that he and his Purdue collaborator studied across the state and country.

"What made the difference here — and what continues to make a difference — is the partnership between progressive community leaders and a world-class university," says Miller. "That's a powerful combination for change."

*By Eric Nelson. Photo by iStock.*





## Questions of Faith

Is there a Chinese equivalent to the Protestant work ethic? Will Christianity continue to be China's fastest-growing religion? Will spirituality and government control of religion clash as China's global influence expands?

These are among the questions scholars will try to answer over the next three years as part of a research and training program now under way in Purdue's Center on Religion and Chinese Society (CRCS).

The center's new Chinese Spirituality and Society Program is spearheaded by CLA sociology professor Fenggang Yang, who recently secured \$2 million in funding from the John Templeton Foundation to advance research and writing on Chinese religions and their impact on civil society.

This spring, Yang, his colleagues, and a panel of experts began sifting through more than 150 applications to award research grants to scholars of Chinese religion — a central component of both the center and its latest program. Finalists will be announced in November.

"We will award two or three large grants to research centers and about 10 grants to individual projects," says Yang. "We hope to institutionalize the sociological study of Chinese spirituality."

Recipients will participate in three workshops — two at Purdue, one in China — studying issues related to research methods, data collection and analysis, proposal writing, and findings publication. The program also will sponsor summer institutes in 2010 and 2012 at Chinese universities offering or planning to offer sociology of religion courses.

Yang says research on China's diverse spiritual and religious behavior is both timely and relevant as the country rises to greater economic and political power. "Religion is still a politically sensitive topic in China," he notes. Furthermore, under Communist Party rule, religions and other social movements beyond its control are often perceived as threats.

The Chinese government began lifting restrictions on religion during political and economic reforms that began in 1979. It now recognizes five religions: Buddhism, Daoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism. Meanwhile,



these official faiths — as well as Chinese folk practices, spiritual and traditional groups, and others on the fringe — are growing.

"In the past five years, more government resources have been focused on controlling groups espousing the perceived 'evil teachings' of non-authorized religions," explains Yang.

"But government bans tend to drive religion and spirituality underground and make things more complicated," he adds. "Independent social science provides better research and therefore better understanding of the forces in play, especially in a time of dramatic transition."

*By Grant Flora. Photo of the Cathedral of the Holy Wisdom of God in Harbin, China, by Charlie Fong.*



## Time to Play

A troupe of students led by Paul White and Gordon McCall from CLA's Medieval and Renaissance Studies (MARS) program are rehearsing *Adam and Eve* for Chester 2010, a restaging of the complete cycle of 23 processional pageant-wagon plays performed in the city of Chester, England, from 1555 to 1575.

The restaging of the biblical cycle coincides with an academic symposium examining the use of modern performance to explore medieval staging practices and audience reception. Both will be held over the three days of the Victoria Day Holiday (May 21 to May 24) on the campuses of St. Michael's College and Victoria College at the University of Toronto in Canada.

The production of the colorful pageants will be shared by PLS (Poculi Ludique Societas) and acting companies from all over North America, including Purdue, the

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Michigan, and other college and community groups.

"We are very excited about participating in this historic event," says White, who has written extensively on the cycle plays. "Hitched to a study abroad course slated for Maymester, the project is a great way for our students to learn all facets of medieval performance firsthand and to engage with like-minded students and scholars."

Adds McCall, a veteran director of early drama and pageantry, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, as well as a wonderful opportunity to showcase Purdue's talents and perhaps recruit new students."

White is director of the MARS program, as well as an English professor. McCall joined MARS as assistant director in May 2009. He is a professor and head of the directing program in the Department of Theatre.

*By Eric Nelson. Photo of the 1998 York Cycle in Toronto by Megan Lloyd, King's College.*



## *Invisible Kids*

Holly Schlaack  
Blue Ask, OH: Advocacy Publishing

*Review by Charles J. Stewart  
Professor Emeritus of Communication*

On May 5, 2006, three-year-old Marcus Fiesel was delivered to foster parents near Cincinnati because his mother could no longer care for him. On August 15, the foster mother experienced a fainting spell in a park and called out for Marcus. More than 2,000 people spent days searching without success. Thirteen days later police announced that the foster parents had been arrested for murder.

Marcus' foster parents had attended a family reunion and, instead of requesting respite care, pinned Marcus' arms behind his back, bound him in a blanket, and placed him in a closet where temperatures reached 110 degrees. Upon returning, the foster parents found Marcus dead, attempted to burn his body and then threw his remains into the Ohio River.

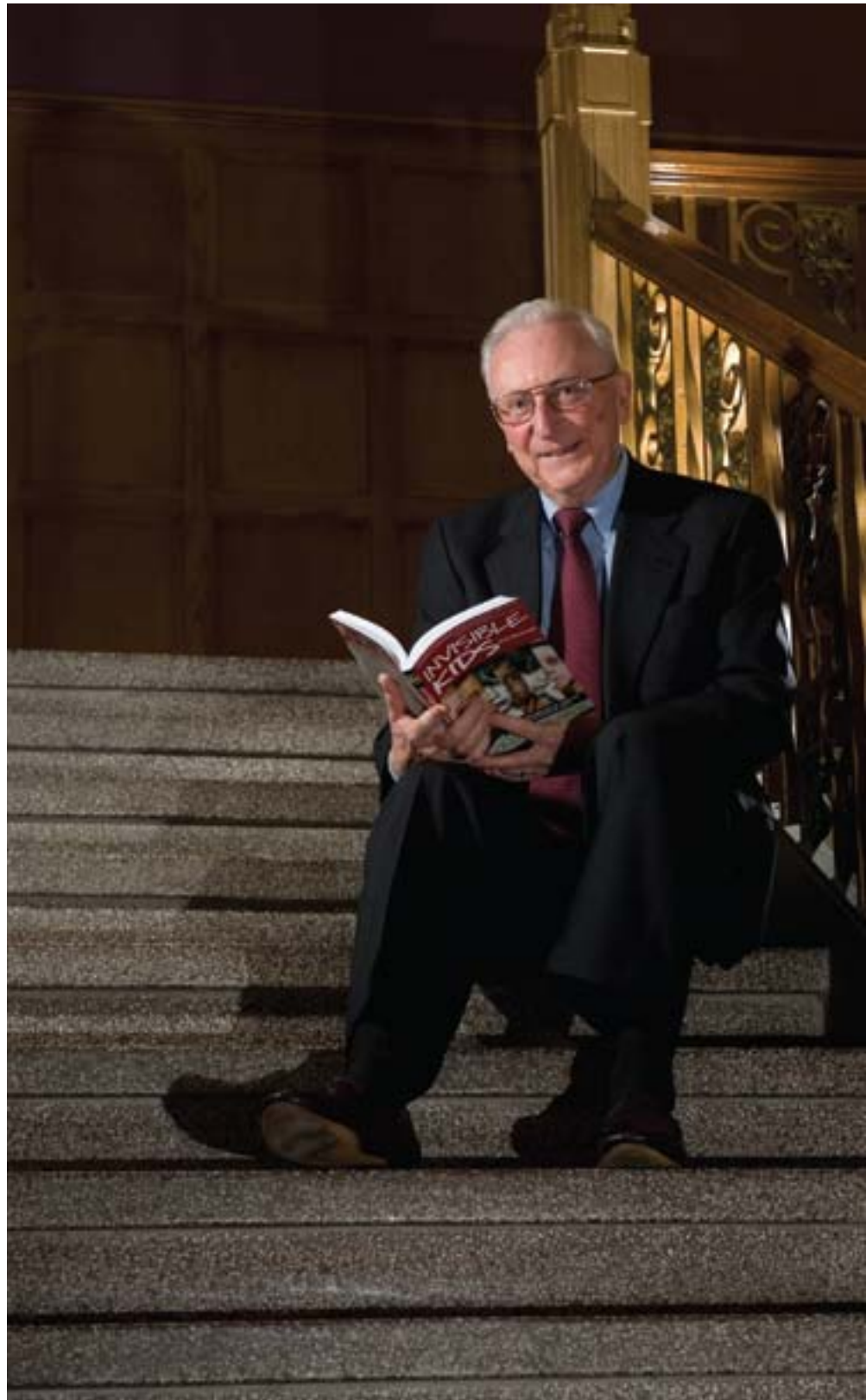
This tragedy inspired Holly Schlaack to write *Invisible Kids: Marcus Fiesel's Legacy*, an indictment of the foster parent system that controls the lives of 500,000 children. Overwhelmed by children in need, lack of volunteers, and heavy caseloads, it is a game of chance for children removed from abusive homes and seldom seen or heard by the system.

Schlaack provides thorough research that tells part of the story. Seventy-seven percent of homicide victims are under the age of four. Foster children are ten times more likely to be abused and to die from abuse. For-profit foster care agencies try to meet the growing need, but often take shortcuts to improve the bottom line and salaries.

The author narrates with moving imagery the lives of these children, some with loving foster parents and some who have suffered tragedy. The stories of vulnerable victims of the system make this a difficult read.

*Invisible Kids* is a powerful legacy for Marcus Fiesel that makes abused and neglected children visible to all of us. Readers may find themselves volunteering in ways they never imagined.

*Photo by Mark Simons*



## The Path to Success



**RUSTY RUEFF**

BA 1984, Communication  
MS 1986, Counseling/  
Guidance/Personnel

**H**ere in the Bay Area of California, home of Silicon Valley, there is a well-known destination for entrepreneurs named Sand Hill Road. This famed road is lined with the densest capita of investors in the world. It is synonymous with venture capital, and most successful technology entrepreneurs will at some point visit one or more of its firms.

Venture capitalists are quick to say that they invest in people first and a business idea second. They sit across the table from aspiring leaders and look for the best CEO and the best heads of research, engineering, and technology. From that small nucleus, many companies are built. Some of them become household names, while others quickly go away. But there is always a draw and mystique to this ecosystem that attracts newcomers.

I speak with many College of Liberal Arts students and graduates who wonder how they can join the start-up culture and where they fit into the future of business.

There is good news:

- Today we are seeing start-ups leaning more to public relations efforts to launch their companies than marketing spending. We are in the social media age, and knowing how to create and leverage viral PR is an in-demand skill.
- Web 2.0 companies are dependent upon understanding how technology can connect people and create social graphs that are meaningful and relevant. Those who are skilled at creating and maintaining both organizational and personal relationships are needed to interpret and progress the technology.
- The “next big thing” is always unknown, but we do know that the Internet and technology continue to lead us to more personal connections and deeper interactions with people we know and meet. The human side of technology will be the missing ingredient in what software should do.

Liberal arts graduates have a place in the new economy, but they must immerse themselves in technology, know and understand what is new, and leverage their education to fill the needs of a start-up — from interpreting how the technology is best accepted and what it should do for people to creating the content that consumers want. Those who can straddle technology and the liberal arts will be in demand for Web 2.0 and beyond, and may soon find themselves in one of those early meetings on Sand Hill Road.

*Rusty Rueff has been a senior executive in Silicon Valley for over 10 years and most recently was CEO of the venture-backed company SNOCAP acquired in April 2008. Today, he is a corporate and philanthropic board director and consults, advises, and invests in technology start-ups.*

*Photo of Silicon Valley by Wikimedia Commons.*





# Honoring Tomorrow's Leaders

The College of Liberal Arts honors three talented and driven young alumni each year as recipients of the Emerging Voice Award. This award was created to recognize recent graduates who are achieving their career goals, serving their communities, and representing the college's mission by shaping today's world while imagining a better one.

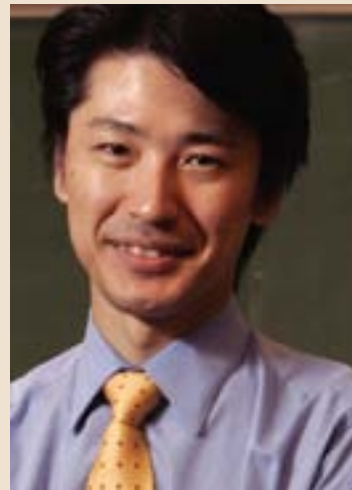
*For a complete list of past recipients, and for information about nominating a Liberal Arts alumnus/alumna for the EVA, please visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards/emergingvoice](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards/emergingvoice).*



## Christian F. Hempelmann

PhD 2003, Linguistics  
Director of Ontological Semantics  
RiverGlass Inc.

Some of Christian Hempelmann's fondest memories at Purdue are of the quiet weekends he spent in the Humanities, Social Science, and Education Library working on his doctorate in computational linguistics, and being guided by his mentor, Professor Victor Raskin. Now at RiverGlass Inc., a text analytics company for enterprise search, Hempelmann says a liberal arts education taught him to "see problems in their full context. This problem-oriented thinking has led me to positions where I can and do have an impact." He is also an adjunct faculty member at Purdue and previously served on the faculty at Georgia Southern University and as postdoctoral researcher at the University of Memphis.



## Paul Kei Matsuda

PhD 2000, English  
Associate Professor of English  
Arizona State University

Paul Kei Matsuda attributes much of his success in the past 10 years to the momentum he built at Purdue while working under Professor Tony Silva. The two collaborated on numerous projects and founded an annual international conference on second language writing. "Professor Silva was my ideal mentor because he gave me access to various professional resources while providing room — both literally and figuratively — for exploring my own ideas and approaches," Matsuda says. Since earning his doctorate, Matsuda has edited a dozen books and special journal issues on second language writing, won several awards for his research and served as chair of the Nonnative English Speakers in TESOL Interest Section.



## David E. Omholt

BS 1992, Economics  
CEO, The Entrepreneur Authority

A four-year letterman on Purdue's baseball team, David Omholt says no mentor was more engaging than Betty Cook, a continuing lecturer in foreign languages, while the late Larry Axel, then chair of the religious studies program, strengthened his convictions and challenged him to grow intellectually. As president of Sigma Chi fraternity, Omholt had to respond to numerous changes in the Greek system, which became the foundation for his leadership in the business world. "I didn't know it at the time, but that was a great training ground for the critical decision-making and change-management skills I would need to thrive in the professional ranks. My time at Purdue was formative in so many ways. I will always be indebted."

## 1952

LOUISE EVANS (MS, Psychology; PhD 1995, Clinical Psychology) received the Corann Okorodudu International Women's Advocacy Award from the Society for the Psychology of Women (Division 35) at the American Psychological Association's annual convention. She also is a recipient of the CLA Distinguished Alumni Award.

## 1955

DENNIS C. BLIND (BS, Health and Kinesiology) was inducted into Purdue's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. He played on the basketball and baseball teams from 1952 to 1955.

## 1958

ERICH BARNES (BS, Health and Kinesiology) was inducted into Purdue's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. He was a member of the football team from 1955 to 1957.

## 1972

LARRY PERSILY (BA, Communication) was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as federal coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects.

## 1975

MAX ARMSTRONG (BA, Radio and TV) retired from WGN Radio after almost 32 years in broadcasting. He is now the director of broadcasting at Chicago-based Farm Progress Companies, the largest agriculture media company in the United States.

EILEEN (LOUIE) LASKOWSKI (BA, Creative Arts; MA 1981, Fine Arts) was chosen as the 2009 Tippecanoe School Corporation (Indiana) teacher of the year.

## 1977

ROBERT E. BURKETT JR. (BA, History) joined the National Arbitration Forum as an independent and neutral arbitrator and mediator. He continues his practice, the Law Office of Robert Burkett, in Indianapolis.

STEVEN G. COX (BS, Health and Kinesiology) is the principal of Beech Grove High School. He recently was elected to the IHSAA Board of Directors representing District II Class 3A schools.

BRIAN LIBBY (PhD, History) published *Storm Approaching*, the first novel in his Mercenaries series. Learn more at [www.blibby.com](http://www.blibby.com).

## 1978

MIKE HIGBEE (BA, Political Science) has been named managing director of Strategic Partners Urban Development Group in Indianapolis.

KIM A. WILCOX (MS, Audio and Speech Science; PhD 1980, Speech Pathology/Audiology), provost at Michigan State University, has been named a Diversity Champion by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

## 1979

KATHRYN MEALS (BA, Communication) joined Valassis Communications in New York City as a strategic sales executive.

## 1980

HATTA AZAD KHAN (MA, Directing) received multiple award nominations in the 21st Annual Malaysian Film Awards for his film, *Wayang*.

## 1981

TIM VARNAU (BA, Fine Arts) received an ARTI Award by the Arts Council of Indianapolis for his contributions and graphic design services to numerous arts organizations in central Indiana. He has owned and operated Varnau Creative Group, a graphic communications company, since 1996.

## 1983

SUE DORON (BA, Communication) was named media director for EchoPoint Media, a division of Young & Laramore in Indianapolis.

DEBORAH (ROTH) NEW (BA, Communication) serves as director of communications for Action for Healthy Kids, the nation's leading nonprofit and largest volunteer network fighting childhood obesity by working with schools to help kids learn to eat right, become active every day, and become ready to learn.

## 1984

MARSHA REGINA JONES (BA, Communication) published her debut novel, *Love Begins with Truth*, with Xlibris Publishing.

## 1986

TJ ADCOCK (BA, Communication) has been named director of global trade compliance for Alcoa Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## 1987

THOMAS PEARCY (MA, History) accepted the position of joint historian in the United States Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency, where he will help ensure that department historians have appropriate access to all relevant CIA materials as they complete individual volumes of the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series.

## 1988

CARA CHAMBERLAIN (MA, Creative Writing) published her first book of poetry, *Hidden Things*, with Foothills Publishing.

G. JOSEPH (JOE) LILOVICH (BA, Health and Kinesiology) was inducted into Purdue's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. He was a member of the wrestling team from 1983 to 1988.

## 1989

ANITA ROSS (BA, Communication; MFA 2004, Theatre) was named director of the Black Hawk Children's Theatre in Waterloo, Iowa.

MICHAEL SCHIFERL (BA, Public Relations) is executive vice president of Chicago-based Weber Shandwick, the world's largest public relations firm.

**SAVE THE DATE.** Homecoming 2010 is scheduled for October 16 (Purdue vs. Minnesota). Be sure to stop by the Liberal Arts tent at the Homecoming celebration to pick up your official CLA alumni pin! Visit [www.purdue.edu/homecoming](http://www.purdue.edu/homecoming) for more information.

## 1990

KENDA MARIE RESLER FRIEND (BA, Communication) is the corporate communications leader for Dow Agrosciences AgrilInstitute, Indiana's premier leadership development and people-capacity building organization that facilitates the robust network of agricultural and rural leaders.

## 1991

WILLIAM R. FORSTCHEN (MA, PhD 1993, History) is a *New York Times* bestselling author who wrote *One Second After*, an apocalyptic novel that depicts life after an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack. Forstchen is the author of over 40 books, including the "Lost Regiment" series.

JOSEPH H. WEBSTER (BA, Political Science) was named managing partner of the law firm of Hobbs, Straus, Dean Walker, LLP in Washington, DC.

## 1992

JOSEPH GERZEMA (BA, Communication) is the national sales manager for Fox Sports Detroit.

## 1993

PAAIGE TURNER (MS Communication; PhD 1998, Organizational Communication) was appointed associate provost for community engagement at Saint Louis University.

JULIE VEACH (BA, Foreign Languages and Literatures), acting chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission, was appointed to work on the development of a national broadband plan as part of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative.

## 1994

JUDD CHOATE (MA, PhD 1997, Political Science) became the state of Colorado's elections director.

LAUREN GALLAGHER (BA, Communication) was promoted to senior manager of Consulting Services for Ariba Inc. in Pennsylvania.

SHELESE M. WOODS (BA, Political Science) received an Integrity Award from the inspector general for the United States Department of Health and Human Services for her prosecution of several health care fraud matters. She is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Indiana.

## 1995

KAREN PICKART BALSBAUGH (BA, Communication) became an adult probation officer in Carroll County, Indiana.

AMY FORGETTE (BA, Communication) earned the CMP (Certified Meeting Professional) designation demonstrating expertise in meeting management.



## 1969

RALPH TAYLOR (BS, Health and Kinesiology) was appointed president of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame for 2009–10. Taylor is an international resource advisor for African Community International, which partners with local organizations as well as newcomer communities in Indianapolis to create a more welcoming environment for the city's growing international community. He also serves as color analyst for Purdue men's basketball and was selected in 1995 as one of the top four fan favorites in Purdue basketball history.



## 1971

VANESSA CASTAGNA (BS, Psychology) has been appointed to the board of directors of Carter's Inc. A respected retail leader and executive for 36 years, Castagna is the former chairwoman of Mervyn's Department Stores and also serves on the boards of Levi Strauss & Co. and SpeedFC Inc. She has been listed among *Fortune* magazine's "The 50 Most Powerful Women in Business" for four consecutive years, as well as two years on *Forbes* magazine's "The 100 Most Powerful Women" list.



## 1986

CAPRICIA MARSHALL (BA, Political Science) was named by President Barack Obama as chief of protocol for the United States Department of State and will hold the rank of ambassador during her tenure of service. Marshall has had an extensive career in the public sector, serving as special assistant to First Lady Hillary Clinton and later as deputy assistant to President Bill Clinton and social secretary to the White House. She has also worked as a consultant to a number of nonprofit and private-sector organizations.



## 1999

MELISSA LEWIS (BA, MS, Health and Kinesiology) was named an Outstanding Young Alumna by the Purdue Alumni Association. The award recognizes alumni age 32 and younger who have given outstanding service to the University, the association, or a local alumni club. Lewis is a member of the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board and serves as director of the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. She also serves on the boards of the Indiana Public Health Association and Indiana Medical History Museum.



# *Distinguished Alumni*

*For more than 20 years, the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board has recognized the outstanding achievements of its graduates through the Distinguished Alumni Awards program. Recipients of this award have made significant contributions to society, and their accomplishments, affiliations, and careers honor the legacy of excellence at Purdue University and the College of Liberal Arts.*



**KEN ARMSTRONG**

*BA 1985, Political Science*

As an investigative reporter at the *Seattle Times*, Ken Armstrong has written about illegally sealed court records, the MRSA pathogen's unchecked rise, and a community's complicity in protecting wayward athletes. He previously worked at the *Chicago Tribune*, where he co-wrote a series on the death penalty that prompted the governor of Illinois to suspend executions and empty death row. In 2009 Armstrong received the John Chancellor Award from Columbia University for lifetime achievement. He has been a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and the McGraw Professor of Writing at Princeton. He has won many of journalism's top awards, including the George Polk, Worth Bingham and Michael Kelly, and is a four-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. He co-authored a book with Nick Perry, *Scoreboard, Baby*, to be published this fall.



**WALLY BRANT**

*BA 1971, History*

Wally Brant is the president and CEO of Indiana Oxygen Company, a third-generation, family-owned Indiana company that manufactures and distributes industrial, laboratory, and medical gases as well as welding equipment and supplies. Immediately after college during the Vietnam War, Brant served in the U.S. Air Force as a navigator on a B-52 combat crew, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. Brant and his company have received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in manufacturing, "Best of Indianapolis" Award for Medical and Industrial Gases, Indianapolis Colts Community Service Award, and many more. Brant serves on the board of directors for the Hoosier Motor Club (AAA), the International Oxygen Manufacturers Association, Best Buddies of Indiana, and numerous civic and nonprofit associations. In addition, he has been president of several local and national trade associations.



### RANDY EARLE

*BS 1967, Industrial Management*

*MA 1968, Theatre*

Randy Earle has worked behind the scenes on hundreds of stage productions in the academic and professional worlds. During his 38 years in the Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre at San Jose State University, he served as technical operations supervisor for Morris Dailey Auditorium, coordinator of the theatre arts program, head of the technical theatre area, designer of lighting and sound, and professor of lighting and sound. While at San Jose State, Earle formed Pantechnicon LLC, a consulting firm focused on designing and building performing arts facilities. He gained national and international recognition for his work as president and fellow in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT), where he currently serves as chair of fellows. He received the prestigious Joel E. Rubin Founders Award from USITT, the state of California Governor's Award for Employee Safety, and was a three-time winner of San Jose State University's Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise Award.



### MARYBETH LYLES HIGUERA

*BS 1959, Speech Pathology/Audiology*

Coming from a long line of Boilermakers, Marybeth Lyles Higuera left California to study audiology and speech pathology in West Lafayette. After graduating from Purdue, she returned to the west coast and began working in the public school system as a speech pathologist. When the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) decided to use a master's degree as the entry-level degree for the private practice of speech-language pathology, it offered to "grandfather" Higuera in with her bachelor's degree. Instead of accepting, she went back to school to earn a master's degree in audiology. She then began a private practice, which allowed her to be involved with both her family and her community. Following her speech pathology career, Higuera focused on travel, which led her to meeting her current husband, Joe. After marrying, the couple traveled the world and became semi-professional poker players. As a retiree, she continues to enjoy traveling to see their nine children.



### SHERRY L. SMITH

*BA 1972, History*

*MA 1974, American Studies*

A professor's simple question, "Have you ever considered getting a PhD?" launched Sherry Smith's academic career. A distinguished professor of history and associate director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University (SMU), Smith is also a prolific author. In 2000, she wrote *Reimagining Indians: Native Americans Through Anglo Eyes, 1880-1940*, which garnered her the Organization of American Historians' Rawley Prize for best book on race relations (2001) and the Author's Award (Godbey Lecture Series at SMU). She was president of the Western History Association (2008–09) and is a *Los Angeles Times* Distinguished Fellow at the Huntington Library. She has received numerous grants, fellowships, and awards, and is an active member in several professional organizations. Smith and her husband, fellow historian Robert W. Righter, are passionate about their work to preserve the cultural resources of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

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Visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni/awards) for more information about the 2010 Distinguished Alumni or to nominate a Liberal Arts alumnus/alumna for next year's awards.



BRENT GOODMAN (MFA, Creative Writing) published his first full-length poetry collection, *The Brother Swimming Beneath Me*, by Black Lawrence Press/Dzanc Books.

JENNIFER PING (BA, History) is a principal at Tabbert Hahn Ping Global Strategies in Indianapolis, Indiana.

# 1996

RACHEL ARMBRUSTER (BA, Communication), executive nonprofit strategist, launched Armbruster Consulting, a planning and advisory company that focuses on yielding revenue and awareness for organizations doing good works.

MAIREAD BYRNE (MFA, Creative Writing) had her fourth poetry chapbook, *State House Calendar*, published with Dusie Kollektiv.

JASON TETZLOFF (PhD, History) was appointed dean of Liberal Studies/General Studies at St. Cloud Technical College in St. Cloud, Minnesota. He will supervise general studies programming and the changes over the next year as the college becomes a comprehensive community college and offers its own transfer and associate degrees.

# 1997

FRED ARROYO (MFA, Creative Writing) published his first novel, *The Region of Lost Names*, with the University of Arizona Press as a part of its "Camino del Sol" Series.

AMBER KINSER (PhD, Communication) was promoted to full professor and chair of the Department of Communication at East Tennessee State University, where she was awarded the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Award for Service.

MARTIN WALLS (MFA, Creative Writing) published his third book of poems, *The Solway Process*, (Tiger Bark Press). He is a past winner of the Witter Byner Fellowship from the United States Library of Congress.

# 1998

JEFF BODZEWSKI (BA, Communication) accepted the position of vice president at MS&L Worldwide, a leading global communications firm based in Chicago.

ANDREW CASSANO (BA, Theatre) was named director of the Schaeffer Performing Arts Center at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania.

AZURA D. COLLIER (BA, Communication) serves as the manager of integrated media for the Alumni Office at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts.



**For more than 40 years, Don Mortell (BS '50) has been a life member of the Purdue Alumni Association.**



**Express your loyalty today by becoming a life member.**

Call us today at  
(800) 414-1541 or visit  
[www.purduealum.org/member](http://www.purduealum.org/member).

ANDREW SCOTT (BA, English) launched a new venture, Andrew's Book Club, which features monthly picks of the best University Press, Independent, and Big House short story collections.

## 1999

BROOKE HARDEBECK (BA, Communication) and ALISHA KUCKARTZ (BA, English, 1995) opened Golden Steps Studio for the Performing Arts in West Lafayette.

DAVID CHO (MFA, Creative Writing) was named assistant professor at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

DENISE FERGUSON (PhD, Communication) was appointed chair of the Division of Communication at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, and was named to the state's Commission on Public Relations Education.

## 2000

STEVEN CHARLES EDWARDS (MFA, Creative Writing) will publish his first creative nonfiction book with the University of Nebraska Press this year. The work resulted from his 2001 PEN/ Northwest Margery Davis Boyden Wilderness Writing Residency, which afforded him the use of a backcountry cabin in southwestern Oregon for seven months.

SARA FETZER (BA, Communication) is the marketing director of the Wisconsin Alumni Association in Madison, Wisconsin.

## 2001

CARSON CUNNINGHAM (BA, PhD 2006, History) published *American Hoops: U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball from Berlin to Beijing* (University of Nebraska, 2009). He is a visiting assistant professor of history at DePaul University, Chicago. During his undergraduate years, Cunningham played guard for Purdue's basketball team, and then played for the Continental Basketball Association.

KATHRYN (KATIE) DOUGLAS (BA, Communication) was inducted into Purdue's Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. She played on the women's basketball team from 1998–2001.

KATIE TRESSEL (BA, Communication) works as the volunteer and community outreach director for the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless in Alexandria, Virginia.

## 2003

RUSS BRICKLEY (MFA, Creative Writing) coordinates the Writing Center at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

AARON MICHAEL MORALES (MFA, Creative Writing) will publish his first novel, *Drowning Tucson*, with Coffee House Press later this year.

LAUREN REISING (BA, Communication) joined the College of Science at Purdue University as an associate director of development.

YU SHIBUYA (MFA, Creative Writing) made his screenwriting debut in 2009 with the Japanese movie *Gunjo* (Fox-Japan).

ELY SHIPLEY (MFA, Creative Writing) won the 2007 Barrow Street Press book prize for his first book of poems, *Boy with Flowers*, published in 2008.

## 2004

JAMES SEIKEL (BA, History) oversees the Port Isabel Historical Museum, the Treasure of the Gulf Museum, and the Point Isabel's Historic Downtown District as the director of historical preservation for the city of Port Isabel, Texas.

AMY O'CONNOR (BA, Communication) was named the 2009 College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Outstanding Teacher at North Dakota State University.

AMANDA SMITH (BA, Psychology; MS 2006, Health and Kinesiology) began her own business, Metamorphic Fitness, offering personal training geared toward women in Lafayette, Indiana.



*Constructed in 1958, Loeb Playhouse opened with a production of Caesar and Cleopatra and remains a source of lasting memories for numerous Department of Theatre alumni and faculty members.*

## LASTING LEGACIES

The Department of Theatre will recognize and honor alumni and professors who have had a profound impact upon Purdue Theatre and the professional theatre during Legacy Weekend activities on October 1-3, 2010.

The inaugural group of 16 honorees are:

MARK ANDREWS\* (BA 1971, Speech)  
STEPHEN MCKINLEY HENDERSON\* (MA 1977, Theatre)  
STUART HOWARD\* (MS 1964, Theatre)  
ERLING (GENE) KILDAHL (Professor Emeritus)  
M. WAYNE LAMB (Professor Emeritus-deceased)  
SAM MARKS (MS 1941, Liberal Arts; Professor Emeritus-deceased)  
DOROTHY MENNEN\* (MA 1964, Theatre; Professor Emerita)  
DALE MILLER (Professor Emeritus)  
TOM MOORE\* (BA 1965, Theatre; HDR 1995, Liberal Arts)  
JIM O'CONNOR (Former Professor)  
VAN PHILLIPS (Professor Emeritus)  
DAVID POTTS\* (BA 1972, Theatre)  
PETER SCHNEIDER\* (BA 1972, Theatre; HDR 2000, Liberal Arts)  
ROSS SMITH (Former Professor-deceased)  
JOE STOCKDALE (Former Professor)  
RICK THOMAS (MA 1980, Fine Arts; Professor)

For more information, please visit [www.cla.purdue.edu/theatre](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/theatre) and click "Upcoming Events" or contact the Department of Theatre at (765) 494-3074 or [theatre@purdue.edu](mailto:theatre@purdue.edu).

*\*indicates College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Alumni Award recipients*

Are you a fan of Liberal Arts at Purdue on **FACEBOOK**? Join today to receive updates about faculty research, student activities, and special events.

Be **LINKED IN** to the College of Liberal Arts! Join the CLA group on LinkedIn and connect with fellow alumni and students to discuss jobs, internships, and careers.

MICHELLE SUTTEN (BA, Communication) accepted the position of missions support specialist with the United States Customs and Border Protection.

KATERINA TSETSTURA (PhD, Communication) was elected vice chair of the Public Relations Division of the National Communication Association.

## 2005

ANTHONY FAIOLA (PhD, Communication) was appointed executive associate dean of the School of Informatics at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. He will be responsible for all teaching, research, and community functions, as well as faculty and staff in the school.

SARAH GREEN (MFA, Creative Writing) won a 2009 Pushcart Prize for her poem, “Chances Are, Lafayette, Indiana,” which was originally published in the *Gettysburg Review*.

KARRAH A. MILLER (BA, Communication), received the 2009 Diversity in Practice Award from *Indiana Lawyer* magazine. The award recognizes attorneys, law firms, judiciary, corporations, law students, and others for “extraordinary efforts in pursuing and creating a culture of diversity and inclusion within their institutions.” Karrah is president of the Black Law Students Association at the Valparaiso School of Law and was recognized for her leadership in numerous on- and off-campus events.

## 2006

JOEL MUNOZ (BA, Foreign Languages and Literatures) was appointed leader of the Lafayette (Indiana) Commission on Latino and Hispanic Affairs.

CHRISTOPHER S. SIPLE (BA, Psychology) was promoted to petty officer first class in the United States Navy while serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan.

AMY SPILLMAN (BA, Communication) is the director of advertising and marketing for *NORTH Magazine*, a high-end community lifestyle magazine in Indianapolis.

SARAH WHITE (MFA, Creative Writing) is a visiting assistant professor at Purdue North Central in Westville, Indiana.

## 2007

TODD ADCOX (MFA, Creative Writing) and REBEKAH SILVERMAN (MFA, Creative Writing) launched *Artifice*, a magazine “devoted to fiction and poetry award of its own artifice.”

CHRISTOPHER BRINK (MFA, Theatre) accepted a full-time staff position as production manager and lighting designer at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

ANDREW CARLSON (MFA, Theatre) performed in *The Tempest* and *Love’s Labour’s Lost* at the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona, Minnesota. He will return in summer 2010 to perform in *Othello* and *The Comedy of Errors*.

LAURA DONNELLY (MFA, Creative Writing) was named editor of *Third Coast*, one of the nation’s premier literary magazines, published by the English department at Western Michigan University.

BETH GAUCK (BA, Communication) recently completed her first deployment as a public affairs officer in the United States Navy aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

DAN MEISNER (BA, Theatre) and SUZANNE MILLER (BA 2005, Theatre) co-founded the Ka-Tet Theatre Company in Chicago. Their first show, *Road*, directed by Purdue Theatre professor Richard Stockton Rand, received high critical acclaim and praise.

CAITLIN MICK (BA, Theatre) was hired as the floor manager for Victory Gardens Theatre at the Biograph in Chicago.

JENN ZABRISKIE TIMMERMAN (MS, Health and Kinesiology) was named clinical research coordinator for the University of Texas Medical Branch on Galveston Island, Texas.

ALLYSON WELLS (BA, Communication) was promoted to grant administration director at Damar Services Inc., a nonprofit that provides services to children and adults with developmental disabilities in Indianapolis.

## 2008

GRAHAM BODIE (PhD, Communication) was selected as a 2009 Louisiana State University Rainmaker, which honors individuals who are nationally and internationally recognized for innovative research and creative scholarship, compete for external funding at the highest levels, and attract and mentor exceptional graduate students.

SEAN SCOTT (PhD, History) accepted a position with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project at the Lincoln Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

## 2009

ABIGAIL HOYE (BA, Communication), STEFANIE KREVDA (BS, Political Science), and ROSS MCMULLIN (BS, Political Science), received the Indiana Governor’s Fellowship, a competitive year-long program providing recent college graduates with experience in various state agencies.

SHELBY NEWPORT (MFA, Theatre) joined the theatre faculty at the University of Michigan-Flint. She also teaches freelance costume technology classes.

TALOR POPE (BA, Communication) was promoted to coordinator of fan development for the St. Louis Cardinals in Missouri.

KINNARI SEJPAL (MA, Communication), along with her family, opened Shaukin Indian Fast Food in Lafayette. She is a marketing coordinator for Purdue Marketing and Media.

**MOVED? NEW CAREER? NEW NAME?** To update your information with the College of Liberal Arts or to submit personal or professional accomplishments for this section of *THiNK Magazine*, go to [www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni](http://www.cla.purdue.edu/alumni) and click on Alumni Information Update.



*"Silver Bow," a life-size bronze horse sculpture by artist Deborah Butterfield, casts curious shadows across the landscape of South Campus Plaza in front of Yue-Kong Pao Hall. Installed last fall, the 1,700-pound sculpture was commissioned specifically for Purdue by the Florence H. Lonsford Fund. The work was celebrated again in January with an exhibit in the Robert L. Ringel Gallery featuring equine-related art from Purdue Galleries' permanent collection and formally dedicated on April 17, 2010. Photo by Mark Simons*





## DISTINGUISH *yourself*

It's what you do with a degree from the College of Liberal Arts. *Distinguish yourself* embodies the college's promise of a liberal and practical education at a world-renowned research university that empowers students and alumni to change their world. *Distinguish yourself* makes a statement and challenges faculty, staff, and students to attain new heights.

*Students and faculty in the Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Visual and Performing Arts showcase work inspired by the verse of former U.S. Poet Laureate Donald Hall. He visited Purdue as part of its Cancer Culture and Community Colloquium, which explores the human expression of cancer through literature and the arts. Photo by Mark Simons*

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