



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT SPRINGFIELD

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LIS and INO students make a difference.
- LIS helps online students be part of the UIS community.
- Professors continue to grow and develop.
- INO moves with the times.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Student and Alumni
Happenings 2

Faculty News 2

INO Updates and Changes 3

Online Student Lounge 3

Contact Us 5

LIBERAL STUDIES AND INDIVIDUAL OPTION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2006

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT SPRINGFIELD

Introducing Ken Johnson

The Liberal Studies Program welcomed Kenneth D. Johnson as a clinical instructor this fall. Ken arrived in Springfield by way of Malibu, CA. He originally hails from Evansville, IN and appreciated the opportunity to get back to his Midwestern roots. "While I miss some of the freedoms of the more socially and politically liberal west coast and the beauty found living between the mountains and the water, living closer to my older daughter and to my 3 year old granddaughter helps erase the pains of not hearing the ocean, of not seeing the sunset across the water."

Ken has made several life changing decisions that led him to the University of Illinois at Springfield. He worked as a corporate executive and then a

teacher at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.. Prior to these positions, he had a number of occupations including voice performance artist, police



**Ken Johnson, newest LIS
faculty member**

officer, minister, and corporate executive before he discovered a love for teaching. Regarding his occupational choices, Ken said, "I always believed that I could do anything that I decided to do. I looked for ways and places where I thought I could do the most good at the

particular stage of my life. As I found each niche, I tried to fill the needs with all of my abilities."

Living and working in Malibu, CA, showed Ken the dichotomy of what society values. Executives and entertainers purchase multi-million dollar homes along the coast while educators scurry to eek out a living. Recognizing the difficulties this posed for students, Ken seeks to help them see the value of living as educated citizens.

"I try to help students see the importance of [education]. Knowing how we arrived at our current ways of thinking, knowing the progression of art, literature, and music, knowing the importance of advocacy for those less fortunate, knowing how to

Continued on page 4

Welcome, Patty!

On October 31, 2006, long time department secretary Lula Lester retired. Although she can never be replaced, her position was filled by Patricia "Patty" Stoutamyer, a five-and-a-half year veteran of the University of Illinois at Springfield secretarial trenches. Patty brings a wealth of experience to her new position

and is set to make it her own. Although she was raised in Springfield, Patty has spent most of her adult life living, working, and enjoying the East Coast. Prior to UIS, she was a Researcher at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, which is associated with Harvard Medical

School. Patty was responsible for tracking 300 women in a 12 year study that examined the health of older women. The study aimed to give women a healthier life. Due to her ability to get study participants to stay with the program, she was known as a retention specialist in

Continued on page 4

Student and Alumni Happenings



Saesha Carlile aboard the Seafather.

Photo courtesy of Saesha Carlile.

- **Saesha Carlile**, LIS Class Marshal for the Class of 2006, completed her degree while living on a 38-foot Downeaster sailboat. Since September 2003, Saesha and her partner Paul have traveled thousands of miles of western coast of North

America. Saesha has applied to several graduate programs to study public policy. She and her crew will spend the winter in the ports of Mexico.

- **Mary Dawson**, Class of 2003, received the Top Educator award, presented by the 2006 People and Prairie Conservation committee, for sharing her love of the outdoors with her Taylorville High School students.
- **Bob Dramin**, helped organize students at the Illinois School of the Deaf who wished to have greater autonomy in the selection of their academic leaders.
- **Tanja Hodges**, Class of 2006, thesis, "Discussion Board Efficacy," was nominated for the Outstanding Master's Thesis/Project at the University of Illinois at Springfield.
- **Mary Bridget Hunter**, Class of 1995, developed Black Hawk's Mentoring Program for at-risk students at the Black Hawk Elementary School.
- **Judy Woods**, has accepted a position with the University of Illinois Foundation and currently reworking her thesis, "Battle of Anzo," into a book-length manuscript.
- **Suzanne Woods**, Class of 2005, was named by the State of Illinois to the Parent Leadership Council in September 2006. Suzanne is currently teaching at the University of Illinois at Springfield, where she plans to obtain her PhD in Public Affairs.

For more information on Saesha Carlile's journey, visit: www.sailseeheather.com

Faculty Accomplishments

The faculty and staff of the Individual Option program remain committed to improving their qualifications in order to better assist their students in achieving their full potential. To that end, the following faculty members have, in addition to their duties as professors at the University of Illinois at Springfield, pursued the following goals and accomplishments:

Peter Boltuc, PhD

Peter Boltuc has been named the co-editor of the American Philosophical Association's Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers.

Annette Van Dyke, PhD

While on sabbatical, Annette Van Dyke took a five-week tour of Malta, Crete, Sicily, and Italy, where

she studied ancient goddess cultures by visiting archaeological sites and viewing the discoveries found in the tombs and among the ruins.

At the University of Pisa, she served as a guest lecturer on Emily Dickinson.

She will return to teaching at the University of Illinois at Springfield in the Spring 2007.

Ken Johnson, PhD

Ken Johnson is reviewing *The Rhetoric of Operation Rescue* for the *Journal of Communications and Religion*.

Rosina Neginsky, PhD

At the International Conference in Lyon, France, Rosina Neginsky presented a paper entitled "Why

Symbolism can be perceived as a Second Renaissance." The paper was in French and was published in the conference proceedings. She also presented "Occult in Meyrink's novel *The Angel of the Western Window*" at the EMIT conference in Denver in October 2006.

Her book, *Zinaida Venegerova: In Search of Beauty*, received a positive review by Avril Pyman, the author of *The History of Russian Symbolism* and a premier specialist in Russian Symbolism. Additionally, her poem, "A Parisian," has been accepted for publication by the League of American Poets.



Goddess statue in the Tarxien Temples in Malta, constructed between 3600 and 3000 BCE.

Photo courtesy of Annette Van Dyke.

Online Student Lounge



Online students rarely get a chance to talk to each other outside of class.

Imagine you're a student researching an assignment in the library late one night. You're a little lost about how this assignment will come together. As you make your way to the stairway to find a quiet cubicle, you spot a group of your classmates sitting in the library lounge. You stop to say hello and you discover that they're all talking about the same assignment that's worrying you. You join them in the lounge and within an hour, you've blown off some steam, and figured out questions to ask your professor.

These casual conversations are a large part of the campus environment. They enrich the college experience by allowing students

to connect with each other. While campus residents have lounges, cafeterias, and library cubicles that encourage connections with others, online students are separated from their peers because they do not have the chance to meet casually outside of class.

Andy Egizi, the Liberal Studies Program Coordinator, and Julianne Smith, the Liberal Studies Graduate Assistant, are creating an environment that encourages casual interactions among the online LIS Students using the Elluminate Live program, which is usually used for classroom activities, as an online student a lounge – an open place to chat and get to know each other without instructor or administration involvement.

While the Liberal Studies program wants to provide online students with the means to talk with one another, the isolation online students face is not necessarily from the lack of technology. They can choose from a variety of methods to talk to each other through emails, telephone calls, message boards and instant messengers. It stems from a lack of a setting. Online students are not isolated because they cannot talk to each other, but because they lack a place that promotes casual conversation. While to the LIS pro-

gram may use Elluminate to schedule discussion forums and special events for online students in the future, the goal is for students to use Elluminate Live student lounge as an opportunity to talk with each other anytime.

The challenge of creating an online lounge is not using new technologies, but reaching across computer screen to connect with the person at the other end. All people face this challenge regardless of the communication method they choose. Ultimately, the students will decide if they will to use the Elluminate Live to connect with other online students. It is their lounge and they decide how to use it.

If you have any thoughts or questions about the Liberal Studies online student lounge, login to the Elluminate Live program and Julianne Smith and Andy Egizi will be glad to chat with you.

INO Changes and Updates

The Individual Option program is in a period of growth and development that will enable it to better meet the needs of its students. To this end, the faculty and staff are pursuing an online track and blended program which will permit them to enhance the service they provide to distance-learning and the non-traditional students who are the program's heart.

In keeping with on-going changes at

the University of Illinois at Springfield, the Individual Option program has also voted to remove the PAC requirement from its curriculum. However, since civic involvement is at the core of what it means to be an INO student, professors will continue to work with students to develop new and innovative ways to give back to the communities in which they live.

The faculty in the Individual Option program continues to develop new

and exciting courses to meet their students' needs. One such course is Dr. Rosina Neginsky's "Expatriate Paris," an interdisciplinary course that examines the influence of immigrants from other countries on French culture.



View of Paris from the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Introducing Ken Johnson, continued from page 1

persuade others to action and to attitude—all of these live as marks of educated people.”

Teaching allows Ken to combine his passion for reading with his need to give back to others the opportunities for growth he received from his educators.

“People created opportunities for me to excel. Opportunities to perform, opportunities to speak before groups, opportunities to learn all created by who saw some promise in me. That continued throughout my life. I want to help create opportunity for others. I believe the best way to help create opportunity centers on helping others to learn to think, to learn to speak well, and to learn to write well. Creating opportunities for people to be heard. [T]o find ways to give voice to those who suffered in silence – women, the poor, and other minorities – sits at the core of what I want to do.”

Ken uses his training as a rhetorician to show students how to explore their thoughts and express themselves. “Rhetoric,” Ken stated, “helps us decide how we will act. Some people believe that all the

answers to questions already exist, and all we must do is ask the right questions. Rhetoric believes that the questions that we ask carry importance, we will arrive at answers to these questions that become true by decision.”

“I count myself fortunate to serve as a faculty member at UIS,” Ken said about his transition to UIS, “and particularly so in the Liberal Studies area. I serve with wonderful colleagues who value students and education. The mission of the LIS program allows me to work with students who mirror my educational process—they started young, did some other things in life, and finally realized the values of completing their degrees. They continually remind me of how fortunate I am to discover a life’s mission that regenerates me each day.”

Drawing from his early life’s indoctrination in religion, Ken’s research focuses on gender language in conservative Christian groups. “I grew up as part of a conservative Christian group. The tenets of that group precluded women from any position of

leadership or public role. I found myself immersed in the teachings of this group...The more I thought and studied, the less sense the traditions of the church made with what I saw in the only book used, the Bible. I saw a gender whose voice others’ marginalized, and I could see no reason for that...As a husband and as a father of two daughters, I realized that I needed to speak in behalf of those who were silenced throughout history... Armed with that determination, I started working to change the way the church in which I grew up treated women, and that led me to work for women’s rights in a broader sense, too.”

When not reading, grading papers, or playing with his granddaughter, he contemplates the popularity of *South Park*’s Cartman. “I like Cartman because he has no fear. His willingness to venture into uncharted waters and to help define both the good and the bad of human interaction.” Ken has several pieces of *South Park* memorabilia proudly displayed in his office.

“I realized that I needed to speak on behalf of those who we silenced throughout history...”

Welcome, Patty! continued from page 1

the medical research industry. These skills serve her well as a program secretary.

Patty is no stranger to the artistic and creative temperament. While living on Cape Cod, she owned a gift store and gallery that specialized in one-of-a-kind works by local artists. Since many of the artists in the area were talented but lacked networking skills, she would introduce their work to the community. Partially due to her efforts, many were able to make a living doing what they loved.

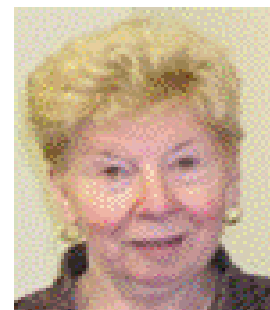
Patty returned to Springfield to be nearer to family and old friends, but retirement did not

suit her, so she accepted a position at the University of Illinois at Springfield, first as the secretary to the Communications and Visual Arts Department and later, after the Communications and Visual Arts programs were separated, with Communications, Sociology, Anthropology, Music, and Theatre.

Outside UIS, Patty continues to be active in the community by volunteering with the Social Concerns

Committee at her local church and with Springfield’s SOS Overflow Shelter.

Welcome to Liberal Studies and Individual Options, Patty. We are happy to have you.



Patty Stoutamyer, new LIS/INO Program Secretary



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT SPRINGFIELD**

One University Plaza
Springfield IL 62703
217-206-6600
800- 252-8533



The Liberal Studies and Individual Option Programs are designed for the self-directed student to facilitate the creation of individualized bachelor's or master's degrees. The programs will assist students in course selection, and help with advising, and completion of the degree. The programs' major purpose is to serve students whose needs and objectives are best met by combinations of courses or mixes of learning formats not available through established UIS curricula.

In designing an individualized curriculum, students develop skills that promote critical thinking and facilitate significant learning. LIS and INO students assume responsibility for integrating their own learning activities and for evaluating and revising their own curricular design. Program faculty seek to facilitate this learning process and to promote the growth in personal autonomy that necessarily ensues.

Given the accelerating rate of change characterizing modern society, LIS and INO faculty believe that self-directed, lifelong learning skills are essential. Learning how to learn is a prerequisite to solving new kinds of problems.



Faculty and staff from Individual Options and Liberal Studies—Fall 2006.

Back Row (L-R): Andy Egizi, Karen Kirkendall, Annette Van Dyke, Eric Hadley-Ives, Ken Johnson, Lori Basiewicz, Mary Addison-Lamb, Jan Droegkamp

Seated: Lula Lester and Rosina Neginsky

Contact Us:

If you have items of interest for this newsletter, please contact Lori Basiewicz at 217-206-7416 or by e-mail at inoga@uis.edu or Julianne Smith at 217-206-8352 or by e-mail at lis-ga@uis.edu.