University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies

Advisory Board Meeting

October 20, 2022, at 11am

in-person and on zoom <https://usi.zoom.us/j/93867874380>

Director

Silvia Rode (Professor of German and Assistant, Dean College of Liberal Arts, USI); position carries no reassignment time.

Administrative assistant

Ms. Abby Yates (shared administrative position in the College of Liberal Arts and the Center for

Communal Studies)

Board Members present

Gregory W. Brown (Retired Principal Christa McCauliffe Alternative Middle School); Jennifer Greene (Archivist Librarian, USI); Joshua Lockyer (Professor of Anthropology, Arkansas Tech University); Susan Matarese (Professor Emerita of Political Science, University of Louisville); Donald Pitzer (Professor Emeritus of History, Director Emeritus Center for Communal Studies, USI); Michael Strezewski (Associate Professor of Anthropology, USI); Leslie Townshend (Director Community Engagement, USI); Kristalyn Shefveland (Associate Professor of History Department, USI)

Ex officio

Jason Hardgrave (Associate Professor and Chair of History Department, USI); Marna Hostetler (Director Rice Library, USI)

Center Location

University of Southern Indiana, University Achieves and Special Collections (David L. Rice Library, Communal Studies Reading Room 3022)

1. Timetable

11-noon CCS Board meeting (UC 226/227)

Noon to 1:00pm lunch

1:30pm to 2:15pm MINKA tour

3pm to 4pm Dr. Lockyer lecture

6pm Reception at Rode Home

1. Welcome

In a pre-taped message, the new Dean of the College of Liberal Art, Dr. Del Doughty introduced himself, extended his apologies for missing the board meeting, and express his support for the Center. The director and board member who have met Dean Doughty praised his thoughtfulness and interested in supporting the Center and New Harmony.

1. Budget Report

Silvia was happy to announce that there were no cuts to the Center for Communal Studies budget and that the budget that had ended on July 15th was in the black. The Center spent $ 8,207.87 which included board meetings, research prizes and travel grant, guest lecture and purchase of a 6 foot banner. Its design corresponds with the new design of Center brochures that includes student photos at the UNIV New Harmony event. The banner will be used for conferences and major fairs to attract students to the Communal Studies minor. In addition, the Center purchased four advertisements in the *Communities Magazine*. There will be a review of the effectiveness of the advertisements. Don mentioned advertising in the *Society for Utopian Studies* journal.

For the coming year, budget allocations are intended to cover two lectures, two board meetings, the research travel grant and two graduate and undergraduate grants.

1. Collection Development

Jennifer reported on new collection developments which include a zoom conversation with Mark Tuttle, Silvia and Jennifer on Bruderhof Communities and LGBTQ communities collected by Don Janzen

Mark Tuttle is a retired videographer who worked with the Bruderhof Communities to complete a video/documentary on the group in the mid to late 1980s. He has film footage, notes, pamphlets, publications, and other materials about the group at this time. Some materials have been digitized but will do a complete inventory and seek funding for digitizing the materials. Most of the film is in a VHS type film format and can be transfer to a digital format. Will check with IT about an estimate once materials have arrived. Copyright issues are clear. Approx. 5 boxes of materials to be shipped at CCS expense.

Don Janzen has sent materials from LBGTQA communities, this includes but is not limited to events flyers, webpage screen casts, interviews, and articles about a variety of communities. These materials are important o understanding how communities are interacting and involvement with larger communities. Materials have been in digital and hardcopy formats. Community finding aids have been updated with recent documents. Still looking at keyword descriptors for improved access.

A CCS travel grant provided Jennifer with the opportunity to visit communities and to establish a personal relationship. She visited three communities: 1) Twin Oaks expressed the possibility for working with the USI instead of the University of Virginia archives. Jennifer will conduct a follow-up visit next summer. 2) Shannon Farm **Digital Back catalogs.** 3) Acorn Community (Louisa County, Virginia) will be sending catalogs. The community had no knowledge that USI housed the CCS. Jennifer will be partnering with Acorn. 4) Jennifer also reported that the University of Virginia never responded to her inquests.

Center Circulation: 10 requests for materials or reference; 5 from public; 1 permission to publish Damien Rousselière from the Institut Agro Rennes-Angers in France- Phalanx images from Janzen.

1. Presentations

Silvia represented and advertised the Center at the following venues:

* Plenary Session Communal Studies Network.” *International Communal Studies Association Conference* (ICSA). Skanderborg, Denmark, July 2022
* MINKA Learning Lab for Living Well, Evansville, IN 2022
* Communal Studies Association, Plenary Session, 2022
* Info Session Gender Studies, LGBTQ communal materials (Janzen), USI 2022
* NEH Grant Proposal “Disharmony” (Shefveland, Standiford Reyes, Rode)
* Lily Grant proposal on Religion and Spirituality (Townsend)
* Communal Studies course offerings (Brown)
1. Brainstorming Session
* Get in involved in website updates
* Adding Instagram
* Scholarship for Communal Studies minors
* Include Social Media Communities on CCS website
* Add podcasts
* Expand international connections to universities and faculty
1. New Contacts

Greene and Rode zoomed with Intentional Communities Research Group; UK based Diggers and Dreamers collective and Kirsten Stevens-Wood (Senior Lecturer) at Cardiff School of Education and Social Policy / Ysgol Addysg a Pholisi Cymdeithasol Cardiff Metropolitan University / Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd Llandaft / Llandaf Cardiff CFS 2YB / Caerdydd CFS 2YB

1. Communal Studies Association Conference (CSA) Updates

Brown, Lockyer, and Rode are serving on the Conference organizing committee, in addition to Kathy Fernandez and Claire Eagles.

* + GA in the Spring
* Hamilton College has a Communal Studies
	+ Greene Communicated with them
	+ Mostly shakers
	+ Mary House of David
	+ Greene says that they have a program that lasts for a whole semester
	+ Toured the archives
* Silvia asked Don if he went to a conference
* Silvia asked if anyone had any questions about the archives
	+ Don brought a letter from 1976 it is in the preamble
	+ Don thanks Greene
* Outreach front
	+ Silvia thanks Don for conducting the new interviews
	+ Silvia asks Don how many interviews he has done
		- These are on the website
	+ Don mentions the book has not been translated yet
* Don asked Greg Brown to explain his book
	+ Essays
		- Covid
		- Local girl scout council
		- A continuation of Owens search for secular meaning
		- How do we know that life matters
		- Conclusion is that we know by intentional communal living we care about each other
			* Amazon
	+ Greg explains how his first book did and how bad the title was
	+ what does is look like when what we call God is real and present in the universe
	+ Don explains some theories looking at, whole movements, how they change to survive
* Don mentions Lockyer book
* Don also mentions, Creative symbiosis
	+ If you are not creative, enough to change-death
		- Brown wants an Interview with Dan for the website
		- Brown wants Josh--- and Zach Rubin
* New Harmony Experience
	+ Leslie Townsend says when the President was at the board meeting, he wanted all students at USI to be a part of the experience
	+ How to implement? Use the UNIV courses.
	+ Carol Eagle was instrumental
	+ Board members and Silvia were also involved
	+ Sept 13 was an assessment day
	+ Large tour buses. 3 groups
	+ is when the freshman Romain and Liberal College 1st group
	+ 2nd education, nursing
	+ 3rd Pott college
	+ Lectures they had to attend
		- History and culture
		- Art and design
		- Science in new Harmony
		- They had an additional 3 sites Community House #2 was utilized
		- Students had passports
		- The destinations were all over town
	+ Somethings will change for next year’s event
		- 1200 students attended
		- Talked about good participation
			* Dean Doughty was there
		- Brody will be sending evaluation cards to students
* Silvia brings up what type of negative feedback that they had
	+ Shield interviewed 2 students from health professions college
	+ No context
	+ Students did not understand why they were there
		- Instructors told them it was stupid meeting with Brody
	+ Problems with students that were not interested because instructors were not helpful
	+ Brody said there will be better information and sooner for instructors
		- That way instructor can better informed
		- Silvia wants the planning committee
	+ 1st and 3rd group loved it
	+ 2nd group didn’t like it
		- This was the group that was interviewed
	+ Silvia suggests no more segregation of the colleges next year
		- Truly an interdisciplinary experience
		- maybe by time, instead of college
* Brown asked about New Harmony issues with racism
	+ Sundown Town
	+ Push back from the locals having non-white folk there
	+ Kristalyn said it’s an issue
		- Her group was stopped 4 different times
		- She said it didn’t get violent
			* Locals asked “why are you here”
			* Other students ran into it
			* Shefveland mentions her personal experience with treatment of one of her children vs. her other child
			* Shopkeepers look at “those” kids are up to no good
* Settlement for former slaves was set aside in New Harmony
	+ no record of being settled on that land.
	+ Pitzer explained that he talked to students, and he applauded the 1st effort of doing this type of activity with students
	+ Didn’t feel crowded
		- Silvia mentions Core39 in House #2
* Pitzer talks about New Harmony movement for the 19th century
	+ New Harmony fact sheet on the univ website (univ 101)
		- Clair and Elliot contributed to this
	+ Silvia spoke with Gender studies, told them about Don Pitzer materials, but they are waiting for Greene
* Silvia goes to Denmark over the Summer
	+ Conference
	+ Highly recommended
	+ She did a paper and happy to get to know the Founders of the international Communal Studies Org.
		- She had lunch
		- Israel, Indigenous groups from Brazil in the international communal studies Dan McCannon organized
		- Issues about logistics and how horrible it was
* Silvia explains what Mika is
	+ Tom Williams, a medical doctor started these tiny houses for the aging
	+ he has projects all of the Us and works with medical field and
	+ interview will be up on the website about Denmark and Germany
		- on how communal studies differs in other countries—Technology versus human interaction
	+ MIKA has a board that Silvia is on
		- she encourages others to join as well
		- Williams joins the board meeting with a 10 – 15-minute food for thought
			* Concept of Caretaker is politically incorrect
			* Ask Brandy how to join the board
* Fulbright Scholar is what Silvia want to be at USI CCS
	+ PhD in Paris and Germany
		- She wants to come and stay here
* Grant application for a national endowment grant 60,000-
	+ Silvia asked Kristalyn to explain
		- —Dis Harmony incorporate the collections in New Harmony in a symposium—communities that have “others” in their groups.
		- Purposeful and accidental communities to be exclusive
		- Markers about exhibits but no strong convo 20th century race violence---sundown towns—
			* -k-12 educators to be a part of the convo- community understanding vs popular visit----
			* shed light in 2024 at a symposium---
			* ideal to have exhibitions on campus new harmony and Evansville museum---
			* EVSC and POSEY county involved for real---
			* Silvia is interested on this subject—
			* Kristalyn mentions a direct quote from *Growing up on the wrong side of the sunny side of the street*
				+ This book explains-New Harmony is a sundown town even though they had wonderful ideals at first---

Owen was a racist---from the beginning racist----

* Student workers non tenure folks adequate time to do this grant and be protected.
	+ - Kristalyn had to go to class
* Brown talking more about 50th conference in the organization in 1974-
	+ CSA theme is “Communal Theory: Practice and impact
		- time to think big—
		- possibly a college credit for being apart the study-
		- 1 college credit from the conference-
			* Missouri state did it-
			* non USI students to get a college credit-
* Pitzer talks notes-
	+ Jason H mentions a student only session-
	+ independent study
	+ -Kristalyn has some experience with this-
	+ communal studies course maybe-
	+ Jason also mentioned the previous statement-
	+ Silvia mentions shuttle bus to guarantee participations-
	+ Brown mentions getting golf carts-
	+ Brown is very impressed-
	+ Greene says that there was an issue with the students paying, CSA didn’t want students to participate without paying
	+ Silvia, among others, want to make sure that students are not excluded or charged
	+ Lockyer and Brown are on the board-
	+ Brown says it should be broader than just History-
	+ Jason H mentions history is trying to broaden it to integrate it with course work mentions the dean might be supportive,
	+ Greene mentions Historic New Harmony pays for things-
	+ Pitzer says students should be more involved-brown mentions teacher be more involved.
	+ Jason H asked Brown to teach a class possibly.
	+ Jim Thomas was at a town the Pitzer had visited and these personal contacts, shakers in KY, Susan knows about it.
	+ Lockyer mentions CSA laying down resources for the coming year and encourages membership.
* Silvia mentions the speaker in the Spring-
	+ Barbera (last name not mentioned)
	+ Modern Community life- read through the bio to see if she will work
	+ Discuss at next meeting
* Katie Waters invited Silvia to do a speech about the CCS how we are all connected, New Harmony
* Waiting for ALL members to be present to discuss