

THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDDLETOWN: Exploring Macon's African-American Community

# Telling the rest of the story

Community can feel good about study

BY HARLEY ORRALL

**W**hen I was invited to the Macon School Board to study and report on the city's African-American community, I was excited to talk to the people who live there.



PROJECT

# Students present study on American dream

Group used work to help low-income families own homes

By [unreadable]

Students at Ball State University presented their findings on the American dream to a group of community leaders.

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## SHARING LESSONS

The end of the year means presentation time for students of the Virginia B. Ball Center.



PHOTO BY [unreadable]

## Ignored significant black population

When the Lynds arrived, the Negro population they saw as small was only small when compared to the number of the city's whites.

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## Ball State storm chasers witness birth of tornadoes

Students at Ball State University witnessed the birth of tornadoes during a storm-chasing expedition.



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## Documentaries highlight tragic stories of Indiana residents

Productions focus on struggle of cancer patients, fire victims

Documentaries produced by students at Ball State University highlight the struggles of cancer patients and fire victims.

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## a splash

Red Cross contributions

Students at Ball State University made significant contributions to the Red Cross during a fundraising event.

# Engaged

The 2003-2004 Annual Report of the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry



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**ON THE COVER:** Projects at The Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry have traditionally included a community component, but the 2003-2004 academic year saw a new level of engagement, unprecedented even for us. Headlines repeatedly announced this commitment.

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**THE AMERICAN DREAM:** Tony Costello [Fall 2003, Architecture] and his seminar investigated the evolution of the typical American home during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He and his students studied the physical, social, economic, political, aesthetic and technological forces that shaped these houses,

the neighborhoods they created and the ability of middleclass Americans to own them.

**PRODUCTS:** The seminar created an exhibit on the history of the typical American home [currently on display at the Minnetrista Cultural Center], a monograph on the American Dream [see enclosed] and a one hour documentary on affordable housing that will be shown at architecture conferences and submitted to film festivals. [See enclosed.]

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** The seminar worked with the Muncie Homeownership and Development Center and the Center for Middletown Studies to present a program at the Small Cities Conference held at the Minnetrista Cultural Center. It also conducted a community charrette for Muncie's Southside neighborhood under the sponsorship of the City of Muncie—Department of Metropolitan Development and the Muncie Urban Design Studio. Finally, the students worked with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in the Whitely neighborhood. This endeavor led to another charrette that was conducted in Whitely during the Spring semester, 2004. This widely publicized event built on the contacts and goodwill created by Eric Lassiter's seminar, *The Other Side of Middletown*, conducted in Whitely during the Spring semester, 2003.

**[OPPOSITE: ①** Brianne Bergeman reviews one of her house designs with architect Mike Pyatok, renowned for his work in affordable housing. **②** Student Dan Overbey learns about traffic flow problems from a southside Muncie resident at a community charrette. **③** Muncie area home construction, August 2003. **RIGHT: ④** The cover of the seminar's monograph.]



**SERVIR Y APRENDER [SERVE AND LEARN]:** Chin-Sook Pak [Fall 2003, Modern Languages] and her seminar explored the legal, financial, social, employment and health care problems that confront the members of the Hispanic community in East Central Indiana. The seminar, conducted in Spanish, worked with various community organizations to identify “typical” problems of immigrant workers. **PRODUCT:** Chin-Sook and her students collaborated with members of the Hispanic community to recreate these problems in a series of short dramas in the style of *telenovelas* [Mexican soap operas]. The series, *Sobrevivir* [To Survive], has been shown at numerous Latino Summits in the Midwest and distributed to non-profit organizations from Florida to California. [See enclosed.] **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** The seminar’s primary partners were PREVAIL: Victim Awareness and Support Program of Hamilton County, and Intercultural Services of Hamilton County. But Chin-Sook and her students also worked with the Hamilton County Police Department, the Hamilton County Courts, and the Hamilton County School System. Chin-Sook’s leadership in the project earned her the “Brian Douglas Hiltumen Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Scholarship of Engagement,” an annual award given by the Indiana chapter of Campus Compact [the national organization for Service Learning]. Also, Chin-Sook, together with Nancy Carlson [Telecommunications] and Eric Lassiter [Anthropology], gave formal presentations on the Virginia Ball Center at the Lilly West Conference on Teaching at the Claremont Graduate Center in California, 2003. **[OPPOSITE: ❶** The packaging image for *Sobrevivir*, a young immigrant who aspires to be a doctor but ends up in jail because of ignorance of American laws. **❷** At a Hispanic festival in Indianapolis. **❸** Shooting *Sobrevivir*. **RIGHT: ❹** A *Sobrevivir* scene about underage drinking.]

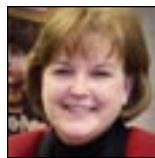
**❹** A *Sobrevivir* scene about underage drinking.]





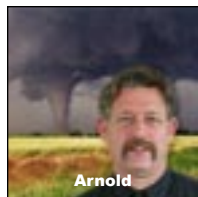
**MAKING YOUR WAY BACK:** Laura O’Hara [Spring 2004, Communication Studies] and her seminar documented the stories of people recovering from serious illness [cancer] or loss of home and property [fire and flood]. Laura and her students studied the history of documentary film and then worked with their community partners to identify people who would share their survival narratives on film. **PRODUCT:** The seminar created three documentaries: 1. *Designing Hope*—the stories of three cancer survivors; 2. *One Day at a Time*—the stories of three families who lost their homes to fire or flood; and 3. *Shooting for Hope*—the story of the film crew that made *One Day at a Time*. [See enclosed.] The first two films were made for specific clients: the American Cancer Society, and the American Red Cross. The third film is under consideration by several textbook publishers for use in courses on group dynamics and communication. All three films will be broadcast on WIPB-TV. Together with Michael O’Hara [Theatre and Dance] and Rai Peterson [English], Laura will present her VBC work at the annual Association of American Colleges and Universities [AAC&U] convention in San Francisco, 2005. **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** Laura and her students worked closely with a variety of community partners: the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Center: Ball Memorial Hospital, Community Cancer Education/Prevention Program: Ball Memorial Hospital, Hoosier Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Little Red Door Cancer Services of Delaware County, Open Door: Ball Memorial Hospital Community Services and WIPB-TV. The three films were showcased on two separate evenings for large audiences at the Muncie Community Civic Center. **[OPPOSITE: 1 Jack Cullen, one subject of *One Day at a Time*. 2 Alex Mejia, taping in Jack Cullen’s burned-out house. 3 Mikey Fornicoia, exhausted after a week of editing all-nighters. RIGHT: 4 Erynne Ferguson, logging tapes.]**





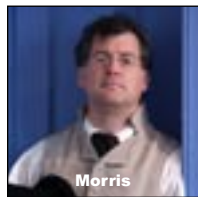
**LITERACY LINKS:** Melinda Schoenfeldt [Spring 2004, Elementary Education] led our first international seminar. Melinda and her students from Ball State University collaborated with Alice Hindsgavl and her students from Silkeborg Seminarium [Denmark] to investigate literacy issues as they affect underserved populations and the school-home connection in America and Denmark. The seminar worked for half the semester in the primary schools in Indiana and half the semester in the primary schools in Jutland [DK]. **PRODUCT:** The seminar produced a CD, *Discover Readers Theater*, that demonstrates how young students can make connections among all the elements of language—reading, writing, speaking and listening—in a social context. [See enclosed.] Because the CD is a particularly effective tool for teaching ESL students in both the American and Danish schools, it has been distributed to school teachers in America and Denmark. It will also be presented at international conferences on teacher education and is currently under consideration by educational publishers who have large markets for ESL texts. **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** The seminar’s primary partners in Muncie were the Muncie Children’s Museum, the Muncie Public Library, Burris Laboratory School and WIPB-TV. But the students also worked with schools with at-risk populations. In Indiana, the seminar worked with schools with large Amish, Afro-American and Hispanic populations. In Jutland, the seminar worked with a variety of schools, some of which had large immigrant populations. The seminar gave two very successful presentations on its CD—one in Silkeborg and one in Muncie [Minnetrista Cultural Center]. **[OPPOSITE: 1** Jeremiah Glass moderates and Amy Conwell transcribes as Burris Laboratory School students write their readers theater script. **2** A Burris student peeks into her script. **3** Burris students perform their piece. **RIGHT: 4** Danish and American class members visit Denmark’s most famous icon.]





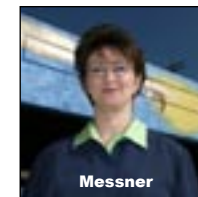
**2004-2005 FELLOWS—DAVID ARNOLD** [Fall 2004, Geography] and his students will track the emergence of and the public reaction to severe weather systems in Indiana. The seminar will produce a documentary, “Tornado Alley: Back Home Again in Indiana,” that will explain how to prepare for and respond to the threats of severe thunderstorms

and tornados. The documentary will be broadcast on public television during Severe Weather Awareness Week in March 2005. David’s community sponsors include the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency, the National Weather Service and WIPB-TV. • David Arnold is an Associate Professor of Geography who teaches courses in meteorology, climatology and geography. A frequent writer and speaker on all sorts of weather issues, he also directs the Ball State Storm Chase Team that examines severe weather systems across the country. **RON MORRIS** [Fall 2004, History] and his students will research, design and build a museum exhibit, “Intersections: Traces and Trails of Wayne County,” that will reveal the relationship among historic events such as the Quaker migration, the Underground Railroad, the national road and the Whitewater Canal. The exhibit will be installed in the Wayne County Historical Museum before traveling to schools and other museums in Indiana and the Midwest. Ron’s community sponsors include the Cambridge City Public Library, Levi Coffin House Association, Starr-Gennett Foundation, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, the Canal Society of Indiana, Indiana State Museum,



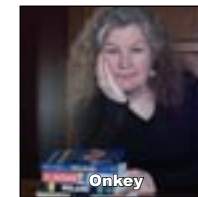
Indiana Historical Society, Indiana National Road Association, Nettle Creek Valley Museum, Richmond Art Museum, Wayne County Community Foundation, Wayne County Historical Museum and Wayne County Conventions and Tourism Bureau. • Ron Morris is an Assistant Professor of History who teaches courses in social studies. He

has published books and articles on innovative methods of teaching history and culture to young students. **BETH MESSNER** [Spring 2005, Communication Studies] and her students will examine “hate speech” as a powerful and prevalent form of communication. The seminar will design an interactive web site and a companion DVD, “Learning from



a Legacy of Hate,” to document case studies of hate speech in Indiana and to promote attitudes of acceptance and tolerance toward diverse others. Beth’s community sponsors are the Muncie Human Rights Commission, TEAMwork for Quality Living, and the National Communication Association. She will also be working with the Carter Center and the Southern Poverty Law Center in Atlanta, and the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. • Beth Messner is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies who teaches courses in rhetorical criticism and political rhetoric. The winner of numerous teaching awards, Beth has published on the techniques of propaganda embedded in various social movements. **LAUREN ONKEY** [Spring 2004, English] and her students will study the roles tourism and travel writing play in constructing and marketing Ireland’s national identity. The seminar will travel throughout Ireland conducting their research with microphones. Upon their return, the students will create and produce a series of short radio programs, “Consuming a Nation,” that will illustrate the significance of tourism in contemporary culture. The seminar will also publish its findings in an academic journal devoted to Irish Studies. Lauren’s community sponsor is Indiana Public

Radio. • Lauren Onkey is an Associate Professor of English who teaches courses in cultural studies and contemporary Irish literature and film. She has published widely on various aspects of Irish life and has recently received an Irish Studies Summer Research Fellowship at Boston College.





**VIRGINIA B. BALL CENTER FOR CREATIVE INQUIRY NATIONAL SHOWCASE:** On Wednesday, November 17, 2004, from 6:30-8:30 PM, the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry will host a national showcase at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. The date was selected because it is the day before the opening of the annual convention of the National Council of Teachers of English—the largest academic subject matter professional organization in the world—in Indianapolis. The place was selected because of its location [to assist convention goers], its grand lobby [to display VBC exhibits] and its auditorium [to screen VBC media projects]. • Formal invitations to the showcase and reception will be sent to about 100 academic leaders from throughout the world who will be attending the convention and to about 100 community leaders from throughout Indiana. The Indiana State Museum has been extremely cooperative in helping us plan this event. And, of course, the museum has been eager to acknowledge the generosity of the Ball Brothers Foundation in the design and construction of its new building on the canal.

**VIRGINIA BALL CENTER GOALS:** As we look forward to year 6 and to the possibility of future funding for the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry, we propose the following goals as the primary focus for our academic and community work: ① To attract Ball State University's most talented faculty and students to develop interdisciplinary and collaborative seminars. ② To raise expectations for the creation of quality products that will attract national and international academic recognition. ③ To enrich and extend the seminars' community partnerships in local, national and international contexts. ④ To explore possibilities for international exchanges and collaborations to deepen and widen the intellectual inquiry of each seminar. ⑤ To develop new and creative ways to document and assess the accomplishments of VBC seminars. ⑥ To present and publish the results of VBC's work to the most influential and respected opinion leaders in higher education. ⑦ To demonstrate how Ball State University in particular and higher education in general will profit from the innovative activities of the Virginia Ball Center for Creative Inquiry.





**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER FELLOWS, YEAR ONE: NANCY CARLSON** [Fall 2000, Telecommunications]. Nancy now serves as chair of her department. The television series she and her students created at VBC, *Indiana Outdoors*,



continues to air on PBS stations. Nancy is also the faculty advisor for a group of former VBC students who are making a film and exhibit on the sculpture, *Catalyst*, which will be installed this summer in front of the Minnetrista Cultural Center. Together with Chin-Sook Pak [Modern Languages] and Eric Lassiter [Anthropology], Nancy presented her work at VBC at the Lilly West Conference on Teaching at the Claremont Graduate Center, California, 2003. **RAI PETERSON** [Fall 2000, English]. Rai now serves as Director of Undergraduate Programs in her department. In 2003, she received Ball State University's Outstanding Teacher Award for her work at VBC. Together with Laura and Michael O'Hara, Rai will present her VBC work at the annual AAC&U convention in San Francisco, 2005. **LEE PAPA** [Spring 2001, English/Theatre]. Lee's work at VBC helped him acquire a new teaching position in the Department of Theatre at CUNY–Staten Island. **RAPHAEL CRYSTAL** [Spring 2001, Theatre and Dance]. Raph's work at VBC was instrumental in helping him design a new job in the Department of Theatre at the University of Alabama.



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER FELLOWS, YEAR TWO: RODGER SMITH** [Fall 2001, Theatre and Dance]. Rodger now serves as the Associate Director of Ball State University's Center for Media Design. **PAMELA HARWOOD** [Fall 2001,



Architecture]. Pam served as Program Chair for a major regional architecture conference [2003] where she expanded many of the ideas she developed at VBC. Her work at VBC also earned her the very prestigious award for Outstanding Collaborative Design from the National Association of Colleges of Architecture, 2004. Pam is currently serving as a faculty advisor for students who are creating a media site that will present a digital version of the museum exhibit, *Finding Indiana*, she and her students developed for the Minnetrista Culture Center. **DOMINIC CARISTI** [Spring 2002, Telecommunications]. Dom now serves as the Director of the Graduate Program in Digital Storytelling in the College of Communication, Information and Media at BSU. **TONY EDMONDS** [Spring 2002, History]. In 2003, Tony won the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association of General and Liberal Studies for his work at VBC. In 2004, he won the Victor and Doris Lawhead Award from BSU for his work in General Studies, the Honors College and VBC.





**ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FORMER FELLOWS, YEAR THREE: BARB STEDMAN** [Fall 2002, English]. Barb continues to work with new students to develop the web site on Indiana's environmental writers, *Our Land, Our Literature* that she and her students



designed at VBC. The website has received national recognition and has been featured on several television programs, most recently on Fox 59's *Morning Show*. **MICHAEL O'HARA** [Fall 2002, Theatre and Dance]. Michael has used the DVD he and his students created for Allyn and Bacon Publishers as the proto-type for a larger project he has signed with Allyn and Bacon. He is under contract to write an Introduction to Theatre textbook that will have a DVD as an ancillary. Together with Laura O'Hara and Rai Peterson, Michael will present his VBC work at the annual AAC&U conference in San Francisco, 2005. **THALIA MULVIHILL** [Spring 2003, Education Studies]. Thalia has finished stage one in her work on a biography of the contributions of the Ball women to higher education. The book grew out of her VBC seminar on educational biographies and her lengthy conversations with Virginia about the "Ball Women." Stage two of her research will be funded by the Ball Brothers Foundation. **ERIC LASSITER** [Spring 2003, Anthropology]. Eric and his students held a "signing party" in June, 2004 to celebrate the publication of *The Other Side of Middletown*, Alta Mira Press. The book is accompanied by a DVD that documents how the students and the African-



American community in Muncie conducted their ethnographic study. Together with Nancy Carlson and Chin-Sook Pak, Eric presented his VBC work at the Lilly West Conference on Teaching at the Claremont Graduate Center, California, 2003.





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