Present Indiana

2007-2008 Presentations

funded by Quality of Life in Indiana Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.
Mitch Brown, Class of 2010  
*Classics major from Plainfield, Indiana*

“The History of the Brown County Art Colony” focuses on the prominent artists who took up residence in Brown County and helped establish a century-old outlet for artists to showcase their work. The Brown County Art colony gave Indiana prominence in the art world by showcasing such Indiana greats as T. C. Steele, Marie Goth, Dale Bessire, and Glen Cooper. When one learns about Brown County art, they can’t help but learn about Indiana history along the way.

Robert Dean Campbell, Class of 2010  
*History major from Veedersburg, Indiana*

“Tippecanoe Battlefield: The Space Between” is an investigation of the battle between a growing Indiana Confederacy and American soldiers led by General William Henry Harrison. Two significant historical events were spawned from this battle, the War of 1812 and the eventual election of William Henry Harrison as President of the United States. The historical presentation is well suited for people interested in Indiana history, especially fourth graders who are studying the state during their school year.

Steve Egan, Class of 2009  
*Religion major from Crown Point, Indiana*

“The Amish of Indiana” is a study of the Amish throughout Indiana, a population that has grown and thrived since their arrival in Goshen, Indiana in 1840. Particular attention is paid to the Amish community in Parke County where Steve interviewed a hat maker, cheese maker, saddle makers, and several farmers. The Amish of Indiana are a constantly changing people who continue to grow and adapt.

Matt Goodrich, Class of 2009  
*Theatre major from Westfield, Indiana*

“French Lick and West Baden Springs Hotel Resorts: A History” follows the creation, downfall, and recent rebirth of these legendary Indiana luxury resorts. Started in the mid 1800’s, the inns were a centerpiece to business conventions and vacations for all of America, before falling out of prosperity during the Depression. In 1996, Indiana billionaire Bill Cook and the Historic Landmarks of Indiana began the extensive restoration of the resorts. Today, French Lick and West Baden are magnificent examples of nostalgic glamour and splendor posing as the newest beacon for vacationers looking for first-rate luxury accommodations.
Ross McKinney, Class of 2009
History major from Cicero, Indiana

“Indiana’s Cheese” is an investigation of the cheese industry and its history. The presentation focuses on the cheese-making process, highlighting some of the key Indiana cheese producers, including Fair Oaks Farms, The Swissland Cheese Company, and Capriole Farms. A creative five-minute DVD documentary on the cheese-making process and a PowerPoint presentation serve as the backdrop to Ross’s talk.

Jacob Peerman, Class of 2009
Psychology major from Boonville, Indiana

Jacob’s presentation, Indiana Wine: A History, An Industry, a Lifestyle, focuses on the history of wine in Indiana from the 1800’s to today. Jacob focuses on a sample of wineries in Indiana in today’s market, chronicling how the history of the wine industry after prohibition, has greatly impacted Indiana culture and wine production. Usually known for its cornfields, Indiana has over twenty-five wineries scattered throughout the Hoosier state. Indiana wine making has had a long history and is currently experiencing a magnificent comeback.

Nathan Schrader, Class of 2010
Mathematics major from Lafayette, Indiana

“A Tale of Two Cities: the Origins of Madison and Columbus Architecture” is an 18 minute PowerPoint presentation with audio explaining the origins of the towns’ architecture and the impact it had on its residents. Columbus is known for its modern buildings, while Madison has preserved numerous examples of early 19th century architecture. The presentation covers the town histories and the pride that surrounds their significant architecture, encouraging people to tour these Indiana treasures.

Zac Simpson, Class of 2009
Psychology major from Cicero, Indiana

Zac’s project, “Indiana’s Natural Resources: People and Parks” highlights the Hoosier wilderness, exploring the Indiana DNR state parks’ resources for outdoor activities, programs, and volunteer opportunities. Hoosier conservationist, Richard Lieber helped to establish ten state parks, five state memorials, and a state park system that is recognized as one
of the top ten in the nation. Lieber’s legacy is carried on by organizations like the Indiana State Trails, Greenways, Bikeways Plan and the Indiana Outdoor Recreation Plan, whose initiatives are to make the outdoors accessible for our enjoyment.

Matt Vest, Class of 2008

Political Science major from Prince’s Lakes, Indiana

Matt’s project, “German Catholics in Southern Indiana” looks at German religious architecture throughout southern and central Indiana and the effects that German immigrants in the 1800’s had on the magnificent architecture. In particular, Father Joseph Kundek and Father Franz Josef Rudolph were instrumental in developing the religious culture in St. Meinard and Oldenburg, respectively. The efforts of these two priests led to deep appreciation for the German heritage and culture that still exists today in these areas.

Through the generosity of Lilly Endowment Inc., the Present Indiana program funds summer internships for Wabash College students to learn about particular aspects of Indiana culture. With the support of Wabash faculty and staff mentors, nine students spent eight weeks researching various aspects of the Hoosier state. Students traveled to local and state public libraries, made use of historical society resources, and made site visits around the state. Each student research project developed a format for a public presentation to be given to various groups during the forthcoming academic year. The Present Indiana student presentations are offered to a broad constituency of Indiana residents and state visitors, including venues at local schools, public libraries, civic groups, museums, and professional conferences.

Wabash College, through the Present Indiana program, seeks to educate Hoosiers and visitors to our state about the rich cultural and historical life in Indiana. We believe that the program contributes in important ways to our efforts to educate, enrich lives, and contributes to the overall development of the cultural capital in the state.

As a part of the Present Indiana program, any of these presentations are available to your group or organization at no charge from August 2007 to May 2008. To schedule a presentation or for further details, contact Laura Conners at Wabash College. e-mail: connersl@wabash.edu telephone: 765-361-6343 Wabash College P.O. Box 352, Crawfordsville IN 47933