New professor brings varied background and enthusiasm

BY ANDREW KARRE

Among the additions to the Lawrence University faculty this fall is Jerald Podair, professor of history filling the vacancy left by the retirement of William Bremer. In an article published on April 16, 1998, the Lawrence announced the hiring of Podair as his being honored with the prestigious Allen Nevins Prize for history. Students who attended a lecture given by Podair while on campus for the selection process used words such as "excellent potential history mentor" to describe him. Evan Wysa's article reports an enthusiastic welcome for the new history professor well in advance of his formal arrival on campus.

Professor Podair is now fully engaged in his work here at Lawrence, teaching during this term a section of Freshman Studies and History 37: "Republic to Nation: the United States, 1789-1894." His path to Lawrence was by no means direct, though, and he brings a wealth of experience to his position in the Lawrence history department.

Jerald Podair is a native of New York City and studied at New York University and Columbia, eventually earning a law degree. He began a practice in New York City and spent a decade as an attorney.

Professor Podair says, though, that, "History was what I always wanted to do. I just took a little longer to get around to it than most people do."

He left his practice and attended graduate school at Princeton. Upon completion of a Ph.D., Podair took a position of lecturer in history at Princeton for a year prior to accepting a position at Lawrence.

A history professorship at Lawrence became available when Bremer retired in 1998. Jerald Podair was one of the three candidates brought to Lawrence for final selection proceedings. Only candidates who had done major work in race relations were considered. Professor Podair's dissertation on the Brownsville Crisis in the New York City School District in the 1960's made him a candidate that was announced in the spring of 1998.

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Student's reflections on a summer in India

BY ROSANNA MYERS

The last leg of my flight from Kuwait to Delhi was incredibly taxing. I was tired and cramped and surrounded by a culture I didn't relate to. When I arrived in Delhi the sun had not yet risen, so my first glimpse of the capital looked like any ordinary city beginning to wake up to dawn. By the time I got off the plane and shuffled my way through the airport, the streets were buzzing with people. Men, women, and children were driving cars or bicycles, pushing carts full of fruit or sitting along the sides of the streets waving away the flies. At six in the morning Delhi was ninety degrees and humid.

Out on the streets of Delhi it felt like everyone and everything had a destination and was in a hurry to get there. A cacophony of sounds filled the small gaps of space between the cars, buses, bicycles, and people grooving their way from place to place. The city's architecture reflects an extreme contrast of poverty and wealth. The beautiful government palace looms over small stick shanties that are surrounded by newly built empty apartment complexes—built because the city had the money and empty because the citizens don't. Through the city roam buffalo, elephants, sheep, pigs, donkeys, and cows. At a stoplight I looked to my right and noticed an iron from home: the golden arches of McDonald's—vegetarian, of course.

The chaos of the city quickly turned into open, green farmland. Once in a while we would pass a man or woman walking along the side of the dirt road, often carrying a basket on their head or driving a herd of cattle. In July the rice and cornfields are green and overflowing. About every ten miles we would drive through a small town; one or two streets lined with stick shanties used as shops during the day and homes at night. Often people turned to stare at my car and for the first time in my life I was shocked with the experience of being a minority.

I was on my way to Mussoorie, a small hill station turned honeymoon haven, to teach at Woodstock School for a month. Although the town is only 150 miles north of Delhi, it took eight hours to travel via taxi.

Y2K bug may affect student aid

BY JOE HARTEN

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON—With less than 500 days left until the turn of the century, the Education Department’s failure to address the Year 2000 computer problem may threaten the delivery of financial aid to college students, according to witnesses at a recent Congressional hearing. The Committee on Oversight and Investigations of the House of Representatives held a hearing on the issue on Sept. 17 in which it outlined progress, heard witness testimony, and identified problems. Chairman Pete Hoekstra (R-Mich.) and Rep. Steve Horn (R-Calif.) released a report last week on the status of federal agencies’ progress on the Year 2000 issue. The Education Department received a grade of “F.”

“The Education Department disregards student loans and grants to millions of college students each year; if students fail to receive financial assistance checks on time, most of them will be unable to register for classes,” Horn said. Hoekstra noted that only four of the Education Department’s 11 critical financial aid computer programs are Y2K compliant. Among these incomplete “mission critical computer programs” are the Pell Grant and Federal Family Education Loan Program systems. “One key factor contributing to this delay was the instability of the department’s Year 2000 project manager position, which suffered continual turnover,” said Joel Willenssen, director of the General Accounting Office’s Office of Information Resources Management.

Willenssen discussed testing time and contingency plans as issues which may threaten the ability of financial aid students to continue their studies. “[Horn’s report] projects that the Education Department will not be compliant until at least 2003,” Hoekstra said. “Since the millennium cannot be postponed, it appears [that] agencies will need to quicken the pace of their efforts.”

According to Hoekstra, the Office of Management and Budget has set a deadline of March, 1999 for all government agencies to attain Year-2000 compliance.
Podair joins history faculty

.smiles".

Mr. Podair has also pulled up his academic roots and transplanted them in what seems to be very different soil, but when asked about the differences between Princeton and Lawrence, the former Princeton lecturer is quick to point out that the two institutions are similar in important ways. Though he points out there are institutional differences such as size and scope, he says that "In terms of academics, at least so far, I don't find all that much difference—at least intellectually—between the Princeton students and the Lawrence students".

Though quite happy in his new midwestern home, many of Professor Podair's intellectual roots are still planted in the urban East Coast. Professor Podair's dissertation illustrates his connection with twentieth century urban history on the East Coast. Always interested in urban history, the New York native says he "returned home" for his Ph.D. topic, the Brownsville Crisis in the New York City School District in the 1960s. He considers the problem of race relations to be the most compelling problem for this country in this century and the next. "It has always been an unresolved problem," he says, "in the sense that other problems in American history come and go, but this is a constant even when it is not being addressed."

Professor Podair sees the United States as an emerging multicultural society and says that how Americans come to grips with that will be the biggest test yet. He describes the present situation in America as a unique experiment in representational democracy, comparing it to the unique experiment in representative democracy that was the basis for this country's founding. His unique experience and perspective as well as his well-recognized academic background aren't the only reasons that make him an ideal candidate for a professorship at Lawrence. A school of Lawrence's size cannot justify a professor who will only teach within a narrowly defined subject area. Indeed, it goes against the principles of liberal arts education.

Fortunately, it would be altogether inaccurate to represent Podair as a scholar limited to his knowledge or his curiosity. He demonstrates a great interest in broadening his horizons and leaving the comfort of the history of the 20th century. In addition to teaching the 19th century American history survey course, he expresses a genuine excitement about the idea of leaving the comfort of his own discipline to engage a group of Freshman Studies students in conversation about great works of art and science. When asked to comment on the Freshman Studies program, he responds "I think the Freshman Studies program actually is a very impressive aspect of Lawrence and I would go so far as to say a lot of schools should send some people here to take a look at how this program works".

He cites asking students to think and write critically about very challenging texts as the program's key component.

Podair also sees the relatively small history department as another opportunity for growth.

"In a history department with only seven members you have to expand your chronological horizons".

He recognizes one of the most important principles of this university and, indeed, of the liberal arts in general: the need for education to broaden the mind. It seems that Professor Podair is right when he says he fits into the Lawrence history faculty well.

His enthusiasm for the university equals the enthusiasm the university showed for him when he accepted the position. Continued from page 1
A traditional show is no longer sufficient for students and the American Film Institute has responded. It has released a list of 100 films it considers long-lasting classics. The American Film Institute's Top One Hundred Films of All Time is to spark new interest in all types of film. All the talk, the discussion and reviewing of these one hundred films is part of the institute's goal. Also, although Spielberg can boast to have directed five of the top ten films, this is not a contest. TV specials, movie stores, film critics, this very article—we all have a stake. The list is not all that it says it is. AFI's compilation would be more appropriately titled "The Most Popular Films in American History." The purpose of the AFI list is to spark new interest in all types of film. All the talk, all the discussion and reviewing of these one hundred films is part of the institute's goal. Also, although Spielberg can boast to have directed five of the top ten films, this is not a contest. TV specials, movie stores, film critics, this very article—we all have a stake. The list is not all that it says it is. AFI's compilation would be more appropriately titled "The Most Popular Films in American History." The purpose of the AFI list is to spark new interest in all types of film. All the talk, all the discussion and reviewing of these one hundred films is part of the institute's goal. Also, although Spielberg can boast to have directed five of the top ten films, this is not a contest. TV specials, movie stores, film critics, this very article—we all have a stake. The list is not all that it says it is. AFI's compilation would be more appropriately titled "The Most Popular Films in American History."
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United States should invest in world's future

The United States will lose its seat in the United Nations General Assembly if it does not pay at least part of over $1.5 billion in back dues by the end of the year. The cause of this delay in remittance is an internal partisanship, and we feel that Congress should put aside its bickering and pay these dues.

While the U.S. debt does not affect its permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, absence from the General Assembly would probably weaken our influence in the Council. This may well impact the U.N.'s ability to prevent war. The U.N. charter, however, forms a significant international role. It was created during World War II to "maintain international peace and security," according to the U.N.'s website www.un.org. Not only does it send international peacekeeping troops into war zones, but it provides needed assistance such as vaccinations, famine relief, financial bail-out, and facilitation of global environmental treaties.

While the United States was the primary force in the implementation of the United Nations, it was never a member of the U.N.'s predecessor, the League of Nations. Disagreement over the charter and its founder led the United States Senate to keep our country out of the League of Nations, dooming the League to failure. Due partly to the lack of U.S. participation, the League was not able to prevent the rise of Hitler and the onset of World War II. The United Nations was founded with the intention of improving upon the League's mistakes. The absence of world warfare during the past half-century is testament to its effectiveness and value. The U.S. has maintained that it does not have to play by the U.N.'s rules. Recently, for example, it has refused to endorse the land mine ban and rejected pollution standards to protect the ozone layer. When disagreements like these arise, we can be sure that the U.N. is the one body that we should do this in ways other than cinching our bankbook. Further, the U.N. is worthy of U.S. support, and our government should have the courage and forethought to stay loyal through arguments.

The United States is the richest and most powerful country on earth. Even so, we can do more together with the world community than we can with our own money. It is time for Congress to forsake its prejudices and foot the bill.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Remember LGBTQ

The Lawrentian, USPS 306-680, is published every week, 23 times per year while classes are in session, and is distributed free of charge to students, faculty, and staff on the Lawrence University campus. Mail subscriptions are $20 per year. Second-class postage paid at Appleton, Wisconsin. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Lawrentian, 115 S. Drew, Appleton, WI 54911.

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Op/Ed

Remember LGBTQ

This Saturday, Oct. 11, is National Coming Out Day. On Wednesday, Lawrence students displayed their support for their LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) colleagues by wearing jeans. Unfortunately, these strides towards an open, supporting community were met with wearing jeans. Unfortunately, these strides towards an open, supporting community were met with tearing comments from some students, who expressed that it is not. There is no right answer to this question, even though it is only appropriate to elimination of bullying and harassment expressed as a way of view. In the future, it may be more sensitive to use a square "rainbow flag" which has the positive attributes of the pink triangle without the negative aspects.

The most important detail must not be lost. Lawrentians is a community that should be safe for all, members, be they cookie-cutter average or more unique. Our tradition of gender equality is established through higher education. Together we can build a community strong enough to support each other.

Cameron Kramlich

Academic change

Saving the environment saves colleges money

BY ANDREW FULLER

(U-WIRE) SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Thanks to conservation efforts on college campuses, $16.8 million is being saved across the nation.

"Green Investment, Green Return," a new report released recently by the National Wildlife Federation, shows savings of $16.8 million were achieved through 23 cost-cutting conservation programs at 15 post-secondary institutions across the nation.

Savings per project ranged from $1,000 to $9 million, which works out to an average of $728,500 per campus.

"Possibilities for savings would be even more impressive if the 3,700 higher education institutions in the country began projects of a similar nature, according to the report."

"In a press release, the NWF stated, "Because college campuses are microcosms of the nation, they possess incredible potential for making a substantial impact on the environment and the economy."

Saving the environment saves colleges money

The University of Utah, for example, has approxi- mately 25,000 people on campus at any given time. According to Dr. Orf Costrencich, a financial analyst at the university, students, faculty, and staff consume 180 million cubic feet of water annually, along with 235 thousand kilowatt-hours of electricity at a combined yearly cost of nearly $9 million.

According to the report, cutting usage by any amount could lead to massive savings when multiplied across such a large community.

"This study proves that you don't have to choose between a healthy environment and a healthy bottom line," the report states. President Mark Van Putten said.

Columbia University saved $235,000 and thousands of cubic feet of water by removing wasteful water fixtures and installing low-consumption versions.

According to Costrencich, the University of Utah is leading the way with programs similar to those in the report—such as retrofitting the older buildings with solar power to ensure energy efficiency.

"The fact is, the actions taken on these campuses are not just a benefit to the environment and the financial condition of the institution, often in very dramatic ways," Van Putten said.

The Lawrentian can be viewed on the World Wide Web at www.lawrence.edu/sorg/Lawrentian.
Tuesday, 10/13/98
Residence Hall Competition
Homecoming Court Competition

Wednesday, 10/14
3:00 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. UW Stevens Point; Lawrence Courts
7:00 p.m. Women's Volleyball vs. Beloit; Alexander Gym
8:00 p.m. - midnight Rectoberfest, Recreation Center; Second City Touring Company on stage at 8:00; activities following include Ping Pong, Wallyball, Kickball and Twister tournaments, Kick Boxing, Miniature Golf and Step Aerobics; refreshments and prizes will be available
Homecoming Court Competition

Thursday, 10/15
8:00 p.m. - midnight Novelty Night, Riverview Lounge
3:00 p.m. Women's Tennis vs. UW Stevens Point; Lawrence Courts

Friday, 10/16
4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Happy Hour; in the Viking Room
Rock the Hillside - Disco Style! Bottom of Union Hill. Giant Bonfire, Introductions of the Homecoming Court, Cheerleaders and Athletic Teams; dance to the tunes of Gyration under the Big Tent; refreshments provided
Homecoming Court Competition

Saturday, 10/17
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Homecoming Banner Competition; Riverview Lounge, Memorial Union
1:00 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Monmouth College; Whiting Field
1:30 p.m. Football vs. Lake Forest College; Banta Bowl
3:00 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Monmouth College; Whiting Field
4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Homecoming Feast at Downer; Featuring Braised Tenderloin Steak, Twice Baked Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine
8:00 p.m. Lawrence Symphony Orchestra; Memorial Chapel
9:30 p.m. Homecoming Formal featuring swing tunes by XYZ; hosted by Lambda Sigma; Riverview Lounge
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Karaoke in the Viking Room

Sunday, 10/18
noon Women's Soccer vs. Illinois College; Whiting Field
2:00 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Illinois College; Whiting Field

Please Enjoy This Newspaper
Summer in India

Know as much Hindi as the driver knew English (he spoke once to comment on the heat) so I passed the time by staring at the passing towns and fields, and jotting as much down into my journal as the bumpy road would allow.

Mussoorie rests seven thousand feet above sea level in the hills of the Himalayan Mountains. Woodstock School, my home for a month, overlooks the town from the top of the hill. The road from the city to the school is half-a-mile walk, one that I became very familiar with. I was teaching English to ten Korean junior-high students and often needed a break after a draining day of school.

Woodstock succeeds at letting as little town air as possible seep through its gates. Although the commotion in Mussoorie is a far cry from Delhi, it took me the entire month I was there to be able to move through the one street in town without being confused about which direction I was headed. I learned not to look the men in their eyes, to bow slightly to the elderly, to smile at the children, and to bargain hard. Women are wealthy and willing spender in the town and labeled me a person of interest in the country.

One mile from the school in the opposite direction from the town is farmland. As a friend from the school and I were walking the road one afternoon an older woman stopped to invite us to have afternoon tea with her. She showed us to her house and pointed out three rooms: a bedroom, a kitchen, and a room for her cow. She explained to us that the warmth from the cow's body heats her house during the winter. If my camera was visible, children would usually stop and ask me to take their picture. When I eagerly nodded my head "yes" they crowded around each other and forgot to be in the front. Once a young girl shyly handed me a purple flower as her mother watched from where two or three shops selling snacks sat on the side of the road. There were never many people there. On a clear morning I could see the tips of the Himalayas, or "The Snows," as they were often referred to.

Being in India as a single, western, young woman was difficult. I couldn't shed the stereotypes that I had come attached with, and, much to my chagrin, I was learning far more about my own
Women's soccer on a roll

BY MIKE STONE

The Lawrence women's soccer team brought a six-game winning streak and an undefeated conference record into their Oct. 7 game versus Ripon. They are coming off impressive victories over Knox (5-0) on Sept. 26, Grinnell (2-1) on Sept. 27, and UW-Oshkosh (1-0) on Oct. 1.

The victory over a Grinnell team that played in the conference championship game a year ago was a definite confidence booster. Gina Casati scored a goal in the first minute of the game, and vakaki took a goal off a penalty kick by Megan Tieman. That was all the offense the Lawrence team needed as the Lawrence defense played a solid game, holding Grinnell to one goal.

Last Wednesday, Lawrence was to participate in the perfect amount of time for their Oct. 7 game at the end of the season." Nothing appears to be slowing them down.

The women's soccer team takes on Lake Forest at home this Saturday. On Oct. 13, they travel to Helena, Mont. to face Carroll College, ranked first in the conference.

Gold medalist Strug trades UCLA blue for Cardinal

BY JEN SPANSKY
(U-WIRE) PALO ALTO, Calif.—Imagine walking into your beginning gymnastics class on the first day of school. The teacher is passing around a sign-up sheet and when you go to sign in, the name above yours is “Kerri Strug.”

“Tennis...” is making a joke. Or maybe Strug is the TA.

But sophomore transfer Kerri Strug is not allowed to compete in gymnastics at Stanford because she became a professional athlete following the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Thus, she was encouraged to sign up for Physical Education to satisfy the physical education requirement.

“The last year [on the tour] I've been real glad I did it. I didn't want to look back and say, ‘If I had only done it differently.’ I wanted to commit myself to never excuse and not have any regrets.”

The world knows that the efforts paid off, and Strug's life hasn't been the same since. Strug committed to attending UCLA before the Olympics and intended to compete for the Bruins. However, the success in Atlanta created a change of plans. Strug turned pro and was thus unable to compete at the NCAA level.

Because she enrolled at UCLA immediately after the Olympics, and because of the university's location in Los Angeles, Strug's college experience was quite business-like. Her every weekend was spent traveling, with shows in different cities each night.

The tour with the other members of the Olympic team has now finished, and Strug is traveling less. Currently, she is on a motivational speaking circuit and still participates often in charitable events, particularly those focused towards children.

And though she enjoyed the excitement and experiences of the past two years, Strug has transferred to Stanford from UCLA in the hopes of settling down into a calmer pace of life, focusing on academics, and becoming part of the Stanford community.

“Tennis...” is making a joke. Or maybe Strug is the TA.

Though her competitive gymnastic career is over, she now participates in sports and exhibitions, but she must stay in gymnastic shape. Enrolling in a gym course is the perfect amount of time for Strug to practice.

Strug may not be your ordinary beginning gymnastics student, but she looks to be one of the many accomplished and talented students.

“That's what's unique about Stanford,” Strug said. “Everyone has something spectacular about them, so it is not like I am the only big deal here.”

This attitude is helping Strug gain a new appreciation for life at Stanford. Since the 1996 Olympic Games, which vaulted her into the spotlight, Strug's life has been a whirlwind of gymnastic tours, television appearances, celebrity events, charitable functions, and motivational speeches. Combining this worldwide experience with attending college at UCLA, and now Stanford, life for Strug has taken a drastic change.

“I traveled a lot, and I have a lot of positive experiences in new things now. When I was tiny, everything revolved around gymnastics—everything. Who I associated with, what I ate, how I slept, my doctors, my trainers, and my friends. Now I just want to take part in other things and integrate into the community.”

Until the summer of 1996, Strug's life revolved around gymnastics. She began tumbling at age 3 because her older sister, whom she idolized, was a gymnast. Falling in love with the sport from her very first "Mommy and Me" class, Strug kept tumbling.

“When I was about eight is when I noticed a difference, that I was taking gymnastics to a different level than my friends. They would go to the gym to have fun and I went because I wanted to get better, to excel and compete.”

At age 12, Strug made the full commitment to gymnastics and never looked back. She moved to Texas to train, with legendary gymnastics coach Bell Karolyi, but after two years, Karolyi retired, leaving Strug coachless. After short stints of training in other locations, Strug was injured and moved home for her senior year of high school. Following graduation, Strug returned to Texas to train with Karolyi who had come out of retirement to coach again for the Olympics. This intense training consisted of living on a ranch in a cabin, training six or seven days a week for eight hours a day.

“The last year [on the ranch before the Olympics] was tough, but I'm really glad I did it. I didn't want to look back and say, 'If I had only done it differently.' I wanted to commit myself to never excuse and not have any regrets.”

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