

illumine

—University of Southern Indiana—



PERSEVERANCE | Spring 2017



features

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ILLUMINATING

The new...illuminated...is great and is eloquent testimony to the continuing elevation at USI. Congratulations.

Bob Griffin



conceiving this and putting it together. Your product is of professional quality and a credit to our institution.

In my experience, I have discovered that people are interested in real performance in a real world, and it appears that some have realized what a strong instrument such a publication can be for the University, in its pursuit of increased enrollment and strong alumni support.

Earl E. Bush, Jr. '71

EVERYTHING IS INVITING

I just received the most recent issue of illume, and I wish to congratulate you and your staff on your accomplishments.

I have received and perused, although never really "read," many alumni publications; this is the first one that I actually wanted to read. Everything about it is inviting—the layout, the graphics, and yes, the text. I applaud those who must have invested many hours of concentrated work



OUT OF THE BALLPARK

The second issue of illume is wonderful—you hit it out of the park!!!!

Diane Utley '10

STORY UPDATE: PLAYING FOR MONEY



You may remember Todd '14 and Britni (Torstenson) '11 Arnold from the spring 2016 innovation issue. The story featured the couple's entrepreneurial efforts to make the Midwest the esport destination for players interested in going pro. Evansville Esports LLC offered a location for players

interested in upping their e-skills, and the Arnolds hosted tournaments that allowed players a local venue to increase their national rankings.

Now the couple has taken another step toward expanding their dream by committing \$10,000 to the creation of a room on campus dedicated to esports. The space has a private server, moveable tables and chairs, and storage cabinets for the high-tech equipment players use. Any student with a USI esports club ID can access the room and play free of charge.

“Ideal competition demands that barriers for entry do not exist. The support and involvement from educational institutions are a necessity because the demographics of persons in attendance make up a bulk of the player participants,” Todd said. “In combination with eliminating barriers to entry, this allows the culture and standards of said institutions to influence and support a positive environment for these competitions and players.”

We invite readers to comment on articles and start conversations by bringing unique perspectives to relevant magazine topics. Correspondence and comments will not be limited to letters mailed to the editor, but may be from email or social media networks. Letters mailed to the editor may be published in the magazine unless the author states it is not for publication. Letters should be kept to 250 words, and may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar and relevance to USI issues. Letters to the editor should be sent to magazine@usi.edu.



socollereusi
Indianapolis, Indiana



SO College is proud to announce your 2016 @soindiana1 unified bowling Silver AND Gold Medalists! #ScreaglePride #LiveUnified



Nicole Ja-Lee Currier

First semester there, but I love it! All the teachers are great so far! Most of the students are so friendly and are willing to help me when I get lost! Had my first encounter with campus security today. Even though I wasn't directly involved with why they were there, I was very impressed with how quickly they got there and how nice they were! The campus itself is beautiful and amazing.



K
@kayelasim
pretty night on campus



Demetre Phipps

I love USI. Cost efficient and the instructors and professors are amazing. I enjoy the campus, I've met great people from all walks of life and I'm glad to be back to finish my college life journey.



Mike Durchholz
@Like_Mike70
Ma, I'm goin' to college!!

#ScreaglePride



usiedu
USI PAC



College of Nursing and Health Professions cap game: on point. #USIgrad #congratulations #graduation

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Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett talks about her passions.

Q: You're an ardent fan of public media and chair WNIN's board. What role does public media play in society and our region?

A: There are similarities in mission for a public media station and a public institution of higher education. We both focus on access and service to a greater good. Access is about listening to multiple voices and understanding that wisdom and innovation can come from unexpected places. WNIN connects us to national and international conversations about the past as well as issues of the day. Take, as an example, the recent WNIN production "Evansville at War." Evansville's role in World War II production was critical in the war effort. The war years shaped events in our region for decades after the war in ways still evident today.

WNIN is a community-owned station, and while we have access to national and international programming, the station offers innovative programs to highlight the richness of life in our region. Whether it is an "Old Dream, New Ideas" episode about the need for affordable housing in the Tri-state, or Brick Briscoe's "The Song Show," there is an intentional effort to tie issues and events in our region to trends beyond this area. A greater good is served in making those connections and in providing coverage of political debates, commission and council meetings, as well as opportunities for citizens and policy makers to have exchanges of viewpoints.

In many ways, WNIN is the region's civil public square, allowing multiple voices, access to information, and opportunities for citizens to learn and engage. In contentious times, learned debate and thought are the best protections for a democratic republic. This is as true today as it was for the framers of our national founding documents.

Q: As a first-generation college student who was educated in a public university, you know the value of having the opportunity to earn a college education. How does your experience impact your leadership at USI?

A: When I first stepped onto the campus of the University of Cincinnati as an 18 year old, I had no idea of the extent to which a college degree would transform my life. I think about that every time I talk with one of our students who is a first-generation college student. I think about it every time I talk with a faculty member who was also a first-generation college student. Education empowers not only the individual but society as a whole. USI's presence in the community provides many first-generation students the opportunity to reach the full extent of their potential. As the president, I'm keenly aware of the importance of that transformation. The excitement of knowing their potential and eagerly watching the evolution of students from nervous first days to seeing them stride confidently across the platform on commencement day makes me hopeful about the future.

Q: The University of Southern Indiana was founded to provide the people of southern Indiana access to public higher education. How has having access to quality education shaped the region and lives of the people living here?

A: In 1985, when Indiana State University Evansville became a freestanding public university and was renamed the University of Southern Indiana, about one third of high school graduates in this area pursued post-secondary education opportunities. Now, more than 80 percent seek post-secondary education and USI is a major reason for that increased access to opportunity. I love meeting with



International Uplifting

International students benefit campuses across the nation in ways that expand beyond the cultural values and diverse perspectives they contribute to class discussions. Their engagement broadens the minds of their peers as they exchange intellectual discourse, helping USI fulfill its mission to "prepare individuals to live wisely in a diverse and global community." Without our international students, our campus and the world would be much less, as they give so much to us.

For every seven international students in the United States, three jobs are created and maintained. Their overall presence in the nation contributes \$32.8 billion to the economy and creates or supports 400,812 jobs. The 29,219 international students in Indiana contribute \$956.6 million to the state's economy and support 12,088 jobs.¹ Here are the numbers related to USI's international students and southern Indiana.

¹National Association for Foreign Students Advisors

alumni who remember the transition from ISUE to USI. They tell incredible stories about the impact of ISUE/USI on their lives. Many still say that without the creation of a public university, they would not have had the opportunity to continue their education. They cannot imagine what their lives would be like today had they not had the opportunity to continue to learn.

Just as access to public higher education transformed the lives of our graduates, those graduates are becoming the leaders who will transform our region and state. Most major employers count numerous USI graduates among their employees and executive leadership. With nearly 40,000 alumni, more than 70 percent of whom stay in this state and region, USI graduates will truly be shaping the future of this region.

Q: There are new signature initiatives being considered that could bring opportunities to expand the impact of higher education in the community and beyond. What are those initiatives, and how do they promote the University's mission?

A: The signature initiative we will be focusing upon is our three school-based community health clinics at Glenwood, Cedar Hall and Lodge, and understanding their impact on learning and community health. We have multiple partnerships with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and the focus on these clinics holds exciting possibilities to support good health in learning environments for children and their families. When we talk about access to education, good health is an important component to being ready to learn. There will be opportunities for multiple disciplines across campus to plug into research and program initiatives.

Again, notice that I continue to return to the public institution themes of access and serving a greater good. USI's founding charge was to provide greater access to higher education and to be a driver for economic development in southern Indiana. We remain true to our founding mission and the future is exciting!

What topics would you like President Bennett to address? | magazine@usi.edu



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International Students

48 countries

6 continents



700 hours donated to the community



\$5.9¹ million



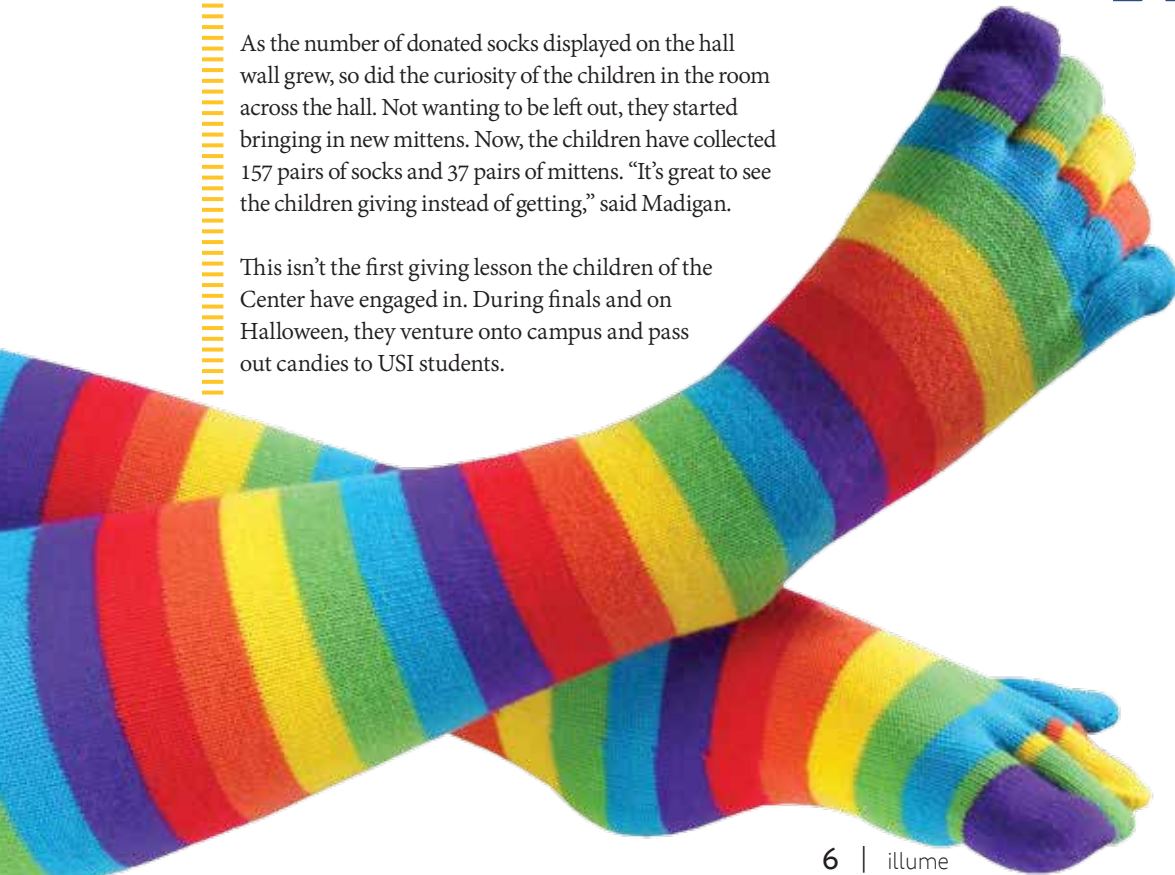
CRAZY FOR GOOD

It started as crazy sock day in one classroom at the Children's Learning Center—a Lab School in Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education for students majoring in early childhood development, as well as those in other disciplines at USI—then morphed into a service learning initiative that not only taught the 3, 4 and 5 year olds math, science and language development, but the importance of caring for others.

Making things fun for the kids is a priority for their teachers, but Karen Fleck and Courtney Combs wanted to take it a step further, so they asked the children to bring in new socks for homeless children living in shelters, said Jamie Madigan, manager of the Children's Learning Center.

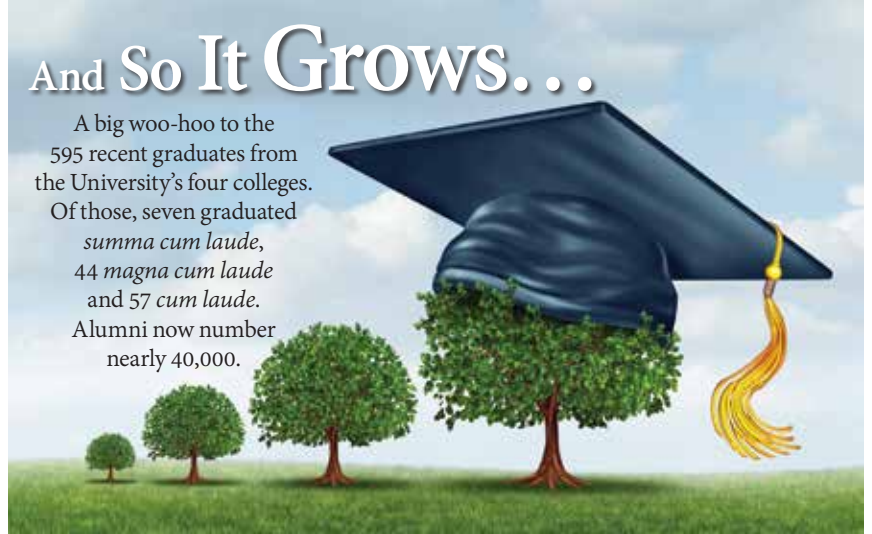
As the number of donated socks displayed on the hall wall grew, so did the curiosity of the children in the room across the hall. Not wanting to be left out, they started bringing in new mittens. Now, the children have collected 157 pairs of socks and 37 pairs of mittens. "It's great to see the children giving instead of getting," said Madigan.

This isn't the first giving lesson the children of the Center have engaged in. During finals and on Halloween, they venture onto campus and pass out candies to USI students.



And So It Grows...

A big woo-hoo to the 595 recent graduates from the University's four colleges. Of those, seven graduated *summa cum laude*, 44 *magna cum laude* and 57 *cum laude*. Alumni now number nearly 40,000.



FORMER PILOT NEW DEAN



Dr. Zane Mitchell has been selected as the new dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education.

Mitchell, professor of engineering and former chair of USI's Engineering Department, joined the USI faculty in 2009.

Prior to coming to here, he completed a career in the United States Air Force, served as deputy director of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and led a multi-national team in the design and construction of a \$1 billion facility in Siberia for the destruction of nerve agents.



Inspiring New Perspectives

When Gabrielle McCoy '20, industrial engineering major, walked into a crowded Carter Hall to hear Dr. Cornel West, a prominent philosopher, academic social activist, author of *Race Matters* and public intellectual, speak as part of Mandela Social Justice Day, she didn't know that she'd emerge with a

new frame of mind. "His presence was powerful and his message to me as an incoming freshman, 'Try again, fail again, fail better,' was one of the most memorable quotes I took away," said McCoy. "It's added a new perspective to how I view my many failures. I've learned that failure is not a problem. However, failing and not learning from your failure is worse than failure itself. We must take a lesson away from every loss and capitalize on that."

Being that today's students are tomorrow's national and local leaders, USI endeavors to prepare them for that future communal responsibility by exposing them to vast perspectives through a variety of international and national civil rights leaders. "[We want students]

to confront some of the issues around race and social justice in the Evansville community," said Dr. Denise Lynn, associate professor of history. "We want to foster a community at USI that could be influential in the Evansville community, and that tries to have honest conversations about privilege, inequality and the continuing challenges for civil rights. Our speakers really have helped to emphasize the need for an investment in community rather than individual needs."

"I want people to wrestle with the relationship between love and justice. We need more empathy in order to make society more fair."

- Dr. Cornel West

A DIFFERENT KIND OF PATIENT



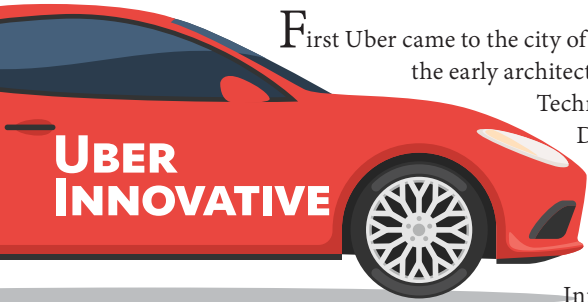
When Mesker Park Zoo's veterinarian needs to use sonography equipment as a tool to help diagnose the zoo's ailing animals, she contacts Claudine Fairchild, clinical associate professor of diagnostic medical sonography, who operates the equipment while the vet diagnoses the problem.

"I complete the sonographic examination of the area of interest under the direct supervision of Dr. Carrie Ullmer, and have utilized sonography to scan the liver, kidneys, pancreas, abdominal vessels, urinary bladder, lungs and thyroid," she says. "Surprisingly, most organs that I've scanned in the animal patients are similar in appearance and position to what I'm used to seeing in human patients."



In the past couple of years, Fairchild's participated in scanning the bodies of a jaguar, lemur, Sun bear, sand cat, North African crested porcupine, Coatimundi, Colobus monkey, Spring Hass, Clouded leopard and more; an opportunity she credits to being at USI. "Very little sonography is done outside clinic or hospital settings. I would never have had the opportunity to do this if I'd not been in an academic position," she said. "It's a unique experience to be able to use my skills in a different way on a different type of patient."

Fairchild says there's an opportunity for USI sonography students to participate in scanning animals at the zoo, noting doing so "opens their minds to other possibilities." The College has helped the zoo in other ways too, by donating a gel warmer and providing expired gels and steroid packs, items that can't be used in human clinical settings, for the procedures.

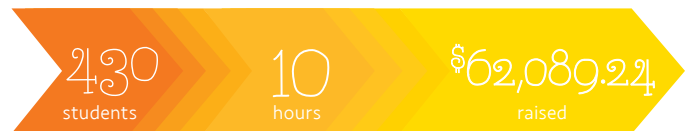


First Uber came to the city of Evansville, and then the early architect and founding Chief Technology Officer of Uber Dr. Oscar Salazar came to the University as the third presenter in the Romain College of Business Innovative Speaker series

(previous presenters were T. Boone Pickens in 2013 and Ben Bernanke in 2015). Salazar spoke to community members, students, faculty and staff in the Physical Activities Center on campus about the founding of Uber and the applicability of technology trends to the Evansville region.

Salazar is a successful and seasoned serial entrepreneur, senior executive and investor in numerous successful technology firms. His campus visit was hosted by the USI Romain College of Business and made possible through private gifts to the USI Foundation.

DANCING FOR THE KIDS



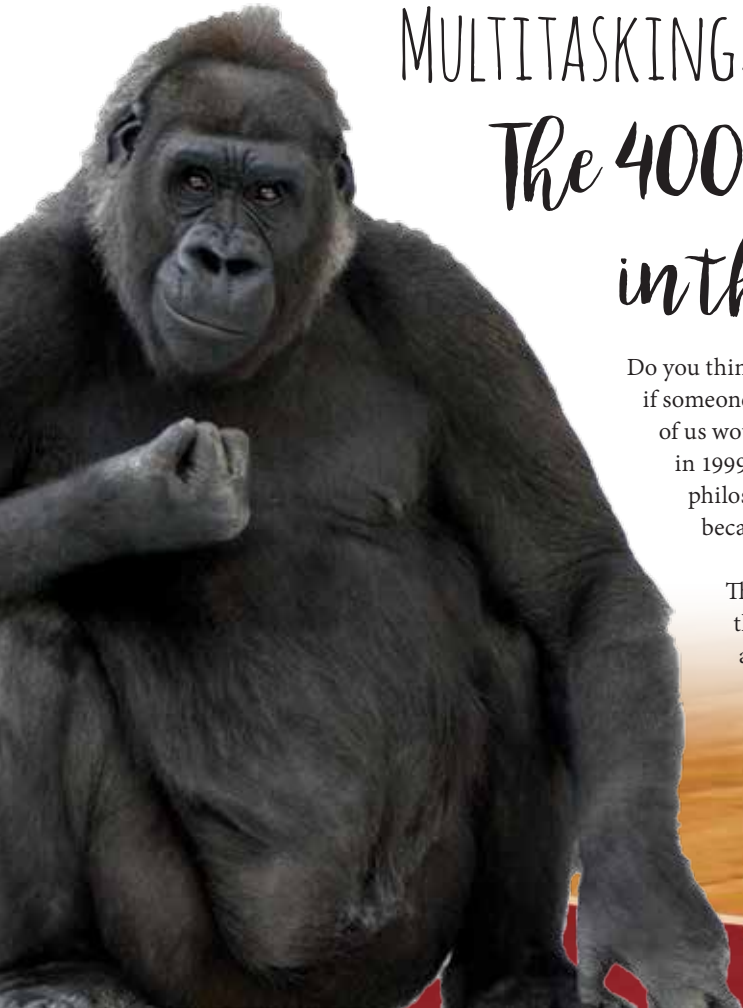
USI students danced and raised funds for Southern Indiana Dance Marathon (SIDM), a partnership with Riley Hospital for Children.

"WE STAND FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T, THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR BATTLE AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL FIGHTING."

—Amanda Davidson, SIDM president.

MULTITASKING:

The 400 Pound Gorilla in the Room



Do you think if you were intensely watching a basketball being passed during a game you'd notice if someone dressed as a gorilla came onto the court? Most of us would cry "Absolutely" but most of us would be wrong. The phenomenon, famously tested in the gorilla scenario by researchers in 1999, is known as "inattention blindness," says Dr. Rocco Gennaro, professor of philosophy. "It occurs when a subject is not conscious of objects within their vision field because they are paying close attention to something else."

The idea that we are consciously aware of most things in our field of vision is a myth that holds true when it comes to multitasking (i.e., driving and texting, watching TV and talking with a friend). Although most of us think we're capable of doing a number of things at one time, research shows 98 percent of us are not only incapable of such actions, but we're not performing any of the tasks we're engaged in well. Gennaro describes the ability to focus our attention in terms of a bottleneck. "The idea is that attention acts as a kind of bottleneck in the brain's information-processing capacity. Attention is what selects or filters information to pass through limited-capacity bottlenecks," he says. "We obviously cannot pay attention to everything all the time."

SCREAMING EAGLES GETTING A NEW NEST

Get ready for a new experience at USI athletic events as the Physical Activity Center (PAC) is getting a new arena and an overall revamping. The transformation will take place in two phases, the first being the construction of a new 4,000-seat arena with four club boxes, sharing an east wall with the current PAC, and possibly another 850 seats being added in phase two.

The lower seats of the basketball court will be retractable to allow them to be pulled back to create two practice basketball or three volleyball courts.

Fans will be welcomed by a 40-foot glass wall and ceiling entryway. Upon entering the new facility, they'll find Hall of Fame and championship display cases holding all of USI's trophies. Construction on phase one is expected to last 18-24 months. Once

both phases are complete, USI's commencements, men's and women's basketball and volleyball, and kinesiology and sport classrooms will be in the new PAC.



Map Your Way Back to Campus



If the last time you were on USI's campus was when it consisted of a couple of buildings, or if you're visiting campus for the first time, then the University's new, smartphone-friendly interactive map is for you. The map uses Google Maps integration and USI's web team added layers containing the location of campus emergency phones, ATMs, parking lots, bus route information and walking trails using Google Earth.

"The new map is responsive, so it works on any size screen, whether you're using a desktop computer, tablet or mobile phone," said Danielle Norris, web content specialist.

The new map was created and launched to coincide with the new campus virtual tour. "Much of the same information and photography was used for both products," said Norris. "We intentionally created these sites to allow easier navigation back and forth between the two."

Whether you want to learn more about campus before visiting or are simply trying to find your way around, you'll be able to accomplish either objective with the new map.

usi.edu/map

usi.edu/tour





Never let it be said that USI's faculty aren't willing to do whatever it takes to help students. In this case, a number of professors from liberal arts to business volunteered to be "pied" to help the Communication Studies Connect (CSC) club raise funds to support their social activities, professional development and philanthropy. Dr. Wesley Durham, associate professor of communication studies, just happened to be the one students voted to pie. "It wasn't a horrible experience. It made the students happy. Maybe a little too happy..." he said.



CSC is one of 140-plus student organizations on campus, and a portion of the money CSC generated from this event went to the Amber Gosh Scholarship fund. The fund benefits outstanding communication studies majors.

STUDENT P.O.V.



Dilek Ocak '18
Master's in Communication

Finding Her Way

It wasn't until after my grandmother, who helped raise me, got sick and passed away that I discovered a career path I was passionate about: communication. My grandmother had been on medication for her blood pressure for years when, in 2015, it rose dangerously high, leading her to be hospitalized in one of the hospital branches where I was working in Turkey—my homeland.

My family and I moved to the U.S. when I was a teenager, to seek greater opportunities while leaving our loved ones behind. At that time, we lived in New York where my parents worked and my siblings and I went to school and worked. We later moved to Tennessee, and I went away for college, graduating with a degree in psychology and a minor in marketing.

I believe in the importance of education, as my family and my grandmother had taught me; especially my grandmother. As a child in the

1940s, she wasn't allowed to earn an education because her father didn't believe girls needed to go to school. As a little girl, she had to raise her siblings after their mother passed away. Later, my grandmother, a mother of four, made sure all her children earned an education, even though she had to work hard for it while on a tight budget.

After graduating from college I was unsure what to do next, so I decided to move to a bigger city and work. It was difficult to find a job in Chicago at first; the economy was not that great in 2004, but I eventually took a position in customer service. After a couple of years, I returned to New York, as it reminded me of Istanbul, to pursue other opportunities.

Five years ago, my grandmother began asking me to return to Turkey, saying, "I am getting old." I knew she meant she wouldn't be around forever. I'd been away from Turkey for a long time, and

decided it was time to go back and be with her. I returned to my homeland and was working in a hospital while teaching English in a language school—where students struggled to communicate in a language new to them—when my grandmother fell ill and passed away.

I was not living near my grandmother at the time of her death, but I know stress had a big impact on her illness. I believe that had there been better communication in the care of my grandmother, it might have improved her health. This belief, coupled with my teaching experience, led me to realize how important and vital effective communication is in our lives. That's when I knew I had to pursue a career in communications, specifically in health care related to creative arts, where better personal expression of one's self leads to better interpersonal communication, better understanding of one another, better relationships and a healthier life.

continue the conversation at [#illumUSI](https://twitter.com/illumUSI)

suggest a subject at magazine@usi.edu

DESK OF...

FROM THE



Madrid, Spain, 12 March 2004

The Metro is eerily quiet this morning. It is unnerving to be waiting on a metro train while watching TV screens with images of the bombings that killed 200 people on their way to the heart of Madrid the day before. The King's face is on the TV screens, talking about unity. Everyone has a copy of *El Pais* or *ABC*, with front-page photos of bloody faces and bodies covered with sheets. Eyes are darting around, lingering a bit longer than usual on backpacks and satchels. I'm looking at shoes. A young man playing "Yesterday," on an electric keyboard, the open case filling with coins, is wearing tattered futbol shoes. We board the train, dark brown leather shoes with heavy worn soles, light brown suede boots, black polished dress shoes, tan leather pointed-toe boots with high heels, heavy black Doc Martens, all damp from the rain. A Guardia Civil with tall black boots is helping a woman with a stroller onto the metro car.

The train stops suddenly in the darkness of a tunnel, a collective holding of breath for a moment, the lights flicker, and the train moves again, pulling slowly into the Avenida America stop. My black leather boots carry me from the metro stop onto the campus of Universidad de Complutense, where I am a Fulbright scholar in American studies. I'm wondering what class will be like today, who will be there, what will they want to say. A student in our department was killed in the bombing. Somehow Hemingway doesn't seem so important. I'm teaching a class on American Modernism at a large university in Madrid founded in 1499. I am walking where the shoes of students like Federico Garcia Lorca and King Juan Carlos walked.

DR. STEPHEN SPENCER

Professor of English

Dayton, Ohio, 25 August 1983

My new tennis shoes carry me onto the campus of the University of Dayton. My shoes are the first ones in my family to carry someone into a college classroom. My mother didn't wear shoes in the summer until she was a teenager, the one pair of new shoes she got for school each fall no longer fitting her by the spring. Her new fall shoes carried her to school on a dirt road in eastern Kentucky. My father's army boots carried him from the hills of Kentucky to a military hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, where he served as a medic. After the army, my father put his construction boots on again, and they carried him to jobs on the islands of Guam and Oahu, where I grew up wearing "slippas," or flip flops as people call them in the Midwest.

Evansville, Indiana, 1 November 2016

My suede oxfords carry me across the campus of USI, into a classroom full of students whose insights into American literature remind me how much I love walking in my shoes. The shoes of our students have carried them to USI from across Indiana, the United States and the world. Many of these shoes are the first in their families to carry someone onto a college campus. The old saying about walking in someone else's shoes has meaning. Shoes signify class, status, occupation and gender. We make political and cultural assumptions about shoes—picture someone wearing Birkenstocks or cowboy boots or penny loafers or red Doc Martens. You most likely have preconceived ideas about shoes whether you admit it or not. You will wear many different shoes throughout your life. If you allow them, your shoes will take you on an amazing journey.

Stephen Spencer



score | BOARD



Using Their Heads

The single-minded objective of the men's soccer team—keep the ball moving and put it in the net—was the driving force behind the team advancing to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in 34 years. But it wasn't just their fancy footwork, ability to read the game and make quick decisions, and communicate with their teammates that earned recognition in the 2016 season. The team also was recognized by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America with Team Academic Awards—as was the women's soccer team!

Where are they | **NOW?**



With a degree in business administration—emphasis on financing—Sheri (Kaiser) Scott '94, USI's first Academic All-American volleyball player, began her career in financial planning after graduating, but quickly discovered it wasn't the path for her due to the focus on sales. She moved into

the corporate world where, like any good volleyball player, she looked for opportunities to be her best and rose in the ranks. Today, she's a work-from-home project manager for ADP, LLC's retirement services branch, who says every position she's held was dependent on three skills: organization, ability



MILESTONES: TOP STUDENT ATHLETES AND COACHES

JERIL TAYLOR '17
Men's Basketball

Set the USI single-game record by becoming first player to score 50 points

TANNER MARCUM '17
Women's Basketball

16th player to score 1,000 career points

RICK STEIN '92
Basketball Coach

300 career wins

RODNEY WATSON
Basketball Coach

100th game win GLVC

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
600 wins since 1975

to work independently and the “propensity to find ways to standardize and improve” the tasks at hand. Volleyball still runs through her veins, however, and she started an independent volleyball club eight years ago, plays on adult leagues and coaches her kids in the art of court etiquette and spiking.



COACHES' QUOTES

“Move forward and keep our eyes on the ball.”

Keely Porter, head coach
Women's Tennis

Selections from Death Sentences by Michael Kearns

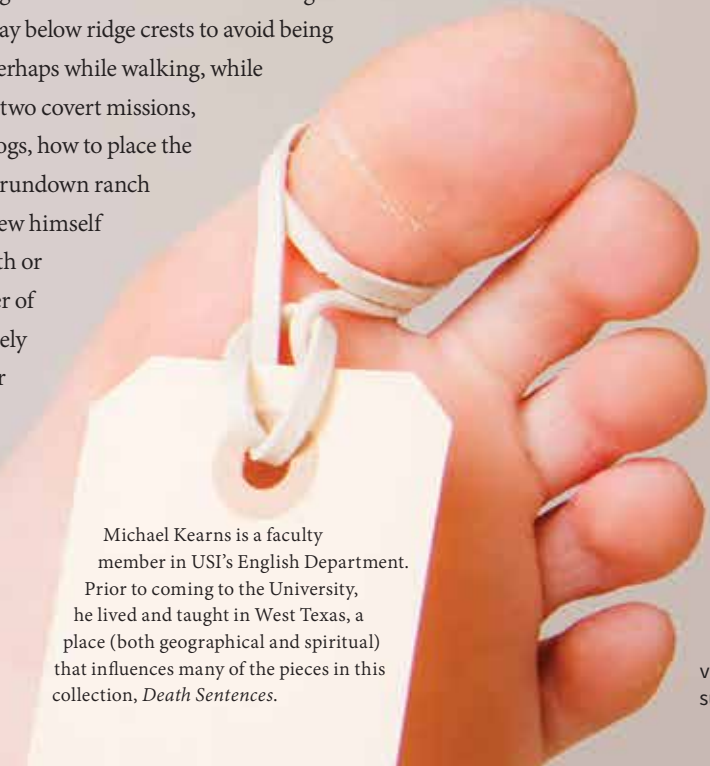
Prelude. To compress a life into a sentence while stretching the sentence to encompass the life (curves, jagged edges, gaps, inconsistencies), life as lived and sentence as made but both arbitrary from one period to another, sentence like a life looping then zigzagging trying to catch itself up while temporarily suspending that dumb, implacable trudge or rush from subject through verb to whatever completes by ending, a whole life crafted one phrase at a time solely for the purpose of being brought to darkness by a single end stop, by an absolute limit of recto plus verso, forty-eight lines and a bit of white space for squeezing in the odd apt detail or two, self-imposed and arbitrary rules of punctuation and length, rules universal and constitutive in the way gravity and the speed of light shape what can be and even what can be imagined but also leave unanswerable a few fundamental questions especially where do these plausible persons go when the page is turned and whether each page by ending is complete.

2. Donna awakens at 2:30 knowing not just that she has to get rid of Warren and why but also how, the plan so fully detailed that carrying it out almost seems an afterthought: one cold evening when he's in his basement shop contentedly grinding or polishing or cutting for one of his absurd metal horse sculptures and has thoughtfully closed the heavy door (so as not to disturb her) and donned his ear protection she'll turn off the gas to the old auxiliary heater long enough for the flame to die then turn it back on, putter in the kitchen, and wait for the explosion from one spark too many, wait then run screaming out of the house, because it's either her or the horses as she's told him so often, horses that terrify her just by being in the house even if they're only stylized representations, even if they're confined to his shop, even though her own experience of being backed into a corner by her grandfather's mare just wanting a treat, apple or carrot, happened over thirty years ago, because the mare still looms in her dreams, its gigantic teeth inches from her face, fractions of an inch, hot breath and spittle sucking her in, but this dream has given her as dreams sometimes do the vision—incinerate the dream horse and its hapless good-natured uncomprehending rider.

9. Martha had always known about the .38 special her father kept in his sock drawer but she hadn't been fast enough to hide it so here they were over halfway to Laredo and she still had no idea how to turn him aside because no matter what she said his only response was to grip the wheel tighter and tell her yet again—not her however she understood but the countryside, the afternoon sky, the endless concrete ribbon, maybe God—“Nobody gets killed by accident playing pickup baseball, that damned sonofabitch Cooper always had it in for Billy and he wouldn't listen,” his voice as flat as if he were betting the pot with a queen high, voice admitting no questioning, no debate, no response save meek assent because he had that reputation and the eyes to go with it, impenetrable, opaque, as unlike windows to the soul as chips of slate, “I told him that Cooper was no good, stay home and take over the farm I told him, you don't need the money bad enough to throw in with that Cooper, that sonofabitch Cooper,” but she could at least warn the target, having written down the number

he'd left when he followed up the hospital's call with his own ("Smokescreen bullshit" her father had said out of his own reasons that surely had nothing to do with Cooper's influence on his kid brother), so when they stopped for gas in San Marcos she begged a long enough break to run to the diner next door and fill the phone with quarters, dial, identify herself as Bill's niece and all in a rush ask for Peter Cooper, then barely grasp that the woman who'd answered was crying "he's dead," crashed through a bridge rail on the way home from the hospital where they'd taken Bill was what Martha heard as she hung up, breathed for the first time it seemed since leaving Sherman, knowing she could never tell her father and wondering if they'd arrest him for threatening a dead man.

18. Adam walks, Corinna's eyes his compass as she herself had been, her dark waves of hair an uneven, indefinite path he follows across the harsh Sonoran landscape clawed by millennia of sandstorms and flash floods, an ancient face so weathered as to have only indefinite connections with life—scattered ocotillo and creosote bush, stunted cottonwoods hanging on in the more sheltered arroyos, a landscape so brutal not even mesquite could get a start but still home (if that word fits) to poison and the creatures that bear it, poison distilled out of the malignant landscape itself into the bodies of Gila monster, scorpion, rattlesnake, and a few families, the worst of the worst Adam reminded himself Corinna had told him just a week ago the day he'd left to visit his sister and her newborn in Colorado Springs—Corinna driving him to the bus stop because she needed the car to get to work (he always drove her and if he had that day, if he hadn't taken off to try to mend the family rift he'd caused by marrying her, he the only grandson thus his the duty to pass down the name and, by their archaic code, the bloodline they deemed pure, if he'd been the driver he might have noticed the two cars on opposite sides of the road and at odd angles, might have sped up or turned, might have shouted a warning, might have been the one to die in the crossfire from which according to witnesses only the one they called El Chivo, The Goat, and his two sons drove away thus again preserving their lock on the local protection of the drug-traffic flow), so now he walks but as a ghost might, already dead but not knowing it except that a ghost wouldn't carry a knapsack loaded with C-4 and wouldn't except perhaps by force of life-long habit stick to rock flats and ledges and spines where no track would be left, wouldn't stay below ridge crests to avoid being backlit against the sky full of stars, but would perhaps while walking, while floating, review the months of training and the two covert missions, visualize again how to silence the predictable dogs, how to place the explosives to guarantee total destruction of the rundown ranch house and two outbuildings where El Chivo knew himself and his sons untouchable not because of strength or secrecy but from a belief in the persuasive power of terror and brutality to which ghosts unfortunately for El Chivo are indifferent, this ghost, Adam or the shell of him, already foreseeing not three structures but a single heap of charred rubble and bone shards.



Michael Kearns is a faculty member in USI's English Department. Prior to coming to the University, he lived and taught in West Texas, a place (both geographical and spiritual) that influences many of the pieces in this collection, *Death Sentences*.

To submit your creative work, visit USI.edu/illumine for submission guidelines.





a trail of
TEARS

An Elephant of a Story and One Woman's Quest to Tell It

by C. L. Stambush





Historic photos of Kay: Willard Library and USI Rice Library
Cartoon by Karl Kae Knecht: Evansville Courier Company

At times it's difficult for Erin (Johnson) Gibson '96 to talk about the main subject of her documentary, even though the two never met and the differences between them are as vast as an ocean, except when it comes to three things: intelligence, long memories and emotions. The final is evident in the way Gibson's voice cracks and her eyes well up with tears when she talks about the life and death of Kay.

Kay was Mesker Park Zoo's first pachyderm, delivered to Evansville in 1929 at the age of 6 after being captured in a Burmese jungle, more than 8,000 miles away. Crated and loaded on trains and ships, eventually arriving in Evansville, Kay's journey was chronicled and

heralded by Karl Kae Knecht, a journalist and cartoonist for *The Evansville*

Courier from 1906 to 1960, who roused citizens' interests in her impending arrival with his "letters-from-Kay" series, and his daily, front-page political cartoons. People talked about her and school children campaigned for pennies to help raise the necessary funds—\$2,750—to buy the wary-eyed, 1,500 pound baby.

"Evansville was *enamored* with her. Then, they forgot about her," says Gibson, 63 years after Kay was banished from the city for killing her trainer and zoo superintendent Bob McGraw in 1954. "And it hurts."

An animal-lover, Gibson knew the story about the zoo's first elephant, but she didn't become obsessed with discovering what happened to Kay after the city sold her for killing McGraw until she heard a horrendous story on the radio in 2009 about Kay's demise, involving a box truck





with a hose affixed to the exhaust. “It was just an outrageous story that stopped me in my tracks,” says Gibson. “My first thought was, ‘That can’t be true, can it?’”

The veteran radio journalist and USI instructor of journalism’s journey to learn what happened to Kay began by investigating the rumored execution—a story made worse by the report that Kay’s body had been left at the end of a dead-end road. “I’ve never been affected by a story like I’ve been affected by Kay’s story,” says Gibson, noting the times could be

brutal for captive elephants. “I knew, whatever her outcome, it couldn’t be good.”

Gibson’s search for Kay began with her fingertips. Plunging into the internet—Google the word elephant and you’ll get more than 98 million hits—immersed her in “bread crumbs” and dead ends. One mammoth site in particular was riddled with dubious sources that left her in a sea of uncertainty. “The more I dug into [the] information, the more I realized [the site] really was citing unreliable sources,” she says, because it presented memories and commentary as fact.

For three years, she sporadically hunted for reliable, original sources detailing what happened to Kay after leaving Evansville, bookmarking on her computer the

scant information she uncovered. Then, she discovered a local database containing digitalized and archived articles of *The Evansville Courier and Press*—dating back to 1875—that contained the first clues to Kay’s death. “Suddenly, everything opened up. Here was a searchable database where I was able to type in the words ‘Kay’ and ‘elephant’ and everything came up,” Gibson says. “That’s when the real work began; [before] it was just curiosity.”

Sitting at a heavy oak table at Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library’s West Branch, Gibson discovered, in the database, a news brief from 1955, reporting secondhand that 32-year-old Kay had died four months earlier. The five-ton pachyderm, labeled a “killer,” had been sold and resold and was being transported from Texas to Michigan when she died en route.



Bunny: Courtesy of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee

Mid-century journalism differed from the way Gibson now teaches her USI journalism students, and the report contained few facts and gave her little to go on—just the vicinity in which Kay died and the names of a few people mentioned in the article. Gibson began tracking them down, leading her to drive to Michigan with her husband, fellow journalist John Gibson, news director for local public radio station WNIN, during USI's 2015 spring break.

While on vacation, they visited a tiny newspaper office, plowed through reels of microfiche in little libraries and dug through cramped basements of county archives. “It was like being a detective,” she says. “It was so much fun to try and take every bit of information and triangulate Kay’s story. At one point, I was standing on top of a filing cabinet pulling down these dusty, giant plat books that were almost falling apart.”

Gibson’s documentary is an homage to Kay, as well as to Bunny, the elephant that replaced Kay at the zoo. “It’s really a larger story I’m trying to tell,” she says. “Even though I’m very focused on this local zoo and these two elephants, I’m interested in telling the story of elephants through them: How smart they are; how emotional they are; how long their memories are.”

Kay and Bunny’s stories are a parallel in Gibson’s mind, even though their endings were dramatically

different. Bunny was a gentle giant people loved, who was reluctantly retired to an elephant sanctuary in Tennessee, where she lived out her final days with other elephants and slept under starry skies. “I think it’s hard telling Kay’s story without telling another story with hope,” says Gibson, “because I don’t feel like Kay’s story is cheerful in any way.”

While Gibson wrote, directed and produced her first documentary in graduate school—it won a national award—creating *Two Elephants* presented a steep learning curve, since film editing isn’t her forte. “I can edit a radio doc so quickly; I feel like I can do that in my sleep,” she says. “This has been an effort. The video is just a beast. Thinking in terms of ‘What is this going to look like?’ That, and how slow I’ve been, is just ridiculous.”


Although Gibson began the project solo seven years ago, she isn’t going it alone now that the research is done. She hired David Arthur ’16 while he was still a USI student to be her extra set of eyes, ears and hands. He operates the camera while she conducts the interviews, and together they fret over lighting and sound. “It’s just David and me,” she says, “and David is doing most of the heavy lifting.”

To tell both elephants’ histories cinematically, Gibson desperately needs film. Both the lost tapes and 8mm reels of Kay and McGraw at Mesker Park Zoo, as well as B-roll from the elephant sanctuary Bunny was at; footage to splice in between segments of the people she’s interviewed. As of yet, she has neither, despite a wealth of help from local zoo officials, television stations and newspapers, and community members, such as Mark Fisher ’90, who discovered some overlooked WEHT-TV footage, reporting Bunny’s travel from Evansville to the sanctuary, that Gibson calls “a treasure trove.” But so far, all the images of Kay with McGraw are stills that Gibson discovered in the vast archive collections at Willard Library and USI’s Rice Library. “If I saw Kay in motion I’d break

down,” says Gibson, “and I don’t know if anyone could console me.”


Two Elephants is not only an epilogue to Kay’s life, but Gibson’s way of metaphorically setting her free. “Her story isn’t mine to tell,” she says, “but I feel like I have an obligation to tell her story. She doesn’t have a voice. She was 6...years...old when she was pulled out of a jungle in Burma. That’s going to mess you up.”

Gibson’s passion and perseverance for the project remains steadfast, despite people telling her she’d hate it by the end. But the tender-hearted animal lover still tears up listening to soundbites she’s heard 50 times, discussing Kay or Bunny. “I just don’t think it’s a story I’m going to lose interest in,” she says.

The story isn’t finished for Gibson, even though her documentary is almost ready for its fall 2017 release. She still doesn’t know where Kay is buried, indicating there’s more to her story. “I thought I knew, but it’s becoming more apparent to me that she’s not where I think she is,” Gibson says, her voice catching. “She’s very far from home. But of course, she always has been.” 

Gibson’s *Two Elephants* documentary will air on WNIN-TV when it’s completed.





quietly making noise



five years

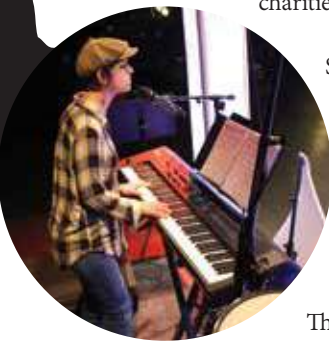
100+ musicians and writers
and a whole lot of money for charity

By C.L. Stambush



I love the dynamic and surprisingly seamless mix of self-deprecating (and sometimes poignant) humor and eclectic music, and the way that this combination brings life to the stories shared in sounds and words.

—Jen Chapin, Singer/
Songwriter/Producer,
Recording and Performing
Artist



The ring of Scott Saalman’s cellphone breaks the silence and before answering it he says, “Here comes our first crisis.”

The caller is one of 10 performers slated for tonight’s *Will Read and Sing for Food* show, benefiting United Caring Services, Saalman’s 96th “listening show” that he’s put together in the past five years to raise funds for local charities.

Stepping away, Saalman provides the lost singer/songwriter with sketchy directions to the venue’s location, saying, “It’s at the Arts Council on Main Street.” Their conversation drags on as Saalman, a 1987 communications major, warns the wandering minstrel that the street is blocked off—some band is outside playing for a store’s grand opening—and he should park in the nearby city garage.

The gritty sounds of free street music filter into the hushed and empty Bower-Suhrheinrich Foundation Gallery as Saalman ends the call. The competition outside feels like a wolf at his door, and he’s worried he’ll fail tonight’s benefit charity if no one comes to his show. “They’ve got some guy from *The Voice!*” he says, his eyes raking over the 80 seats he hopes will fill for \$10 each as he looks toward the street.

The musicians and writers for Saalman’s show begin to arrive, including Jason Wilber, Grammy-award-winning John Prine’s guitar “guy” for the past 20 years, who steals into the room wearing a wool cap and a sheepish grin before settling into his seat to run a riff on his parlor guitar. The lost musician, Kyle Lueken, arrives too and sets up mic stands and cords he pulls from crates Saalman hauled from Jasper, Indiana, in his stuffed-to-the-gills 2010 Corolla. “Everybody has a job to make the show come together,” Saalman says, as he rushes past; the blur of a man on a mission.





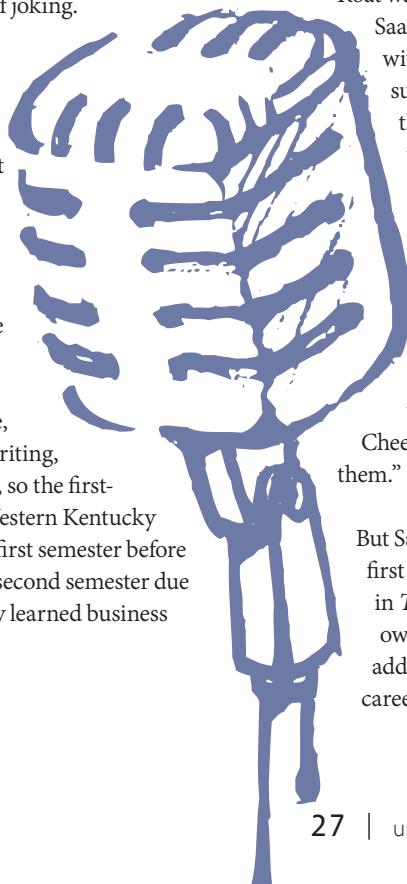
EARLY DAZE

Growing up in Tell City, Indiana, Saalman wanted to be different, but knew he'd never separate himself from the herd in the traditional way boys did, by becoming a star football player, so he began to distinguish himself with words. A precocious reader, he traded Stephen King novels with his 6th grade teachers before advancing to write his own disturbing stories while riding the school bus—a horrifying experience itself, he assures. “Stephen King. He was it.”

By the time he hit his teens, his wordsmithing proclivities had morphed into penning lyrics. “I say song lyrics because I’m not a poet. *AT ALL*,” noting instead it was about “getting chicks,” an endeavor that persists today, he says, half joking.

Saalman’s home life was filled with love, literature and music: his mom an avid reader and his dad (who never read a book) a guitarist. Today, they’re his most ardent fans, attending 96 out of 106 shows. But they taught him more than love of the arts, they instilled in him the seed of caring. “I come from a family who wants to help others who are less fortunate,” he says.

By the time Saalman reached college age, he’d filled a dozen notebooks with his writing, but felt a better future rested in business, so the first-generation college student headed for Western Kentucky University. He made the Dean’s List his first semester before plummeting to academic probation his second semester due to “too much Euchre,” he says. “I quickly learned business and numbers weren’t for me.”



INFLUENCERS

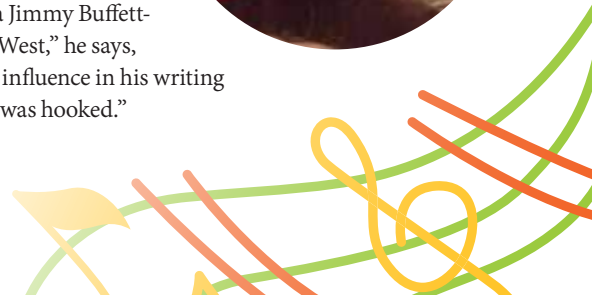
Saalman’s life changed when he transferred to USI, where he learned it was possible to make a living doing what he loved most when he met Ron Roat, instructor of journalism (now deceased) and longtime advisor for *The Shield* (USI’s student newspaper). “He took me under his wing and introduced me to journalism, not PR or broadcast, but true-blue newspaper journalism,” he says.

It was the 1980s, computers were replacing typewriters, and Saalman says Roat was determined to equip him for success. “That was the greatest thing,” said Saalman, who contributed to *The Shield*, “to have a professor believe so much in my future...that he made me buy a computer. He drove me to Target, walked me through the store and showed me what to buy.”

Roat wasn’t the only faculty member who had a hand in fashioning Saalman. But, given his aversion to poetry—an art form (along with fiction) he excludes in his events because “most poetry sucks and the readings need to be funny and true”—it’s odd, then, that the other USI professor to shape his thinking would be poet Matthew Graham, professor of English. Their mentor/mentee relationship became so deep over the years, that Graham is the only person Saalman allows to recite verse at the events. “Matthew opened my mind to truly great contemporary literature, pulling me from the Stephen King-type novels of my adolescence,” Saalman says.

“He changed the focus not only on what I read, but what I wrote. Updike. Cheever. Carver. I wanted to write like them.”

But Saalman loved journalism too. “My first byline (outside of *The Shield*) appeared in *The Coconut Telegraph*, a Jimmy Buffett-owned publication in Key West,” he says, adding Buffett was another influence in his writing career. “I saw my byline and was hooked.”





After graduating from USI, Saalman began reporting for the *Princeton Daily Clarion* before jumping to *The Herald*

in Dubois County. Aspirations for a journalistic career led him to migrate to the *Newport News Daily Press* and *Times Herald* in Newport News, Virginia, as the lead feature writer, “a soul-sucking, corporate-cutthroat world” he hated. When Kimball International reached out with an internal communication’s position, he jumped at the opportunity, thinking, “Yea, I’ll cross over to the other side.” Twenty-six years later, Saalman, communications director, still loves his work at Kimball Electronics, headquartered in Jasper, Indiana, where he’s grown into a one-man media/multimedia machine, writing blog posts, newsletters, news releases, and editing video while occasionally traveling to the company’s international locations.

UNDERDOG UPRISING

Grocery sacking at a community food bank and singer/songwriter Harry Chapin are the reasons Saalman began *Will Read and Sing for Food*. “In the early 80s, I’d wanted to go to a Chapin concert in Evansville. Harry encouraged people to bring a canned food,” he says. “That always stuck with me.”

Chapin, famous for his heart-twisting folk songs and social crusades, used his concerts to raise money to combat hunger in the United States (he died in 1981). “He got to where he’d do one show for himself and one show to benefit a charity,” says Saalman. This underdog activism resonated with him, and one night as he put nonperishables into a

bag for someone who would otherwise go hungry, he thought, “Anybody can sack these groceries. What can I do that others can’t, or aren’t, to help this place?”

His essays had been published in a variety of regional and national magazines, journals and anthologies, and he’d written bi-weekly humor essays (his “true calling”) for *The Herald* for several years. Plus, he’d participated in public readings. “I thought, maybe I could use that talent, the only one I have—if it’s a talent at all—to help the food bank.”

Six seasons, 106 shows, 100-plus musicians and writers and 33 charities later, Saalman has raised \$102,160, surpassing his ultimate goal of \$100,000. “It’s addicting, seeing those donation dollars go up,” he says.

Addicting and exhausting, as Saalman performs every role in putting together what he humbly calls “a silly little show,” including publicist, roadie, manager, venue scout, booking agent, performer and more. The shows (think Garrison Keillor’s “Prairie Home Companion”) feature a diversity of talent and sound, from the island beats of Zion’s reggae rhythms, to the strums of Lueken’s satirical songs, to the tenor of *Evansville Courier & Press* columnist Jon Webb’s ’09 unapologetic essays. Each fundraiser delivers a new show, as the talent performing is different each time. The shows have grown and generated so much good, that Graham nominated Saalman’s *Will Read and Sing for Food* for the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana’s 2016 Mayor’s Arts Award, an honor it won.






Over the years, Saalman's events have featured musicians and writers from near and far—including Harry Chapin's daughter Jen Chapin and her band; a full-circle moment for Saalman. Those involved in the shows share a common goal of performing publicly to aid an underdog. Their motivation isn't all altruistic, however, and Saalman admits it's an opportunity to be heard and to hear the laughter. "This is the most fun and worthwhile thing I've ever done with my writing." The shows, which in the beginning asked for canned goods only, have garnered as little as \$77 and as much as \$17,550¹. "On one occasion, there were more performers than audience due to a snow storm," says Saalman. "Mother Nature has better PR than I do."



CURTAIN CALL

Saalman emerges five minutes before show time, having shed his casual attire for creased slacks, a crisp dress shirt and silver tie, and takes his seat next to his cohost, WNIN's Paola Marizan '16. Together, their easy banter steers the full house through 90 minutes of song and humor, while Saalman bounces between bouts of emceeing, videoing the performers for *Will Read and Sing for Food's* website and Facebook pages, and reading three humor essays of his own.

The Evansville show, one of the few outside of Dubois County, breaks \$800, a figure that in the world of fundraising might seem minuscule to some but not Saalman. "It's a respectable number," he says. "When it's less, I feel bad for the charity, because we could have raised more money."

Dollar-by-dollar, show-by-show, Saalman hosts events to raise funds focused on helping local, small charities as opposed to national organizations. "I want to keep it local because I know where the money goes, and the good it will do for organizations like a small library," he says, and then, after a long pause he adds almost inaudibly, "So, we quietly make noise." 



¹ This was a Rotary Club show in Jasper, Indiana, to help the club raise funds to cure polio. The show raised \$3,900 and the money was matched by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International, bringing the total to \$17,550.



It's a passion project.

— Scott Saalman

OFF THE PAGE

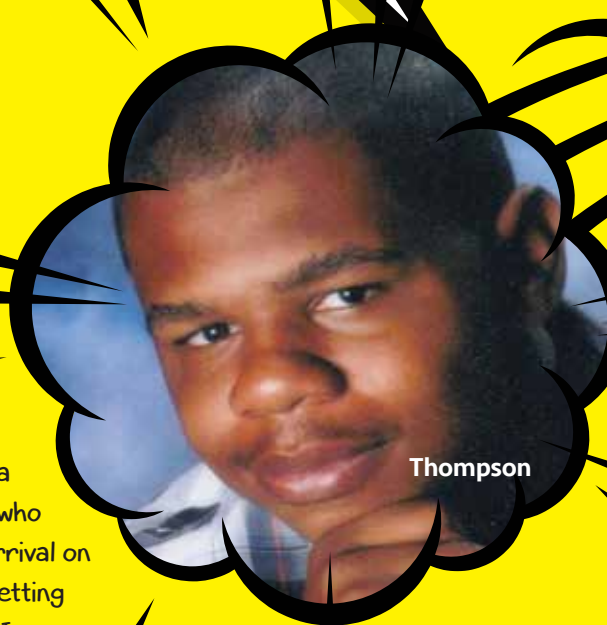
It's a cliché, the saying "It takes a village," but it's also a reality. Take the case of Phillip Thompson '16, an art major with a goal of becoming a cartoonist and the two administrators, one faculty and an alum who joined forces to help make that happen.

BY
BEN LUTTRULL
& L STAMBUSH

Phillip Thompson, diagnosed with mild autism, transferred to USI in 2014 from a university in Michigan with the single-minded goal of earning the education and knowledge necessary to make a living as a comic book artist—his life's dream.

"He's very focused on employment," said Ronda Stone, manager of USI's Disability Resources, who has worked closely with Thompson since his arrival on campus to ensure he thrived in an academic setting while pursuing his goals. During his years at USI, he took all the courses necessary to attain his objective, but to fill the gap between education and career, he needed one more learning experience: a hands-on internship in cartooning.

Southern Indiana isn't exactly animation central, however, and there aren't many obvious companies offering internships to comic book creators. But that would be Pam Doerter's problem, the career coordinator in Career Services and Internships for USI's College of Liberal Arts. "Phillip is very determined to go into cartooning. It's our goal that students have a good experience as they get ready to move into the real world. Sometimes, it takes going outside the box."



Thompson



Doerter



Gehlhausen

In this instance, leaving the box led

Doerter to contact Aaron Gehlhausen '13, one

of her former interns who is operations manager at Harsha Autism Center, a full-service therapeutic center, located in Evansville, for children ages 2 to 22 years old with neurobehavioral issues. "I thought, what if Phillip did a cartoon or coloring book for the school?" she said.

Thompson created an original storyline specifically for the students at Harsha, including a character named 'Harsha' with autism. "This comic book is unlike anything else I've done," said Thompson, who started drawing at the age of 4. "It's about a turtle who's autistic, who loves to camp. When his friends get lost, it's up to him to save the day."



Stanley

Thompson finished his comic book titled "Pet Treats

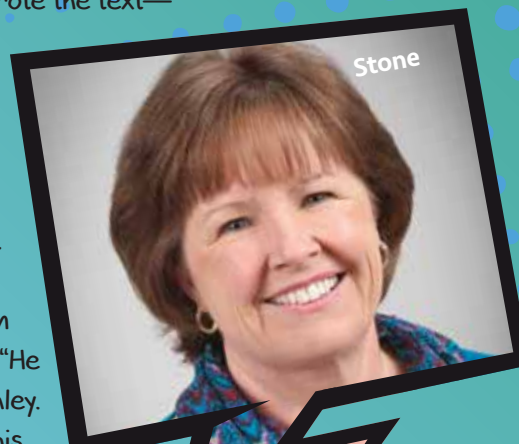
Presents: A Call in the Wild" in December, and through an Epi-Hab Scholarship fund (monies for students with disabilities or for those who assist individuals with disabilities in the workplace or at home), 500 copies were produced by USI's Creative and Print Services to be given to Harsha's students for enjoyment, to its staff and administrators to raise community awareness for autism and the center's services, and to Thompson for his portfolio.

The concept, dialogue and drawings for the story are all Thompson's creations, but he worked with Gehlhausen to best reach his target audience.

"Phillip had the idea to bring autism into the story," said Gehlhausen. "He had the background set up, and we let him know what should or shouldn't be in there based on the age of the children [we would be giving it to]."

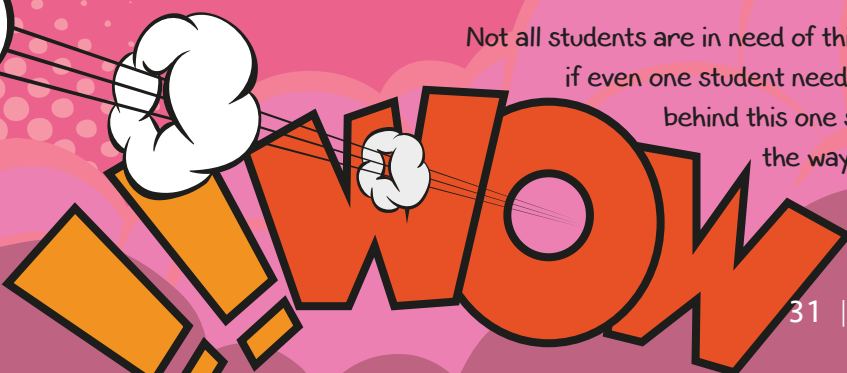
Once Thompson finalized the story and wrote the text—on which Doerter and Stone worked as his editors—the duo reached out to Shea Stanley, instructor in graphic design in art, for help with the artwork and layout. "We could correct his grammar, but we didn't know anything about the art [aspect] of it," said Stone.

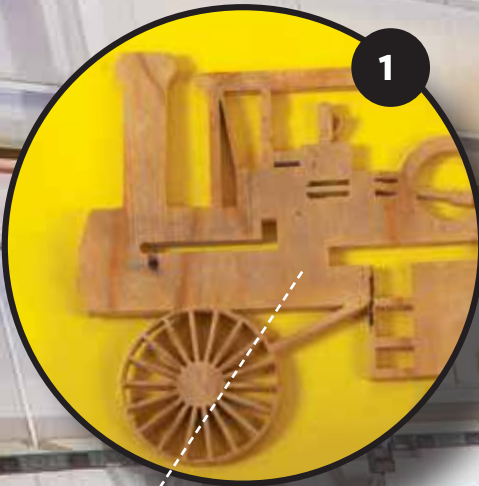
Stanley collaborated with Thompson, teaching him the technical aspects and layout of the comic art. "He works so hard, that you want to help him," said Stanley. "It gave Phillip the opportunity to do something of this size, and deal with real-world issues."



Stone

Not all students are in need of this level of assistance, but it's heartening to know that in a sea of 10,000 if even one student needs it, it's there. "If the University is willing to put this much effort behind this one student, that speaks volumes about this place," said Stanley. "This is the way it is here. We get behind students."





BEHIND THE SCENE

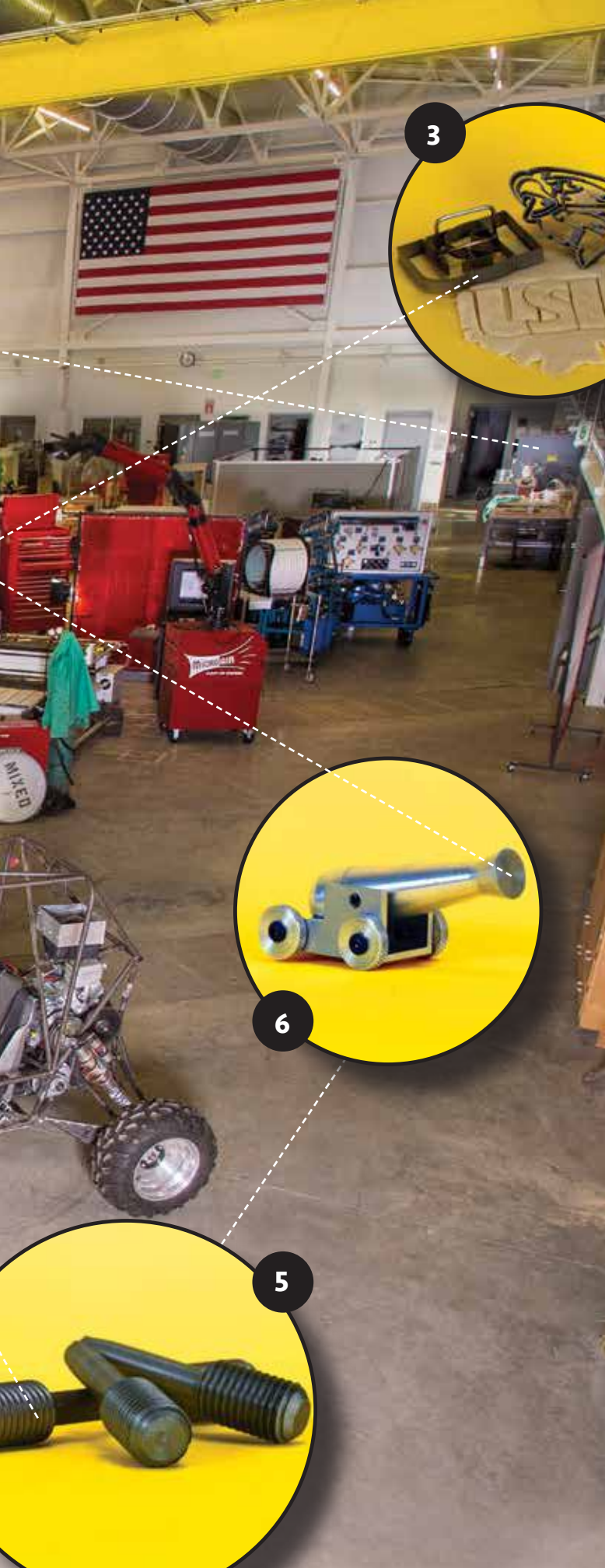
It's a facility unlike any other in Indiana. A place where engineering, advanced manufacturing and industrial supervision students learn hands-on, in a one-of-a-kind facility that serves the region's business community too.

The Applied Engineering Center (AEC) provides students the opportunity to learn in a real-world industrial and manufacturing setting, where they can work directly with industrial partners to solve problems, develop products and streamline processes.

The 16,000 square-foot building contains a 9,000 square-foot high bay (equipped with a 10-ton crane, and designated areas for material processing, welding, machining, plastics technology), as well as a mini assembly line—the only one of its kind outside of Germany—overseen by Justin Amos, laboratory manager.

Classes and clubs have designed, engineered and constructed award-winning projects in this space, including Baja buggies, concrete canoes, human-powered vehicles and high-atmospheric balloons.

1. The food industry uses water jets to cut meat, produce, pastries and even candy bars. The nozzles shoot out a mixture of water and granular particles at 1,000 mph. In the AEC, it can be programmed to cut just about any shape into most any material—metal alloys, rocks, wood, rubber, ceramic and more.
2. In addition to boring, cutting and drilling a variety of slots and grooves into aluminum, brass, nickel, steel, wood and plastic with extreme precision (accurate to .001 per inch—that's 1/4 the thickness of a sheet of writing paper), CNC milling machines can do other cool things: draw pictures on paper, crack nuts, slice cake, whip cream and play music.
3. When USI's Food Services needed special cookie cutters designed and produced, it was Amos at the AEC who happily obliged. Twelve eagles and USI-logo bearing culinary devices were crafted using the water jet and then handles were welded on.
4. The 3D printer has been engaged to produce desktop models of mineshaft equipment for a national construction company's Midwest office to take to trade fairs. It also made this heartfelt thank-you gift for Keith Benedict, retired instructor in engineering, for his 24 years of service.
- 5,6. Both the manual and CNC lathes produce cylindrical products such as the rods used in the strengths and materials lab for a variety of classes. But it can also make 1,000-plus other items, that are displayed on Pinterest, such as the honey dippers, toys, jewelry and buttons.



At one time, Kendall Paul '95 thought she'd be on stage or in front of a camera until, on a whim, the communications major volunteered at the Vanderburgh Humane Society (VHS) and discovered a career path based on passion.

How



1986-1989

I was a sophomore in high school when local television station WTVW put out a call for a youth reporter and my aunt encouraged me to try out. I was one of two youth reporters selected. Originally, I was to be on-air one day every other week, but the other reporter hired left, and I began doing it weekly. I learned to edit and put stories together.



1990-1993

The summer between my freshman and sophomore year of college, I contacted the director at WTVW, since I'd worked for the station as a teen, to see if I could get a job filing or doing production work. Instead, I was hired full time as a reporter and sent into the field. By the time I was a senior, it was too difficult to work full time and get the classes I needed to graduate, so I found a part-time job.

Kendall

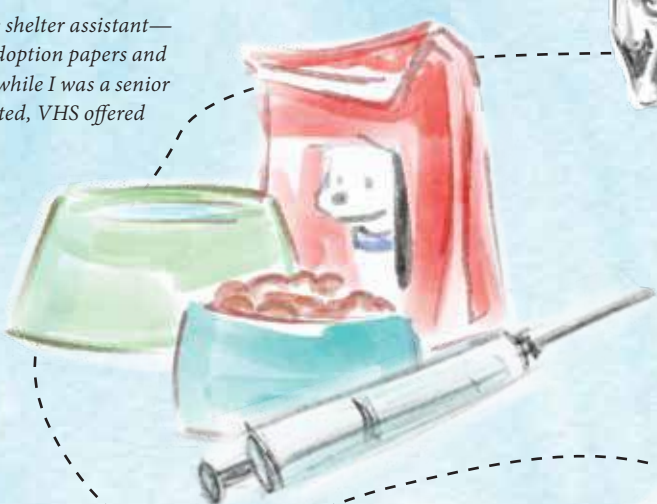
1993-1994

I was working part-time at a bookstore when I decided to volunteer at the Humane Society. A friend of a friend worked there and, after I filled out the volunteer paperwork, she followed me to my car and told me there was a part-time job opening. Since I loved animals, it made more sense to work at the shelter than the bookstore.



1994-1996

I started as a part-time shelter assistant—cleaning cages, filing adoption papers and giving vaccine shots—while I was a senior at USI. When I graduated, VHS offered me a full-time position as a field investigator in animal-abuse situations. It wasn't what I ultimately wanted to do, but it enabled me to stay on with the organization so I could work toward my goals.



Got



Here

1996-Present

Since joining VHS, I've worked my way up the organization as operations manager of the shelter, then public relations and development officer—a position created for me that allowed me to apply the skills that I learned at USI for the good of VHS—and now as executive director. In my current role, I've been able to implement the spay/neuter clinic to control overpopulation and complement VHS's mission, and offer limited vet service for community pet owners.

X

TAKEAWAY:

Blend the skills you have to serve your passions.



The best way to improve the education field is to educate ourselves. By this, I mean that we must find more information about the problems. Our first steps should be to figure out What are we doing now? Is this approach working? Is there an example of what better education looks like? What are they doing differently? Then we should use those ideas as a springboard toward change.

– Laura Davis '17
Elementary
Education



We, as a community, must stand up and wage the war inside of us, so we can be the voices for those who are being trafficked, marginalized and looked upon with shame and guilt for a choice they weren't given. We must stand for them, because no matter how the media sees prostitution, it isn't a choice. There isn't a choice when you are forced into selling your body. There isn't a choice when you are put in a ring that you can't get out of.

– Peyton Farmer '18
Social Work

Open Dialogue

utopian worlds

To improve health care, providers must take on the acts of showing compassion and being skilled in the art of listening. Compassion allows for an understanding of the human response toward the alleviation of suffering through diagnosis and treatment. Listening costs nothing, does no harm and allows for a trusting relationship between provider and patient. When a patient knows you are listening, they begin to allow you in, offering details toward the correct diagnosis, best treatment and optimal health outcomes.

– Matthew McCracken '03, '05, '18
Doctorate in Nursing Practice



By taking conscious measurements and implementing changes in their lifestyle, everyone's small contributions can lead to a changed world. I think a significant portion of people realize this, but societal norms around them make it easier to disregard that "extra step." Be that "first" person—carpool to work with a close neighbor; drink from a reusable water bottle and not plastic disposables; recycle; buy local produce. However, making that extra effort in having a positive effect on the environment is only half the work, the first half is taking action to change your mindset and view of the world around you.

– Rachel Bacher '17
Environmental Studies



To improve the economy on a macroeconomic level, we need to trade. But it has to be honest and open, where the generated profits are not simply pocketed by corporations never to be seen by the average consumer. Also, we need to invest. Not in stocks, but in the community and world around us—in areas like education or infrastructure, the capital that makes production and progress possible.

– Christian Armstrong '17
Finance and Economics



We must understand other cultures if we want to improve our international relations. We have to first be open to the differences of others so that we may find the similarities among ourselves. Being aware of other cultures and understanding them are two different things. We are all cultural people and at the most basic core level, we are human beings. We need to start acting like it.

– Lance Grubb '17
Master's in Second Language
Acquisition, Policy and Culture

PROFESSOR PART OF NATIONAL PROMISE ZONE PANEL

When Evansville was designated a Promise Zone by former President Obama's administration last fall, Dr. Trent Engbers was selected to participate in a series of White House Workshops designed to bring together leading researchers and academic institutions from across the country to launch a collaborative effort to address the needs of disadvantaged communities. Engbers, assistant professor of political science and public administration, was the only scholar from Evansville, and one of only three from Indiana, invited to play a role in the project.

The workshops leveraged university experts to address six problems faced by high-poverty communities: lack of employment, high crime, limited economic development, few educational opportunities, affordable housing and poor public health. Thirteen cities across the nation have been deemed Promise Zones.

While in D.C., Engbers met with representatives from the White House, Department of Housing and Urban Development and faculty from other institutions to learn how government agencies can support the work of universities and Promise Zone communities in fostering community development. He and faculty from other institutions met with local government leaders to share best practices and build strategies for evaluating the effectiveness of Promise Zone initiatives.

"For a university like USI, these types of experiences are critically important," Engbers said. "As a Carnegie Engaged University, we have a commitment to service to our communities. Since I teach in a professional program, these experiences give me greater knowledge of community problems that I can bring to my students so that their education is more relevant and interesting."



A CURTAIN CALL ON A NATIONAL STAGE

It started with an invitation to perform *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* at the Region III Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) in January, and ended with four USI design students advancing to the National Awards for Theatrical Design Excellence at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

This stunning production, first performed on stage in USI's Performing Arts Center, was the fourth USI Theatre production to present at the KCACTF, and the first to close the festival. It's also the third year in a row USI theatre design students have won regional awards that advanced them to the national finals in Washington D.C.

The students strutted their theatrical design skills and acting, winning a slew of awards and advancing to the national competitions at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in April.

While accolades are important, it's the experience that will last a lifetime. "The 40-plus students who attended workshops and plays learned things, conducted themselves with style and grace, and generally made us proud!" said Elliot Wasserman, professor of theatre and chair of Performing Arts.

For a list of winners, visit usi.edu/magazine

CUTTING-EDGE BUSINESS LABS ADVANCING LEARNING

The Romain College of Business (RCOB) continues to lead with the development of, and investment in novel assets and initiatives that link faculty, students and scholarships by providing students with hands-on, cutting-edge experiences in the form of business labs. One of the labs is already established—the experimental economics lab—with the other two—the perception, cognition and interaction (PCI) lab and the strategic social media lab—to be completed this spring.

The PCI lab will focus on using leading integrated biometric technologies to measure human responses to information, products and designs.

Biometric measurement of attention, emotional and mental states has emerged as the new and more nuanced approach to the evaluation of human response to a stimulus, as opposed to gathering information only through surveys or observation.

Dr. Dinko Bačić, assistant professor of computer information systems, proposes the lab has the potential to provide students with unique skill sets,

THE PCI LAB EMPLOYS INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY THAT CAPTURES FACIAL EXPRESSION, TRACKS EYE MOVEMENT, MEASURES ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN, HEART RATE AND SKELETAL MUSCLES, AS WELL AS SWEAT ON THE SKIN, TO CAPTURE A RANGE OF INFORMATION FROM EVALUATING WEB DESIGN, USER INTERFACES, GAMING TO RETAIL INDUSTRY, HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGY.

USI's campus and other universities, enhancing USI's and RCOB's reputation as a leading higher-education institution.

improve local business and community practices by offering consulting services, enable faculty research, integrate biometric insights into the classroom and stimulate synergy across

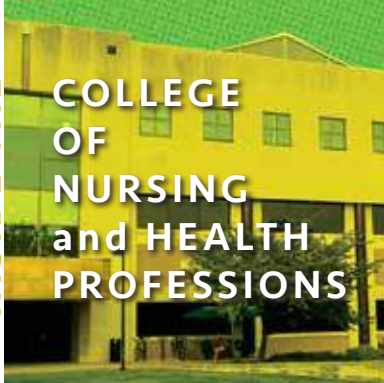
The ubiquitous nature of social media positions it perfectly as a tool to be strategically implemented to enhance RCOB's brand, increase engagement between faculty, students and other stakeholders, while expanding recruitment opportunities to ensure the College's future growth. This is exactly what the future strategic social media lab will accomplish with the generation of intentional and timely content that adds value to its audiences' lives through the presentation of research talks, how-to videos, alumni profiles, student projects and more.

The social media lab is devised upon three pillars: provide content showcasing the work accomplished within the College, generate insights into how viewers are impacted by the content while measuring it's impact. Establishing the lab will evolve over three phases through an audit of content needs, the creation of physical space and the acquisition of requisite hardware and software. Dr. Curt Gilstrap, assistant professor of business communications, envisions the lab launching late spring or early summer with several pilot projects.

The Judith A. and Robert E. Griffin Experimental Economics Laboratory, established in 2010 through the work of Dr. Curtis Price, associate professor of economics, allows students to be paid participants in economic and management research studies designed and implemented by faculty using methodology from across disciplines, including psychology, marketing, entrepreneurship and early childhood education. The experiments not only study participants' behavior in a range of social and business situations, but also act as a means to test alternative economic mechanisms before being released into the market.

THIS USI LAB IS ONE OF ONLY 55 NATIONWIDE. STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH TOP-TIER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES ENABLES THEM TO DEVELOP DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES THAT ECONOMISTS AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS TACKLE DAILY.





GROWING IN RANKS

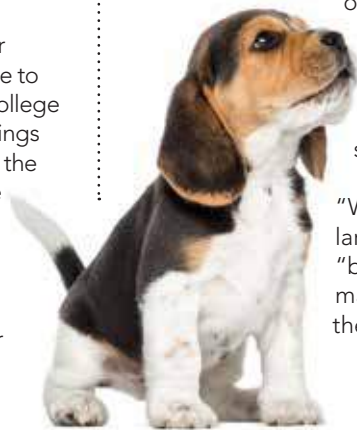
The University of Southern Indiana's online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, offered through the College of Nursing and Health Professions, has been ranked 21st in the nation by *U. S. News and World Report* as part of its Best Online Programs rankings released in January.

"We are elated to see the rankings for our online graduate nursing program continue to climb," said Dr. Ann White, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "Rankings like this put us in the company of some of the best schools in the country and showcase the high caliber and hard work of our faculty and students."

In addition to the overall ranking, the program was ranked 16th in the nation for faculty credentials and training.

The University of Southern Indiana's online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, offered through the

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HELPING THE HOME TEAM

What seemed to be simply fun diversions on the quad during fall mid-terms—students decorating cookies, riding bikes, playing with puppies and more—was actually a carefully crafted program designed by a team of occupational therapy students as a project to help peers reduce their stress.

The team selected USI students as their community to work with, believing they most needed to benefit from the stress-management knowledge the team could offer, as well as bringing attention to the campus resources available, setting measurable goals and learning objectives for themselves and their audience. The project involved establishing partnerships with USI's Counseling Center, Recreation, Fitness and Wellness Center and the Vanderburgh Humane Society, plus setting up activity stations correlated to each partners' stress-reduction offering.

"We learned a lot about the challenges of organizing a large event," said Jamie Adkins '17, occupational therapy, "but most importantly we learned that we are capable of making a big impact for the profession of occupational therapy as well as the community by working together."

TACKLING A HEALTH CARE SHORTAGE

The Association of American Medical Colleges projects that by 2025 there could be a national physician shortage as high as 90,000. Couple that with 62 percent of nurses over the age of 54 planning to retire by 2019, and you'll see that access to medical care is shrinking.

USI is helping to head off this dip through a new partnership and scholarship with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation's Medical Professions Academy housed at Central High School. The Medical Professional Merit Scholarship benefits students pursuing medical and/or health care careers at USI's Pott College of Science, Engineering and Education and College of Nursing and Health Professions. Taught in part by USI faculty, the college-credit curriculum integrates science, English and technology, paired with hands-on learning and relevant internships and shadowing experiences, to prepare students for post-secondary medical education.

As many as 15 scholarships are available for graduates of the academy, and can be applied toward tuition, books, fees, and housing and meal plans at USI. There are two categories of scholarships: MPS with Distinction and the MPS General, both funded by the University and the USI Foundation.





RAINY DAYS RESULT IN CITY LEARNING GARDEN

It was two billion gallons of combined sewage overflow rushing into Pigeon Creek and the Ohio River annually that prompted the Environmental Protection Agency and Indiana Department of Environment Management to sue the city of Evansville in 2009. As a result, four USI engineering students stepped up to help solve the problem when the city implemented an incentive program to fund green infrastructure projects that divert storm water from entering the sewer system. The city's combined sanitary sewer system collects all water—rain runoff, toilet flushes, drinking water—into the same space, and when its full the untreated water is pushed out into the creek and river.

Four students, Tyler Schickel, Logan Folz, Mackenzie Will and Loick Houngrinou, began working on a USI solution in a water resource engineering class. Much of the project's preliminary work came from the collective wisdom of the class before it was completed and presented to the city. The team wanted their green infrastructure to not only help solve the rain runoff problem, but benefit the community in other ways too, so they created a learning garden. Their design, to be located at the C. K. Newsome Center, will divert rain water from sewers and provide the community with an aesthetic gathering and learning space to function as an outdoor classroom, host small weddings, and grow and harvest vegetables in the raised planting beds.

The system they designed and engineered will capture more than two million gallons of storm water runoff annually using a bio-swal that directs the runoff to two infiltration trenches. The cost to construct is approximately \$200,000, but it could generate an estimated \$400,000 in revenue.

GOING WHERE NO USI STUDENT HAS GONE BEFORE

Americans were the first to walk on the moon, and now a team of USI's engineering and physics students have embarked upon their own mission-of-a-lifetime, as they design and build a miniaturized satellite, known as a U-class spacecraft and called CubeSat, that will be launched by NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) in 2018.

Their project was one of 47 national projects competitively selected and funded by NASA to give undergraduate students a hands-on experience developing and flying

research or technology experiments relevant to NASA missions.


Although nearly half of the competing teams are crafting CubeSats too, USI's is known as the Undergraduate Nano Ionospheric Temperature Explorer (UNITE), and will target the least explored layer of the atmosphere: the lower ionosphere. While traveling through the ionosphere the UNITE CubeSat will probe plasma density, determine drag characteristics of the capsule and measure temperature on the skin and in the interior of the spacecraft.

Because the project is a multi-year endeavor, the team will fluctuate as students graduate. The current team consists of 11 members, ranging from sophomores to seniors. "When I graduated from high school, I wanted to go to school for aerospace engineering, but didn't get the scholarships I was able to get here at USI," said Wyatt Helms, an engineering sophomore from Alfordsville, Indiana. "Now, it turns out I'm doing the same things I wanted to be doing."



BRINGING HOME WORLDLY INSIGHTS


..... Every summer, global engagement interns from various disciplines across campus, set off around the world to immerse themselves in foreign cultures, researching a variety of issues. It's a life-changing experience that profoundly shapes their thinking and impacts their future careers.

 Natalie Kobe '17, a French studies/teaching and English rhetoric and writing major, arrived in Morocco to teach and research the culture's views of education in relation to historical influences, use of language and cost. She expected minimal teaching duties, but instead was put in charge of a large portion of the organization's curriculum development because she was the only person in the organization with TESOL—Teaching English as a Second Language—certification, leaving her with newfound confidence.

"The experience molded me to be a more culturally competent, flexible and confident person, both personally and professionally. I'm more likely to seek out a position in a place that is linguistically diverse, fast-paced and unconventional, because I learned, as difficult as a place like that can be, that I thrive in that kind of environment."

While Meagan Patterson '16, psychology major, always had a passion for history, her experience assisting in the inventory of historical documents and artifacts at New Lanark World Heritage Site in Scotland solidified her career path.

"This was my first time traveling out of the country and the longest I had ever been away from home; I almost gave up. Instead, I learned a lot about myself, and my interest in the museum field grew stronger from working with collections, interpretation and assisting in genealogy searches for people from all over the world."

 Damien Burge '16, international studies and journalism major, worked with an organization in China, focusing on creating a better learning environment for children in rural areas. Although he had a plan, most of his objectives never materialized; instead, he took on tasks he never anticipated. He returned home feeling like he made a difference.

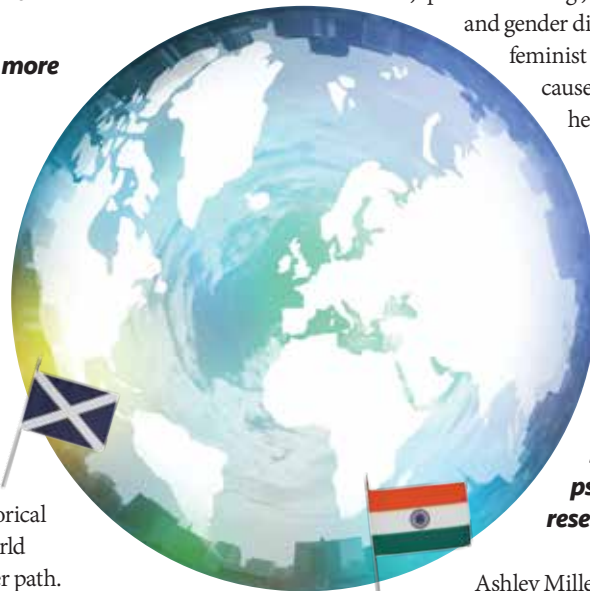
"It was a trial for me, to see if working in NGOs is something I would want to pursue, and it's definitely more of a possibility now. The biggest take away from my experience was adaptability in a changing workplace and being able to change direction and succeed."

Psychology major Melanie Belarmino's '17 experience in Japan researching Japanese women's expectations and gender differences as compared to the feminist movement in the United States, caused her to step back and analyze her values and future goals.

"Regardless of distance, people around the world are still human—they face emotional obstacles that everyone has to go through, that are unique to their culture. Instead of becoming a therapist, a career goal typical of psychology majors, I now want to help bridge cultural divides and make the world a little smaller through an anthropologic and psychologic career path that deals with research."

Ashley Miller '17, a social work major, had visited a number of countries before going to India to work with a non-profit that offers small loans to women and helps them open and/or expand their own businesses to earn income to pay for their children's schooling, and improve their housing. The first-hand knowledge of the impact microfinance can have on women's lives she gained as an intern is knowledge she'll carry for life.

"Perhaps the most important thing I learned from my internship is how to adapt to a new country and culture. This was invaluable. As a social worker, it will be my job to help people help themselves. How can I help all kinds of people if I am not willing to try and understand their culture and values?"



“OVERHEARD QUOTABLES”

“IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO ARM AN ASSASSIN, YOU CAN SIMPLY *inflame the mind of a fanatic.*”

DR. DENISE LYNN | associate professor of history, quoting Carlo Tresca in a lecture she gave concerning her research on Juliet Stuart Poyntz, an American communist and intelligence agent for the Soviet Union

“ALL OF US, IN MY FIELD, PROBABLY EVEN MORE SO AFTER THIS, WILL BE DOING *more fact checking.* IF YOU READ IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA, DOUBLE CHECK.”

BRAD BYRD | news anchor for WEHT, speaking about fake news at the Masters of Public Administration's 2016 Speaker Series

“THE VAST MAJORITY OF SPECIES *will not* BE ABLE TO EVOLVE *FAST ENOUGH TO survive.* AND BY THE WAY, THAT INCLUDES US.”

DR. MARY LYN STOLL | associate professor of philosophy, speaking about corporate political obligations and climate change

“*Don't be afraid of failure.* BE AFRAID OF SUCCESS THAT DOESN'T AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.”

RANDY BEST | chairman and founder of Academic Partnerships and entrepreneur of more than a hundred companies, speaking at the Romain College of Business' third Entrepreneurial Perspectives Series

“*We believe,* LIKE MARTIN, THAT THERE IS A *moral order* TO THE UNIVERSE. THAT WE AS AMERICANS CAN MAKE THINGS BETTER. WE AS AMERICANS CAN BRING THIS *country together.*”

CORNELL BROOKS | president and CEO of the NAACP, speaking at Martin Luther King Day

“KNOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT AND *have a plan to make it work.* YOU HAVE CHOICES EVERY DAY TO BE AN OWNERSHIP THINKER WITH A STRONG INTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL OR HAVE AN EXTERIOR LOCUS OF CONTROL IN WHICH YOU ACCEPT WHAT'S HANDED TO YOU.”

LARRY MAY | chairman and president of Keller Schroeder, speaking at the Romain College of Business' 2016 Executive in Residence

“IN MY FIRST JOB, THE CEO *didn't like finance majors* AS ANALYST, HE HIRED ENGLISH MAJORS BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WAS EASIER TO TEACH PEOPLE FINANCE THAN WRITING.”

JOHN ROBERTS | senior vice president, director of Research and Real Estate Investment Trusts, and senior analyst at Hilliard Lyons, speaking on the economic outlook at a Romain College of Business event

“PLAN TO BE A *better friend* TOMORROW THAN TODAY; PLAN TO BE A *better worker* TOMORROW THAN TODAY; PLAN TO BE A *better person* TOMORROW THAN TODAY, BUT DO NOT EVER PLAN TO BE FINISHED.”

DR. KATHY RODGERS | professor emerita of mathematics and the 2016 recipient of USI's Distinguished Professor Award, speaking at the 2016 winter commencement

Class Notes

1970s

Lana Bunner '72, business education, '91, master's in secondary education, is a professor at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

A. John Schiff, II '72, accounting, recently retired from St. Boniface Parish and Westside Catholic School after a career at Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company and Peabody Coal Company.

Ken Dossett '73, accounting, has retired from Kelly Northside Chevrolet in Evansville.

John Heard '73, management, is a sales manager for the southwest region at Cresline Plastic Pipe in Corsicana, Texas.

David Schutte '77, psychology, is the regional development officer at Youth First, Inc. in Evansville.

Thomas Peake '78, accounting, is the vice president, senior managing director, technology services for OneMain Financial in Evansville.

John West '79, business administration, is the public relations director at ACCA Companies in Evansville.

1980s

Michael Moore '80, electrical engineering technology, works at Nidec Motor Corporation as director of business development in St. Louis, Missouri.

Kirk Mann '81, accounting and management, is a comptroller for the District of Columbia Housing Authority in Washington, DC.

Janet Heldt Baas '86, management, is president and sustainability director for Old National Bank Foundation and was a finalist for the 2017 Athena Award.

Mark Head '88, management, has joined Lefler's Collision and Glass Repair Centers as the chief financial officer for the executive management team in Evansville.

1990s

Jill Brown '90, elementary education, works at XBS Technology as an analyst/managed print specialist in Evansville.

Kevin Hammett '90, accounting, the president and chief executive officer of Regency Properties, has been named the 2016 distinguished accountant by the University of Southern Indiana's Romain College of Business.

Dayne Heldt '91, communications, works at Awards America as a sales representative in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Jim Beck '92, communications, is the new director of internal/external communications for the Alcoa Corporation in Newburgh, Indiana.

Tracey Lorey '92, elementary education, has been named 2017 Superintendent of the Year for District VII by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. She is superintendent of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools in Jasper, Indiana.

Kelly Stefanich '92, business administration, is a group manager in corporate communications at Toyota Motor North America in Plano, Texas.

Rachel Nadeau '94, communications, is the executive director of community relations at

Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Jennifer Skaggs '94, accounting, is the senior accounting analyst for LG&E and KU Energy in Louisville, Kentucky.

Carla Birsá '95, communications, is a global claims manager for Cummins Inc. in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jeffrey Merrick '95, accounting, is a chief regulatory compliance officer for Evansville Water and Sewer Utility in Evansville.

William Nadeau II '95, art, is the new facilities director for the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town of Leland in Leland, North Carolina.

David Cutsinger '96, psychology, has joined Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union as a manager of IT security and risk in Evansville.

Tangela Floyd '96, communications, has been appointed as the statewide director of public relations for St. Vincent in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Alisha Aman '97, accounting, works at Ivy Tech Community College as the executive director of administration for the Wabash Valley and Southwest Regions in Evansville.

Shannon Gollner '98, psychology, '05, master's in social work, is the CEO of Apache Behavioral Health Services, Inc. in Whiteriver, Arizona.

Douglas Dewig '99, sociology, is a police officer for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in Evansville.

Jake Fulcher '99, political science, has been selected by his peers to receive the award of The Best Lawyers in America 2017.

Dina Shipley '99, communications, '06, master's in secondary education, works for the North Gibson School Corporation at Princeton Community High School as a teacher in Princeton, Indiana.

Daniela Vidal '99, business administration, director of USI's Center for Applied Research/Economic Development, was a finalist for the 2017 Athena award.

2000s

Mandy Scott '00, accounting, is a senior manager at Ernst and Young in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Wendy Summers '00, business administration, is the benefits manager at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville.

Jennifer Gamache '02, biology, '05, nursing, '09, master's in nursing, is an assistant in urology and nurse practitioner at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Amber Oakley '02, elementary education, is a first grade teacher for the Metropolitan School District of North Posey County in Poseyville, Indiana.

DID YOU Know...

When the Arts Council of Southwest Indiana decided to refresh and redesign the look of the Evansville Mayor's Art Awards, the council hand selected Sara Rappee '06, an art major, to deliver an inspired, new look for the trophy. That trophy was awarded in fall 2016 to *Will Read and Sing for Food*, founded by Scott Saalman '87, communications. See page 24 to read his story.

Kevin Rock '02, master's in business administration, is the vice president of accounting and finance, chief financial officer and treasurer at Regency Properties in Evansville.

Misty Seaton '02, master's in accounting, vice president, controller and assistant treasurer at Vectren Corporation, was a finalist for the 2017 Athena Award.

Christina Stinson '02, accounting and professional services, and finance, has joined Henderson Community College Campus as the chief business officer.



Joshua Gessling '03, political science, has been named a partner at Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, LLC law firm in Evansville.

James Gladish '03, health services, is an emergency physician at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Jennifer Guzman '03, master's in business administration, has taken on the role of senior vice president, data governance manager in Old National Bank's enterprise risk department at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Michael Shockley '03, public relations and advertising, is the new editor for KFS in Evansville.

Cassandra David '04, health services, works at St. Mary's Medical Center as a patient financial services representative in Evansville.

Robyn Tucker '04, business administration, is a new mortgage loan officer at Heritage Federal Credit Union in Newburgh, Indiana.

Amber Snow '06, management, is the HR manager at Brentwood Meadows in Newburgh, Indiana.

James Wright '06, chemistry, is a chemical safety officer at the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

Krystle Voegel '06, elementary education, '09, physical education teaching, '13, master's in science in education, works for Hester Junior High School as a teacher in Franklin Park, Illinois.

Gene Brooks '07, sociology, works as the facility security officer/security specialist for BWX Technologies, Inc. in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Scott Carr '07, political science, has been named an associate at Catalyst Public Affairs Group in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rachel Folz '07, radio and television, works at Cerkl as the director of digital marketing in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jenna Sanders '07, biology, is a physician at Norton Children's Medical Associates in Clarksville, Indiana.

Leslie Cuma-Fontaine '08, biology, is a paramedic for the White River Township Fire Department in Greenwood, Indiana.

Brittaney Johnson '08, marketing, is the executive director for the Posey County Economic Development Partnership in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Stacy Rhody '08, biology, works at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo as a veterinary hospital and quarantine keeper in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Michael Patzer '09, finance, is an iOS engineer at MailChimp in Atlanta, Georgia.

2010s

Sheena Miller '10, sociology, is the juvenile services coordinator for DeKalb County Community Corrections in Auburn, Indiana.

Melanie Rasche '10, chemistry, works at Red Spot Paint as a R&D chemist in Evansville.

Bethanie Roberts '10, accounting and professional services, is the manager for Charles A. Krblich, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Rachel Ruppel '10, sociology, is an abstractor at Land Title and Abstract Company in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Clarissa Sievers '10, communication studies, is an intelligence analyst for the Indiana Army National Guard in Kokomo, Indiana.

Jacob Smith '10, finance, works at Berry Plastics Corporation as an S&OP manager in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jennifer Bayer '11, nursing, is a flight nurse for St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Kayecee Gross '11, finance, works at International Speedway Corporation as the senior financial analyst in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Rebecca Kelley '11, master's in nursing, is the assistant director of clinical simulation labs at the University of Maryland School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland.

Amanda Allen '12, communication studies, is a hiring specialist at Best Home Furnishings in Ferdinand, Indiana.

Benjamin Hamm '12, engineering, is the product engineer for Draper Inc. in Spiceland, Indiana.

Photos

1. Ryan Strouse '12 (front left), **Stephanie (Durbin) Strouse '14** (middle right) and friends rafting Class 3-5 Nolichucky River in Asheville, North Carolina.

2. Dr. Laura Buthod '85 (pediatrician) and **Dr. Barb Koewler '85** (ob/gyn) have been traveling partners for 30-plus years. Here they're atop Sulphur Mountain in Banff, Canada, during their trip through the Canadian Rockies in July 2016.

3. Brienne Weber '08 and Blake Hillard married October 15, 2016.



STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL us
at alumni@usi.edu.

UPDATE your information and send photos via the form at USI.edu/AlumniUpdate.

Class notes may be edited for length or clarity. We regret that we may not be able to use all submitted photos, and reserve the right to select which ones are included.



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Jennifer Heckel '12, accounting and professional services, is a tax senior associate at BKD, LLP in Evansville.

Megan Miller '12, elementary education, is a teacher at Brownsburg School Corporation in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Matthew Mitchell '12, accounting and finance, works at Harding, Shymanski & Company as an audit senior in Evansville.

Diana VanHooks '12, English, works at Vectren Corporation as a technical writing specialist in Evansville.

Kayla Herron Hoehn '13, occupational therapy, '14, master's in occupational therapy, works at NCA Therapy as an occupational therapist in Daleville, Indiana.

Jordan Lorenzo '13, history, is a lawyer/law clerk at Indiana Court of Appeals in Indianapolis, Indiana.

David Martinez '13, social science teaching, works at Boulder Creek High School as a social studies teacher in Anthem, Arizona.

Heather McKinney '13, journalism, is now the digital marketing manager for 14 News in Evansville.

Emily Neumann '13, finance, works at Regency Properties as an acquisitions manager in Evansville.

Kristin Reagan '13, kinesiology, '15, master's in business administration, is a capacity analyst at Deaconess Health Systems, Inc.

Ashley Altheide '14, health services, has been promoted to manager of business partnerships at Pollux Systems in Evansville.

Ellen Hall '14, occupational therapy assistant, is a COTA/L with Aegis Therapies.

Shannon Joyce '14, elementary education, is a second grade teacher at Sugar Creek Elementary in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Kathryn Koewler '14, public relations and advertising, has been promoted to paid search manager for Acadia Healthcare Inc.'s consumer marketing department in Franklin, Tennessee.

Adam Lindauer '14, business administration, works at Berry Plastics as a supply chain production planner in Evansville.

Nikolette Pazell '14, master's in nursing, is an acute care nurse practitioner in the respiratory intensive care unit at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah.

Rachael Schipp '14, social work, '16, master's in social work, is a therapist at Ireland Home Based Services in Evansville.

Jordan Whitedge '14, economics, '16, master's in business administration, has recently accepted the position of portfolio manager at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Blake Bruner '15, sports management, works for the Evansville Thunderbolts as ticket sales manager in Evansville.

Diane McBride '15, accounting, is a staff associate at Myriad CPA Group in Evansville.

Priscilla Runion '15, communication studies, is a strategic assistant to the CEO at Hixon Zuercher Capital Management in Findlay, Ohio.

Photos

4. Shan Sherwin Hussein '13 '15 is an economic empowerment officer with Women Protection and Empowerment at International Rescue Committee in Sulaimani, Iraq, where she works with Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have been displaced by conflict.

5. Shelby (Smith) Jackson '15 and **Joshua Jackson '15** married May 21, 2016. They met in a marketing class.

6. Allen Dill '11 moved to Guam with his family Abby, Jack and Ruby to serve as the Asia region content manager for Trans World Radio in Asan, Guam.

7. Kasee (Mosier) Hobbs '11 and Cody welcomed son Ty Michael, July 28.

DID YOU Know...

Hoping to help others dealing with deadly diseases, **Steve Schenck '72** and his wife **Becky** decided to write a book after she was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2006. *Beyond Words* offers inspiration and helpful insights to others who are caring for loved ones with terminal illness. Proceeds from the book go to Christamore House Becky Schenck Early Childhood Education Center and the Community Health Network Foundation.

Amy Stucker '15, elementary education, is an elementary teacher at Ayeyarwaddy International School in Mandalay, Myanmar.

Andrea Wood '15, business administration, is the assistant manager at Sherwin Williams in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Courtney Dressler '16, health services, is studying higher education administration for graduate school at University of Mississippi, where she's an advising graduate assistant.

Matt Duffy '16, accounting and professional services, works at Ernst & Young as an assurance staff member in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Alexander Hoffmann '16, radio and television, is studying human computer interaction-design for graduate school at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Kaitlyn Richardson '16, social work, has been elected as the MSW student representative to the board of directors for the NASW Indiana Chapter.

Marriages

Kelly Riesenbeck '92, business administration, and **Richard Stefanich '93**, science teaching, December 29, 2015.

Jennifer Skaggs '94, accounting, and Richard Hill, September 26, 2015.

Jennifer Kluesner '99, health services, '08, RN/MS nursing, '10, master's in nursing, '13, doctorate in nursing practice and Bryce Evans, January 9, 2016.

LeeAnn Baker '05, respiratory therapist, and **Marcus Enlow '00**, radio and television, October 1, 2016.

James Wright '06, chemistry, and Cindy Garcia, September 4, 2015.

Leslie Cuma '08, biology, and Zack Fontaine, May 5, 2015.

Kristina Pelly '08, political science, and Anthony Filocamo, April 17, 2016.

Alison Eaton '09, elementary education, and Blaine Furrer, August 22, 2015.

Michael Patzer '09, elementary education, and Rachel Koval, August 29, 2015.

Jamie Perry '11, accounting and professional services, and **Jacob Smith '10**, finance, June 21, 2014.

Celeste Drew '12, accounting, and **Derek Tabor '12**, accounting, October 30, 2015.

Photos

8. April Mitchell-Nading '89 is passionate about hot yoga, having practiced it for 15 years. "It's truly changed my life. This is me doing Flying Warrior pose. Not bad for an old broad!"

9. Mary Jane (Baine) Silvey '82 and her mother wearing a prayer shawl that was made by the prayer shawl ministry group Mary Jane belongs to. The group knits and/or crochets shawls for people needing comfort and solace during a difficult time or illness. "Our group has made over 100 prayer shawls to date!"

10. Andrew McGuire '08 has a passion for umpiring professional tennis tournaments (he's a part-time pro) and officiated the U.S. Open in 2016.

11. Alan Tompkins '83 is a bass player in the Texas & Tennessee Band. He created the nonprofit Bluegrass Heritage Foundation in 2008 to preserve and promote bluegrass music in the Dallas, Texas, region.



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11

Photo Credit: Alan Tompkins



Photos

12. Joshua Dodd '09 began running marathons in 2013 and has participated in them in seven states and two continents. This photo is from Altenburg, Germany.

13. Roger Lynch '93 loves gardening and is a Master Gardener. He co-chaired the replica of a Mississippian garden, The Three Sisters at Angle Mounds, which was selected as the "Garden of the Year."

14. Michael Shirrell '03 '06 ran the 2016 Monumental Marathon in Indianapolis (his 14th marathon) in 2:45:06. He's run in the Boston Marathon three times, too.

15. Dan Fulkerson '87 has been passionately running 26.2 marathons for 13 years. "I am currently training to run the Boston Marathon in April 2017. It will be my 25th marathon."

Sarah Lehman '12, communication studies, and James Snyder, September 1, 2016.

Robyn Scott '12, public relations and advertising, and Matthew Fuhrman, October 8, 2016.

Jennifer Tempel '12, accounting and professional services, and Korey Heckel, July 9, 2016.

Heather Wargel '13, journalism, and Russel McKinney, October 24, 2015.

Kayla Hoehn '13, occupational therapy, '14, master's in occupational therapy, and David Herron, October 22, 2016.

Haley Oeth '14, public relations and advertising, and Nathaniel Duckworth, September 5, 2015.

Ellen Shrode '14, occupational therapy, and David Hall, April 22, 2016.

Rachael Vincent '14, social work, '16, master's in social work, and John Schipp, September 15, 2016.

Jill Wheeler '14, nursing, and Gregory Sither, January 6, 2016.

Jordan Whitledge '14, economics, '16, master's in business administration, and Robin Forney, September 24, 2016.

Andrea Dickinson '15, business administration, and Matthew Wood, May 21, 2016.

Diane Lintzenich '15, accounting, and Josh McBride, June 4, 2016.

Whitney Wilson '15, public relations and advertising, and Christopher Laird, July 23, 2016.

Births and Adoptions

Cassandra Harris David '04, health services, and Edwin welcomed Griffin David on June 1, 2016.

Lindsay Wilson Hartmann '04, public relations and advertising, and Benjamin welcomed Abel Henry on May 18, 2016.

Alison Eaton Furrer '09, elementary education, and Blaine welcomed Daxton on October 4, 2016.

Ashley Sanders Kuester '09, nursing, '14, master's in nursing, and **Jeremy Kuester '12**, master's in public administration, welcomed Colton on August 8, 2016.

Carrie Rudolph Poag '09, occupational therapy, '10, master's in occupational therapy, and Brandon welcomed Caiden Henry and Mason William on October 27, 2016.

Lauren Unfried '11, psychology, and **Wesley Unfried '12**, biology, welcomed Elliot on August 15, 2016.

Priscilla Cross Runion '15, communication studies, welcomed Adria Rose on March 2, 2016.

In Memoriam

Ruth Scherer '72, accounting, of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, died January 23, 2017, at the age of 90. She was USI's oldest living alumna. She was a past Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as an active member of First United Methodist Church, Tri-Kappa and Mt. Vernon Garden Club.

S. Larry Edwardson '73, accounting, of Crisfield, Maryland, died December 10, 2016. He retired from a long career as a certified financial planner with Waddell & Reed Inc.

Carol Ledbetter '73, elementary education, of Evansville, died August 27, 2016. Throughout her lifetime, she served as a Girl Scout leader, as well as a volleyball and softball coach.

Dr. John Besing '74, biology, of Cleveland, Tennessee, died January 15, 2017. He enjoyed body building, fishing, camping, parachuting, reading and making model boats. He spent the last 10 years of his life at Bradley Healthcare and Rehab.

Chris Bradford Skelton '74, English, of New Albany, Indiana, died January 5, 2017. He served in the U.S. Navy as a personnel-man from 1975-1979. He spent most of his time teaching at San Diego Office of Education.

Michael Battram '75, biophysics, of Evansville, died August 27, 2016.

Carole Cook '76, elementary education, of Bradenton, Florida, died October 13, 2016. She retired from Warrick County School Corporation in 2010 where she spent 24 years as an educator.

Diane Cowling '78, radiologic technology, of Haubstadt, Indiana, died October 11, 2016. She was the supervisor of radiology at Gibson General Hospital in Princeton, Indiana.

Betty McLean '80, social science, of Evansville, died February 1, 2017. She worked as a caseworker for Indiana Department of Family and Children's Services and was a longstanding member of Amvets Number 84 Ladies Auxiliary.

Franklin Spain Jr. '83, biology, of Lafayette, Indiana, died December 13, 2016.



16

Damita Wash '83, computer information systems, of Scottsdale, Arizona, died August 23, 2016.

William Aldridge '88, social science teaching, of Winslow, Indiana, died January 3, 2017.



17

He retired from the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant in the airborne division after serving three tours of duty in Vietnam.

Brenda Harker '89, management, of Newburgh, Indiana, died December 16, 2016.



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She retired from Mead Johnson after 35 years of service.

Nancy (Sieben) Koehler '93, communications, of Evansville, died February 3, 2017. She was executive director for Deaconess Foundation for 23 years.

Chad Smith '99, social science teaching, of Terre Haute, Indiana, died August 24, 2016. While at USI, he earned all-region in cross country, all-GLVC in cross country and track, three times. He also finished 12th at Nationals in the 10k, and in the spring of 1997 he finished 12th at Nationals in the Steeplechase. He taught and coached for many years.

Michelle Hohman Jenkins '01, social science, of Evansville, died November 4, 2016. She was employed at Parkdale Animal Hospital as a veterinarian assistant for 11 years.

Jennifer Galloway '02, accounting, of Wadesville, Indiana, died December 10, 2015.

Lindsay Hoehn Suits '03, elementary education, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died August 21, 2016. She served as the Black Township trustee from 2011 to present.

Candace Wells '08, master's in nursing, of Tallahassee, Florida, died December 28, 2016.

Carolyn Shikowitz Levesque '16, doctorate in nursing practice, of Smithfield, Rhode Island, died August 20, 2016.



19

DID YOU Know...

It was a tweet that prompted **Kristina (Fitzgerald) Arwood '13**, an art major and 2014 Efroymsen Bridge Year Fellow, to remember how hard it was for her family to pay for school lunch when she was in grade school. Wanting to lend a helping hand to other families facing that same struggle, as the tweet suggested, she started a GoFundMe account to raise money to pay off the school-lunch debts of children at Cedar Hall Community School, hoping to raise \$320. The community responded and donations flooded in, so she reevaluated her goal of paying off the debt of one school to include all schools in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer counties. The dollars added up, resulting in fundraising \$20,487. "While we didn't make enough to pay off every single school debt, I can't believe how much we were able to raise!" Arwood said. "This was an amazing project to work on and I hope we can do something similar in the future."

Photos

16. Eric '00 '07 and Becky (Pike) '00 Glines enjoy kayaking and jeeping with their two children, Eli and Avery. The couple met as students at USI.

17. Brandon Dreiman '96 (in white) loves taking others down as he practices Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

18. Nick Pressley '09 (back row, right end) has logged over 600 hours volunteering with Special Olympics Morgan County. "These people are like family to me!"

19. Sally Gries '02 M'16 (center) with alumna **Melissa Bullock '10 M'13 M'17** and their running partner at the 2017 Dopey Challenges in Walt Disney World, Florida. The trio ran four consecutive races, totaling 48.6 miles

Serah was born into the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya.



At one time, Serah wanted to become a fashion merchandiser.

If there's one thing Dr. Serah Theuri is passionate about, it's nutrition as a means of improving health. The assistant professor of Food and Nutrition is concerned with not only USI students becoming top-notch nutritionists, but she's also determined to improve the community's health through the educational work she and her students do at USI-Glenwood Community Health Clinic. However, there's more to this mother of two than what's on her plate at USI; she loves to travel, sew and more, as well. Although she feels like nutritionists "swim against the current" due to our culture's food politics and environmental eating influences, she wouldn't want any other career.



than a means to improve their lives in the future. Maintaining the motivation to learn was a challenge, but I learned that when I set high expectations for learning and required high quality work, the students rose to the occasion. I incorporate the same high expectations in my teaching at USI, and although I have a reputation for being a tough instructor, in the end, students appreciate what I require of them.

market food and beverage. The combined efforts to offer convenience, larger portions for less money and adding nutrients in otherwise unhealthy foods that taste good, do contribute to popularity of unhealthy foods that affect consumer health.

In your professional opinion, what one book should everyone read, and why?

"The Blue Zone Solutions: Eating and Living Like the World's Healthiest People" by Dan Buettner. This book is more than a nutrition prescription. It discusses how one can transform health using smart eating and lifestyle habits gleaned from new research on diets, eating habits and lifestyle practices of the world's longest-lived and healthiest people.

What student/faculty interactive moment stands out the most in your years of teaching?

Two kinds of interactive moments stand out the most. First, during class, when a difficult concept becomes clear to the student and I see the "got it" expression. The other moment relates to when a class is not going so well and I have to adjust my methods to make learning take place.

How would you like students to remember you?

As a positive role model.



You taught women nutrition in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for three years. What did you learn from that experience that you've incorporated into your teaching at USI?

Shortly after I started teaching at Zayed University in the UAE, I realized that the students had a very different reason for seeking a college degree. Those students came from wealthy families, and a college degree for the majority of them was more a status symbol

The approach to health care in the United States focuses on responding to diseases rather than prevention. What three nutritional decisions can individuals make to improve their health and prevent diseases?

1. Gradually eat more whole foods as you decrease highly processed foods.
2. Eat the largest meals earlier in the day and the smallest in the late afternoon or early evening. The larger meals help to fuel the active part of your day.
3. Predetermine your food portions before each meal and stick with the portions to avoid weight gain. If you still feel hungry, load up on healthy, low-calorie foods such as vegetables.

What is food politics and how does it impact our health and wellness?? It's the food industry's force behind aggressive marketing, lobbying and legislation that influences food choices. The food industry capitalizes on factors such as taste, cost, convenience, consumer ignorance and consumer confusion to advertise and

An avid baker, Serah specializes in whole wheat bread and granola.

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Spirit and Heart of USI



"The Norwegian Foot March brings a special energy and camaraderie to USI, and I think it's an honor that the University can offer this unique event. I've photographed the event for two years as a student worker in Photography and Multimedia. The 4 a.m. wake-up call is definitely worth it. Soldiers come from all over the nation to march the 18.6 miles in and around our campus, and go home with bloody feet and an overwhelming sense of accomplishment."

Aleisha Jones '17, business administration

Visit USI.edu/spiritheart for student submission guidelines.