Bertram, Gouard named Hall of Famers; Weaver receives GLVC Bertram Award

The University of Southern Indiana's Dr. Charles Bertram, Stanley Gouard '99, and Dr. Jane Weaver '87 have been recognized by the Great Lakes Valley Conference for their contributions to the league and to intercollegiate athletics.

Bertram and Gouard will be inducted into the GLVC Hall of Fame during the conference's spring meeting in May. Weaver received the GLVC Dr. Charles Bertram Alumni Award of Distinction at the GLVC Tournament in March. The award is based on academic excellence and athletic ability during the student-athlete's career and personal distinction since graduation.

The late Bertram was a major contributor to what USI athletics and the GLVC have become today. As the USI faculty athletic representative from the 1970s until his death in 1999, Bertram helped steer the USI athletics program and was the University's voice at NCAA conventions.

See Awards, page 2

Varsity Club Steak Fry & Auction raises record $24,000

The Varsity Club Steak Fry & Auction raised a record $24,000 in November. The event had a best-ever 370 reservations with the dinner portion of the evening raising $7,400. The silent auction, live auction, and raffle of theme baskets cleared another $16,600. All proceeds will go to scholarships and support for student athletes.

Winners of the costume awards at the Halloween-themed Steak Fry & Auction were Jesse Watkins (top left) as Dennis Rodman, best male costume; Helen Hamilton (bottom right) as a sumo wrestler, best female costume; Nikki and Marc Hostetter (middle row right) as Foxy C leopatra and Austin Powers, best couple; and the group of Susie Woosley, Brenda A ltstadt (front row); Russ Woosley, Jamie and Jack M oil (middle row); and Mark Alstad (back row next to Watkins) as the Flintstones, best group.
Brian Zolner has been named assistant athletic trainer in the University of Southern Indiana Department of Athletics.

He comes to USI from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, where he was the assistant athletic trainer, working as the primary athletic trainer for football, men's basketball, men's and women's outdoor track, and baseball. Zolner was formerly the head athletic trainer for the River City Renegades, a member of the Indoor Professional Football League.

He received a bachelor's degree in sports medicine and exercise science from Valdosta State University in 1999 and earned a master's degree in athletic training administration from Lindenwood University in 2000.

Senior utility player Rachel Bowling (Middleton, Indiana) is already the all-time leader in home runs (33) and runs batted in (117) for the University of Southern Indiana softball team.

Her efforts during the three-day tournament helped lead the Screaming Eagles to the deciding game for the GLVC championship.

Bowling finished 2002 with a career-high .388 batting average to go along with a school-record and conference-high 16 home runs. She finished second in the GLVC with a team-high 41 RBIs and was named first-team All-GLVC and All-Region. Her talents were not limited to the plate. She appeared in 16 games on the mound and 38 games in the outfield. Bowling posted a 1.73 earned run average as a pitcher and recorded a career-high .988 fielding percentage.

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Bowling started her career at USI with a bang, earning first-team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference honors and the GLVC “Freshman of the Year.”

Entering her final season at USI, Bowling is tied for third all-time at USI in career walks (56) and fourth all-time in career doubles (31). She needs 13 doubles and 16 walks to become USI’s all-time leader in both categories. She needs to score just seven more runs to enter the top five all-time at USI in career runs scored.

Bowling

Southern Indiana softball team.

When she takes the field for her final campaign, she will have a chance to add to those records and move up the lists in bases-on-balls, doubles, and runs scored.

Her offensive talents were summed up during the 2002 Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament when she recorded a .375 batting average with five home runs and nine RBIs.

“Rachel made a tremendous difference in our offensive line-up during the GLVC Tournament,” Sue Kunkle, head coach, said. “She was very patient at the plate to wait for good pitchers.”

Bowling

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was a member of the GLVC and NCAA nominating committees.

Bertram also left a big impression on children in “Eagle Math,” a program he created to help second and third graders improve their math skills.

Eagle Math is now in its fifth year.

Gouard joins the 2003 class of the GLVC Hall of Fame after a stellar career at USI. The two-time national Player of the Year helped lead the Screaming Eagles to the 1995 NCAA Division II National Championship, the 1994 NCAA Division II Championship game, two Great Lakes Region titles, two GLVC crowns, and a three-year record of 82-12.

Individually, Gouard was a two-time All-American and was named first team All-GLVC three years in a row. He averaged 18.8 points and 7.7 rebounds during his three years and broke the USI single season record for steals (66) in 1994-95.

Following his USI career, Gouard played professionally overseas and in South America. He returned to USI to finish a degree in communications in 1999 and joined the USI coaching staff as an assistant for the 2001-02 season. This year he is an assistant with the University of Indianapolis.

Weaver played for the USI women’s basketball team between 1985 and 1987. Following graduation from USI, she earned a medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed a residency in general surgery at the University of Louisville.

She began her medical career with Indiana Surgical Specialists in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 2001, she decided to devote herself to full-time missionary work in Ecuador after spending time as a general surgeon at a hospital there.

Weaver is the second USI graduate to receive the GLVC Bertram Award. Mike Bernier ‘83, a St. Louis optometrist and former USI soccer player, received it last year.

The conference recognizes one male and one female former student athlete each year. The first awards were presented in 2001.
**Varsity Club News**

**Join Varsity Club for lunch at Outback Steakhouse**

For a second year, Evansville's Outback Steakhouse will open its doors for a special event April 8 to benefit the USI Varsity Club programs and activities. Usually closed at mid-day, the restaurant will provide lunch and donate all proceeds.

USI coaches and staff will be waiting tables to show appreciation to Varsity Club members and all Screaming Eagles fans.

Tickets may be purchased for $20 each from Varsity Club board members or from the Varsity Club office. Two seatings will be available. Watch for more details as the date nears, or call 464-1973 for information.

**Make reservations for USI/Varsity Club Golf Scramble**

Plan now to participate in the popular USI/Varsity Club Golf Scramble set for June 12 at Helfrich Golf Course in Evansville. The event has come close to selling out the last five years.

Entry fees are $100 per person for green fee, cart, and dinner; $200 for Bronze Eagle Hole Sponsor, which includes hole signage and dinner for two; $600 for a Silver Eagle Hole Sponsor, which includes a foursome's green fees, carts, dinner, and hole signage; and $1,000 for a Gold Eagle Hole Sponsor, which includes a foursome's green fees, carts, dinners, hole signage, golf shirts, and recognition at the Awards Banquet.

Last summer's golf scramble raised nearly $23,000 for the USI Athletic Department. To make early reservations, call the Varsity Club Office at 812/464-1973.

**Time remains to fund scholarships with membership dues**

The Varsity Club has raised a record $136,000 through membership dues for 2002-03, 88 percent of its way toward this year's membership goal of $153,500.

The club, which has 16 memberships at the new $2,000 Screaming Eagles level, is in the third year of a five-year challenge by USI President H. Ray Hoops to fully fund athletic scholarships. All money raised through Varsity Club membership dues supports athletic scholarships, which help USI attract more outstanding high school athletes who want to earn a degree and continue to excel in sports.

The Varsity Club has until June 30 to reach the $153,500 goal for 2002-03. (See page 4 for information about benefit levels and a contact number.)

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**Donors, scholarship recipients honored**

Donors of the following scholarships and the student athletes who received them were recognized in January prior to men's basketball games.

- **Larry W. Aarp Business Scholarship:** Aday Skodinski (men's golf)
- **Bertram Memorial Scholarship:** Nichole Freyberger (women's tennis)
- **Judy Goen Memorial Scholarship:** Adam Schiff (baseball)
- **John Hollinden Memorial Scholarship:** Davion T. Givens (men's basketball)
- **Burgdorf Screaming Eagles Scholarship:** Shannon Wells (volleyball, women's basketball)
- **Dersch Screaming Eagles Scholarship:** Bethany Miller (women's basketball)
- **Sylvester Englert Screaming Eagles Scholarship:** Mike A mold (men's basketball)
- **Rebecca Englert Screaming Eagles Scholarship:** A. Shely Green (women's basketball)
- **Rexing Screaming Eagles Scholarship:** A. Ian Goff (men's basketball)
- **Kaffenberger Scholarship:** M. Everton Woolley (women's basketball)
- **Debbie Lester Scholarship:** Cris Brunson (men's basketball)
- **Wright/Pender Scholarship:** Billy Harris (men's basketball)
- **Varsity Club Bennett Scholarship:** Ginnie Roberts (softball)
- **Varsity Club Bertram Scholarship:** Brett Smith (men's golf)
- **Varsity Club Pearl Scholarship:** Nichole Freyberger (women's tennis) and Andrew Skodinski (men's golf)
- **H. Byron and Marjorie C. Hubbard Athletic Scholarship:** Brian Scroggins (baseball)
- **Bill Moutoux Endowed Athletic Scholarship:** Michelle Lenahan (women's tennis)

**Scholarship donor Joe Hollinden, left, and Rick Herdes, USI head coach for men's basketball**

**National Letter of Intent — goal for athletes, coaches**

S. Jay Newton
Assistant Director of Athletics/Compliance Coordinator

We often hear in college athletics that “signing date is near.” In the world of recruiting, the ultimate goal of a collegiate coach is to get a high school or junior college recruit to sign a National Letter of Intent.

A National Letter of Intent (NLI) is a written agreement between the institution and the recruit that, in exchange for athletics financial aid for one full academic year, a prospective student athlete makes a commitment to attend the signing institution for one full academic year. Once the recruit signs the NLI, all other institutions must cease recruitment of that individual. It is important that the recruit be sure of his or her decision because severe penalties can result if the recruit has a change of mind after signing with an institution.

Many regulations go along with the NLI. Some have to do with how the recruits receive the letter or where they actually sign the document. There is even a rule regarding who may be present when they sign. However, one of the most important rules has to do with timing. Throughout the year certain periods are deemed “signing dates.” Unless the recruit signs with the institution within these dates, the NLI will be deemed invalid. During these signing dates coaches learn whether their recruiting efforts will pay off.

For more information

www.national-letter.org
GLVC honors seven as outstanding players, freshmen

With the success of USI fall sports, individual awards followed. Three student athletes were named GLVC Player of the Year and four more were named GLVC Freshman of the Year. Kneeling are junior Joey Byrne, men’s cross country Runner of the Year, and Heather Cooksey, women’s cross country Freshman of the Year. Seated are Freshmen of the Year Ashley Rees, women’s tennis, and Amanda Zehner, women’s golf. Standing are senior Shannon Wells, volleyball Player of the Year; Kyle Penick, men’s soccer Freshman of the Year; and senior Greg Henry, men’s soccer Player of the Year.

USI Men’s Soccer Alumni Game
3 p.m. • April 26 • For information, call 812/464-1946

Varsity Club membership
The Varsity Club benefits USI intercollegiate athletics with financial support and fan participation. Five membership levels are available with special benefits at each level.

Silver Eagle ($125) — Admission to Varsity Club Room hospitality events, name on Varsity Club Roster in Physical Activities Center, Eagle Outlook newsletter, invitations to fan trips, special events and A.I.I.-Sports Picnic, basketball season ticket priority

Golden Eagle ($250) — Above benefits plus souvenir basketball press guide and invitation to basketball pre-season events

Regal Eagle ($500) — Above benefits plus pregame event at University Home

All-American Eagle ($1,000) — Above benefits plus reserved parking for basketball games, post-season ticket priority

Screaming Eagle ($2,000) — Above benefits plus personal parking place for basketball games


Giving to USI was never easier!
https://www.usi.edu/giving/ssl/giftform.htm

University of Southern Indiana is an affirmative action/equal employment opportunity institution.