



illumine

—University of Southern Indiana—

CATALYST | SPRING 2019



features

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YOU said | feedback

ACCOLADES

Congratulations on your awards for illume from CASE. The magazine always looks great graphically and I really enjoy the content. The piece on the softball team was wonderful. Your award is well deserved.

Erin McCracken Merris
Evansville, Indiana



Scott Rich

It's a great school with such a wide array of majors with various in-depth concentrations from which to choose. In terms of affordability and academics, I believe USI is by far the best university in the region! Proud alumnus of USI! GO EAGLES!!!

AN UNSTOPPABLE MAGAZINE

Great edition. Getting better all the time.

Suzann Baehl '99
Evansville, Indiana



jjmcall

This project is almost there! So excited to watch the first exhibition game at the new #usiarena #arena #glvc #screamingeagles @stlcannondesign @usiedu @usiathletics



Juls White

@yulievite

This is a place that is going to support everyone! -Dr. Ron Rochon #usirolemodel #whenyourleaderhasvision #caringcommunity #lovingwhereyouwork



Gabbi McCarty

@gxbbinic

I have not laughed or smiled this much for weeks. Feels so good to be making amazing memories with some of my fav people @USledu



kaelee_moody

I love this place enough to call it my home for the next 4 years ;)



Harvard University

@Harvard

What was the best class you've ever taken?



Moore Matters

@mooremattersllc

Replying to @Harvard

Geology, Geography, and the Landscape of America GEOL 123 w/ Dr. Joseph DiPietro . It helped to shape my entire educational plan and solidify precision in my study habits @USledu



Megan Williams

Everything about the University of Southern Indiana is so nice.

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Congratulations to the entire team for the two very prestigious awards! Without your talents, our work would not shine so brightly.

Thank you for everything you do.

Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson
Evansville, Indiana

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 Letters mailed to the editor may be published in the magazine unless the author states it is not for publication.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.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Accounts for A Lot

What does USI have in common with Cornell University, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, University of Pittsburgh and University of Wisconsin in Madison? This year all five have the highest pass rates on the Certified Management Accountant exam in the world according to the Institute of Management Accountants. Yes, the *world*. Accounting students from all five institutions achieve a 90 percent pass rate or better on the exam. The average exam pass rate for students from every other institution in the world is 50 percent.

Happy Feet

Southern Indiana Dance Marathon student administrators said they didn't set a goal for the 2018 dance, but they crushed it when \$104,678.15 was raised. That's \$12,000 more than the previous year. Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, USI president, joined in as students danced and swayed for 10 hours to raise funds for the Riley Children's Foundation for the eighth year.

US(I) News and World Report

U.S. News and World Report ranks USI among the best in the nation for online, graduate schools and undergraduate colleges.

- College of Nursing and Health Professions is recognized as one of the best online nursing graduate programs and nursing graduate schools.
- Romain College of Business is recognized as one of the best online Master of Business Administration programs and undergraduate business colleges.
- USI is recognized as one of the best universities for a graduate degree in social work and an undergraduate degree in engineering.

New York, New York

USI's award-winning chamber choir is off to the Big Apple to perform at Carnegie Hall in Stern Auditorium on May 26. Joined by singers from other institutions, they will perform Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem" with the New York Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Simon Carrington. Tickets go on sale 60 days prior to the concert at carnegiehall.org/events.

STEPPING UP

Megan Doyle '09, assistant director in Special Events and Scheduling Services, gets around. The department oversees nearly 10,000 events and generates almost 30,000 individual bookings per year: scheduling academic classes and exams, student organization meetings and events, small and large department meetings, interviews, speaking engagements, donor events, Screaming Eagles Orientations and Welcome Week activities, lunches, dinners, receptions and ceremonies. "If it takes place at 8600 University Boulevard, our office makes a reservation and assigns an event planner," she says.

Doyle tracked her steps at a few recent events and learned the work required a lot of hoofing.

STEPS LOGGED

- FACULTY CONVOCATION : 15,500
- GUEST SPEAKER KEACH HAGEY : 13,200
- PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES SET UP : 13,000
- PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATES : 21,000
- JUST A REGULAR WEDNESDAY : 14,038
- COMMENCEMENT SET UP : 35,095
- COMMENCEMENT : 15,681

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Dr. Ronald S. Rochon speaks on the purpose and role of education in society.

Q: In your opinion, what is the value of higher education?

A: It's transformative for both the individuals pursuing an education and the communities they will one day serve.

For those seeking intellectual capital and upward mobility, the higher ed path offers the opportunity to discover who they are and what they want out of life by exposing them to new thoughts and new ways of doing. They, in turn, apply that knowledge to communities, both domestic and international. This is essential to the advancement of society and made possible through collaboration between institutions and communities.

Q: The relationship between communities and higher education is symbiotic. What challenges does higher education face in terms of benefiting communities?

A: The main challenge is how to be accessible to all individuals of the population who are interested in earning a higher education degree. Society wrestles with the ability to reach and uplift the underserved, but it is vital to the advancement and enrichment of society that all people have a voice in the sustainment and growth of their community. It's imperative that universities and colleges continue to develop pathways that make education not only more available, but also convenient for those with fewer resources.

Q: What sets USI apart from other institutions?

A: We have an inviting campus with faculty of record who are deliberate and intentional

in their engagement with students, as well as a caring and unique community both on and off campus. Our size allows us to get things done. It allows us to get to know the people who entrust us to deliver their educational needs.

Q: What are the biggest challenges higher education faces, and how is USI responding?

A: Cost and enrollment. We are still one of the most affordable four-year universities in the state and region, but costs are always rising. Our role is to be trusted stewards of our resources and return a sound investment on them for those who partner with us. In doing so, our faculty and administrators must be responsive to the educational needs of society, otherwise enrollment will always suffer. The ways in which people are seeking an education today differs from 20 years ago. Students have high expectations of what an education can deliver, and we must rise to meet those challenges and opportunities.

Q: What is your greatest concern for higher education's future?

A: The preconceived notion by some that only certain individuals are deserving of this opportunity. Education is for everyone. Higher education is where we start to grow into the best we can be. I come from a home where my mom and dad were 17 and 18 years old, respectively, when I was born. A lot of people don't expect the kid of teenagers to go to college, but we need to afford that opportunity to everyone who wants it.

If society develops an elitist attitude toward education, with predetermined notions of who should or should not attend college, it could lead to homogenized classes when what we need most is diversity. People with different experiences, different viewpoints and different solutions to societal issues, problems and needs are necessary.

SCHOOL PICTURE

Elementary School

Attending St. Ailbe Catholic Elementary School in Chicago, Dr. Rochon walked to school, wore a uniform and ate many lunches in the school cafeteria, but sometimes his mother packed his lunch. His favorite was a bacon sandwich.

High School

To get to high school at Chicago Willibrord Catholic High School (home of the Warriors) he had to catch two Chicago Transit Authority buses and then walk the rest of the way. Notably a shy teen, he ran for class president his senior year and won. His favorite teacher was Mrs. Jefferson. "She made me feel like I could learn science."

Undergraduate

Away from home at Tuskegee University in Alabama, he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science, became president of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, and lived in Residence Hall C, Room 110.

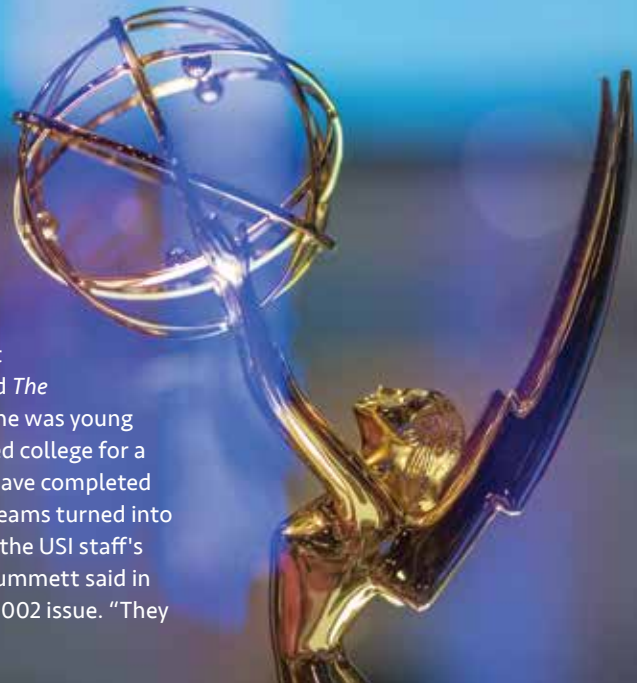
Grad School

While pursuing a master's and doctorate at the University of Illinois, he had two pet snakes—a ball python named Amadeus and a reticulated python named Omega—and appeared on the children's show "3-2-1 Contact," educating kids about the digestion system using a pig. View the video at usi.edu/Rochon.

DIGGING IN:

WHY IS THERE AN EMMY IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS OFFICES?

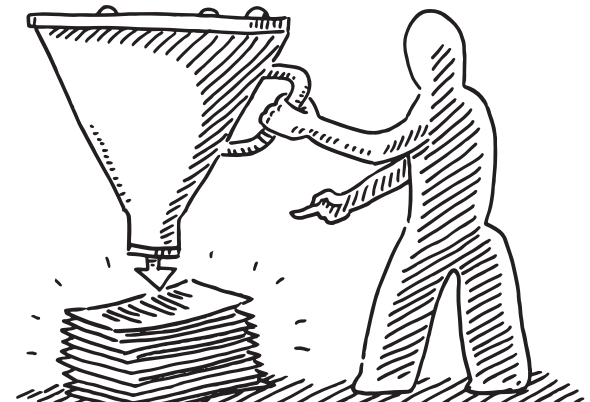
The Emmy (displayed in the administrative suite of the College) was awarded to former student Dan Brummett for his work on the soap opera *The Young and the Restless* and gifted to the University to inspire students to achieve their goals. During his 23 years editing and directing for the daytime drama, he received 12 Emmys. In hindsight, it seems apropos that Brummett worked on a show titled *The Young and the Restless*, given that he was young and restless too when he decamped college for a career in Hollywood. He may not have completed his degree, but his young-man's dreams turned into a lifetime of success. "I remember the USI staff's dedication to me as a student," Brummett said in an article in *USI Magazine* Winter 2002 issue. "They wanted to see me succeed."



MAKING HISTORY

History stops for no one and memories fade, so USI's History Department teamed up with the *Made in Evansville* campaign folks to capture and collect oral histories at a variety of cultural and civic festivals throughout the Tri-state. The goal is to collect memories, stories and recollections about Evansville, and introduce USI students to the process of conducting oral history interviews and the importance of maintaining regional history archives. "By making those resources fully accessible via a digitally archived website, this project, in tandem with the existing archives at USI, will better connect the University's historical resources to the community," said Dr.

Kristalyn Shefvland, associate professor of history.



Survey Roundup

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the *illum* 2018 survey. Your insights and feedback will help ensure our editorial team provides you with stimulating content that advances your understanding of the world, and USI's role in continuing to make a difference in it through academic programing and strong student/faculty relationships.

Survey-taking winners of the art donated by faculty were:

1. **Shelby Seaton '14**, early childhood education, Brett Anderson's illustrations
2. **Amy Campbell '95**, biology, Min Pak's photo
3. **Chris Kessler '91**, psychology, Rob Millard-Mendez's sculpture
4. **Andrew McGuire M'19**, data analytics and human resources, Xinran Hu's wallet
5. **Dr. Ethel Elkins**, associate professor of health services, Al Holen's mug

COPS ON CAMPUS

The safety and well-being of USI's students, faculty, staff and visitors took a dramatic uptick with the assignment of five Vanderburgh County Sheriff's deputies to patrol campus on a full-time basis. The USI Patrol Unit was created within the Sheriff's Office Operations Division. This is in addition to the comprehensive coverage provided by USI's Public Safety officers. The deputies—three are USI graduates (Gilbert Roberts '99, Logan Osborne '14, Toby Wolfe '98) and several of them are EMTs—partnered with the University's Public Safety team last fall. They patrol campus in marked sheriff's cars and engage with the USI community.

"We have a strong track record of safety on this campus but having these sworn deputies on duty full-time provides an extra layer of security to make our campus a safer place for everyone," said Steve Bequette, director of USI Public Safety.

WORD'S OUT

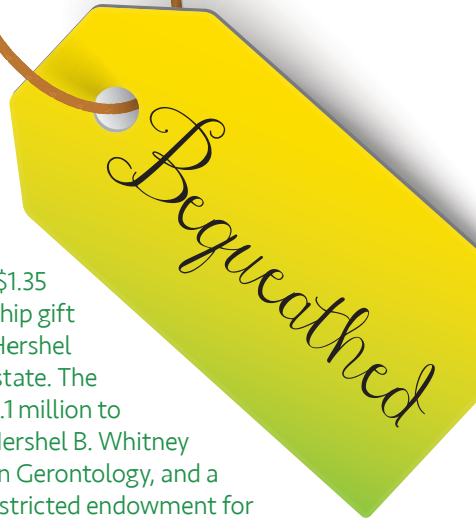
THE LYRICS TO USI'S NEW FIGHT SONG WERE SCRIPTED BY ZACH PRICE '19, EXERCISE SCIENCE AND MARKETING MAJOR, AND THE MELODY SCORED BY THOMAS MACE, USI'S PEP BAND DIRECTOR. IT WAS REVEALED AT HOMECOMING TO AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD.

FIGHT ON SCREAMING EAGLES

Fight on, Screaming Eagles!
Fly your colors brave and true!
Relentless and storied, lead us to glory,
fight for the red, white and blue!
(RAH! RAH! RAH!)
Filled with strength and honor,
Show your spirit far and wide.
We ever hail thee, on to victory,
Our Southern Indiana Pride!
U-S-I!

Listen to it at usi.edu/brand/fight-song





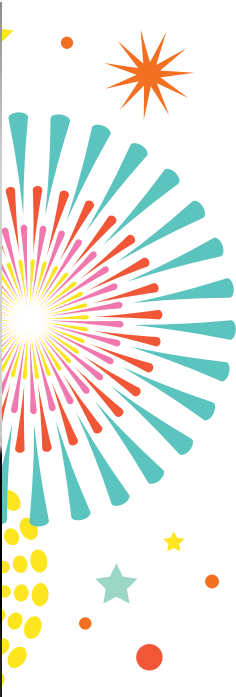
USI's College of Nursing and Health Professionals has received a \$1.35 million leadership gift from the late Hershel B. Whitney's estate. The gift includes \$1.1 million to establish the Hershel B. Whitney Professorship in Gerontology, and a \$250,000 unrestricted endowment for USI's Occupational Therapy Program within the Stone Family Center for Health Sciences in downtown Evansville.

Dr. Katherine Ehlman, associate professor of gerontology and director of USI's Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, is the inaugural holder of the endowed professorship. Her encouraging and inspiring leadership among students, colleagues and professionals within the field of gerontology, and her research in nursing home quality, dementia and student attitudes on aging made her a natural choice.



MEET THE NEW PROVOST

Dr. Mohammed Khayum, former faculty and dean of the Romain College of Business, is USI's new provost. Khayum's 27 years of service to USI prepared him well for the position. As dean of the College, he led the extension of the business and accounting accreditations and oversaw the creation of an accelerated Master of Business Administration program.

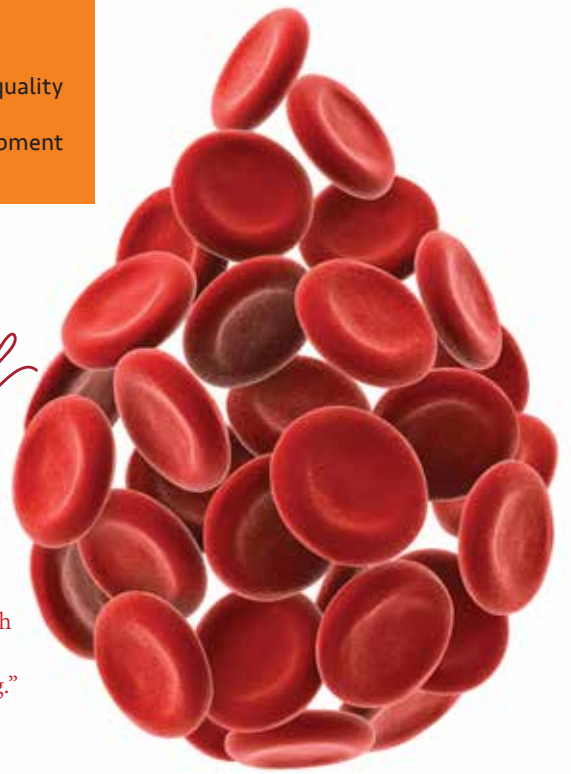


WHAT DOES THE PROVOST DO?

- He is the chief academic officer and serves in the absence of the president
- Responsible for oversight of academic programs
- Promotes and supports innovative and quality educational experiences
- Advances and encourages talent development of the campus community

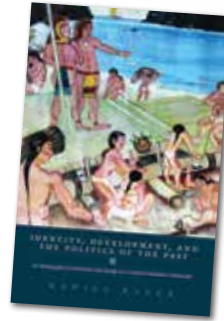
The Business of Blood

Dr. Sima Fortsch, assistant professor of management, hit upon a problem while scrolling through her social media feed that led to a \$45,000 grant from the Virginia Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation to study the operations of community blood centers throughout Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Her goal? To help the centers increase their effectiveness and efficiency—from the moment a donation happens to the moment a patient receives that blood. "This is going to be a huge project," Fortsch says, of the research she plans to begin in the summer of 2019. She hopes to continue her work with blood centers in the future by collaborating with them to market blood donation to a new generation. "It's not good enough to say, 'Come and give blood.' You have to use marketing."



Crack a Spine

Identity, Development, and the Politics of the Past University Press of Colorado, 2018



USI's cultural anthropologist Dr. Daniel Bauer, associate professor of anthropology, has spent years studying, traveling, living and conducting research in Latin America. His book investigates how rural Ecuadorian villagers in Salango worked to claim their indigenous identity, based largely on archaeological records and their pre-Hispanic roots. "A great deal of my work is concerned with understanding rural lifeways and how economic practices influence the lives of individuals in the communities where I work. I also have a strong interest in identity-based movements and local conceptions of identity with reference to material culture and economic practices," he says. "At present, I am working on transcribing local narratives about tourism development that I collected in the fall of 2017. I expect this to form part of my second book that will address tourism in rural areas of Ecuador and Peru."

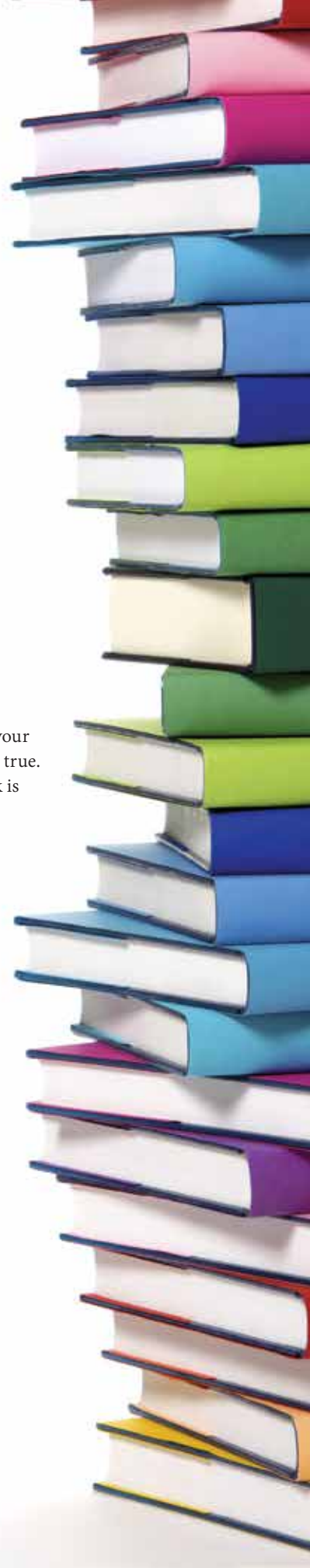


Southern Indiana Review, Fall 2018 Southern Indiana Review Press

The arresting cover art gets your attention, and the stories and poems inside expand your mind. The journal's tag line is "Rich art and literature served in sensible portions." So true. It presents a cross-section of emerging and established artists and writers whose work is recognized both regionally and nationally.

LIFT OFF

USI's UNITE CubeSat was launched to the International Space Station in December and astronauts deployed it into orbit January 31. The UNITE CubeSat began transmitting 55 minutes after deployment. The CubeSat is designed to measure plasma levels in the lower region of the ionosphere, measure its own internal and skin temperature to compare with a student-developed thermal model, and to carefully track its own orbital decay in order to update CubeSat drag models. The focus of the mission is the largely unexplored region of the lower ionosphere, a region that impacts transmissions critical to some communication and navigation devices. The UNITE mission is expected to last 15 months.







For the past four years, USI's Dental Hygiene Program has collaborated with USI's Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center and the Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center to offer free dental cleaning, fluoride and X-rays for U.S. military veterans. These services are generally not covered by a benefit for military personnel, unless they are 100 percent service connected.



This successful collaboration has treated 523 veterans since the initiative's inception. Not only do the veterans smile a little bigger because of the program, USI dental hygiene students (supervised by and evaluated by USI's dental hygiene faculty) are able to acquire crucial experience in their field, while gaining a better understanding of our nation's heroes' needs. The Dental Hygiene Clinic, part of the accredited program, offers services to adults and children of all ages, in a state-of-the-art facility on campus.

A stylized illustration of a young woman with long black hair and glasses, wearing a black and white patterned shirt, sitting at a desk in a library or computer lab. She is smiling slightly. The background shows bookshelves filled with books, a computer monitor, and other lab equipment. The title 'STUDENT P.O.V.' is overlaid on the top left of the illustration.

STUDENT P.O.V.

Gabrielle Wy '19
Criminal Justice, Journalism, Psychology

The Importance of Difference

I always dreamt of being someone else. When I was young, I'd sit in my bathroom, look into the mirror and squish my almond-shaped eyes together in hopes they would somehow not be so distinctly Asian. Other kids' parents didn't give them rice and dumplings in their lunchboxes. While no one treated me terribly for my differences, I always knew I wasn't the typical American child.

As I got older, my lack of confidence grew. I saw everyone around me as better-looking, smarter, more outgoing and more likeable than me. I denied myself the satisfaction of being okay in my own shell. While my tendency to compare myself with others improved through high school, I couldn't ever identify who I thought Gabi was. I didn't know if sharing my thoughts was ever worthwhile.

I realized how valuable my identity was, in important conversations about the present situation and foreseeable future of society, only

when I came to USI. I had classes discussing diversity issues where I was the only minority, or one of two, in the room. It was clear to me within the first few weeks of classes as a freshman that I didn't need to become white—rather, my community needed more diversity like me.

Without different cultural perspectives in crucial conversations, America shuts out ideas and opportunities for improvement from those who need it most. When my country is touted as a cultural melting pot, it makes little sense that I felt so separated through childhood. With experiences in both journalism and academia, I see the lack of representation in so many facets of society. I realized that I'm different from my peers, and that difference is not only okay, but much needed to provide perspective and relatability to all.

Exploring my cultural identity, and identity as a whole, has led me to notice despite people's

differences, empathy and passion can be found in pretty much anyone. I've published honest opinion pieces in *The Shield*, expressed myself in my classes and spoken at Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. Everyone here has listened to me—not just as an Asian, not just as an American, but as a person, with specific experiences that might help others. Each of my identities provides an important component of me. I'm an Asian-American, a daughter, a friend, a future scholar, a woman, a sexual abuse survivor and a human being.

Despite everyone facing unique struggles, not all are lucky enough to find hope. It's a dream come true that I've not only been able to realize my identity, but have so many opportunities to share it with other people and give a little bit of that hope along the way. I've found my voice—a unique one—but still one with human commonality. That's something I gained here that no one will be able to take from me. I'm eternally grateful.

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

suggest a subject at magazine@usi.edu

DESK OF...

FROM THE



ERIN GIBSON '96
Instructor in Communications

*"We are living in the future
I'll tell you how I know
I read it in the paper
Fifteen years ago"*
—John Prine

THEN

I wrote my first news story in 1993. It was for USI's campus radio station I-82, which is now known as 95.7 *The Spin*.

Back then, the studio was in an old farmhouse on the northwest side of campus along the Lloyd Expressway, and you could listen to us—but only during the daytime hours. If you tuned in at night, you'd hear a station out of Fort Worth, Texas.

We didn't have a website (because no one did), Google and Facebook didn't exist, and we were just starting to use email on campus.

The news gathering techniques taught in journalism classrooms were rudimentary: interview people and find documents. Both required physically leaving the newsroom.

News consumers listened to the radio, subscribed to the local newspaper and watched a nightly national newscast from one of the three television networks. They watched CNN if they had cable.

From a media perspective, they were simpler times.

NOW

I began advising USI's student newspaper, *The Shield*, in 2007.

Back then, you could find us in a cubicle-cramped concrete bunker in the lower level of UC West. Today, you'll find us in an attractive and spacious office suite in UC East.

We have a website (because everyone does), Google and Facebook dominate the information landscape and students would rather text than email.

The news gathering techniques taught in journalism classrooms still involve interviewing people and finding documents, but the skills for doing so are far from rudimentary. Documents are accessed through internet databases. People in other states and countries are interviewed using Facetime and can be live streamed from anywhere—tasks that previously required a television satellite truck.

News consumers give up their newspaper subscriptions and nightly TV newscasts because they have access to thousands of sources of information.

From a media perspective, these are complicated times.

NEXT

In 2013, I began thinking about this question: With all the sources of information, how can news consumers know who and what to trust?

I attended a national conference on the topic and found an online community of scholars dedicated to the mission. I even developed my own method for evaluating information and presented it at TEDxEvansville. In recent months, I've realized that identifying misinformation is only part of the solution. I stepped back and began considering, "How do we convince people to pay attention to news in the first place?"

People often blame this problem on the "apathy" of "this generation." Exhausted by that unhelpful rhetoric, I turned directly to my students to ask: "Why aren't you paying attention to the news?"

What I heard restored my faith in them.

Students want to be informed. They don't feel like they have time to keep up with news the way they should. They are turned off by the media's focus on politics. They wish they better understood government, so they could better understand the news. And they are intensely aware of the toll that news about tragedy after tragedy takes on their mental health.

These answers lit a fire under me, and I hope they do the same for you. What can we do to help our students navigate this complicated and confusing time? When I consider the answer, I look to that 18-year-old reporter sitting in the I-82 newsroom. I know what she would say: "Get to work."

Erin Gibson



score | BOARD



Where are they | **NOW?**

While playing basketball at USI, Monica (Lutchka) Auker '92, physical education, always thought she'd stay active after graduation. But the Tri-State Orthopaedics marketing coordinator and Memorial High School girls basketball assistant coach never dreamed she'd do it by running 50 marathons in 50 states, all by the time she turned 50. "I do

think the strength you have to have mentally as an athlete helps me stay motivated to keep training and to push through difficult races."

Auker ran her first marathon in Hawaii in 2000 with a good friend. The pair eventually devised a plan to conquer 26.2 miles in each state, often hitting the road before dawn to balance



More than a Game

Student athletes live busy lives, but they are never too busy to help serve the needs of the community. The Women's Basketball Play4K "pink game" against McKendree University in February raised awareness and funds for Susan G. Komen, and was just one of the many events USI's athletic teams participated in to serve our community. They played exhibition games, coached kids at soccer camps, served veterans lunch, hammered nails and more. All this in addition to training and playing on the team, going to class and studying and hanging with friends.

MILESTONES: STUDENT ATHLETES GIVE BACK*

\$4K+
RAISED
AND
110+
HOURS

WENT TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance
- Holy Rosary Youth Soccer Camp
- Ronald McDonald House
- Girl Scouts
- Salem Elementary
- West River Health Campus
- Susan G. Komen
- Evansville Challenger League
- St. Joseph School
- Habitat for Humanity
- Carver Community Organization
- Boys & Girls Club of Evansville
- YWCA
- United Way Day of Caring
- USI Alumni Golf Scramble
- Red Cross Hurricane Michael Telethon

* FALL 2018 SEMESTER

marathon training and motherhood. Nearly two decades later, and just 10 days before her 50th birthday, Auker crossed her 50th state finish line, with her husband and three kids by her side.

Though she doesn't have any other races on her calendar, Auker won't rule out running more

marathons with friends or family, especially if they've never tackled one before. "That's such a special feeling when you're helping somebody get through it, and they actually finish their first one," she said. "It's just amazing."





HUMAN B

sex and labor trafficki



WONDAGE:

ng in your hometown

BY C.L. STAMBUSH



What's obvious about human trafficking is that it's one of the most odious and depraved crimes in existence; what's less obvious is that the misperceptions surrounding it are, in part, responsible for its continued presence and explosive growth. "People think it's somebody being snatched and shipped from another country and sold here [or vice versa], which is absolutely human trafficking," says Dr. Melinda Roberts, associate professor of criminal justice, "But most of what we get in Indiana is not the international type."

Human trafficking for sex or labor is more than an exploitative, violent crime driven by money. It's a complex lattice composed of predators preying on females, males, adults and children—usually between the ages of 12 and 24, but sometimes far younger—of all races.

Traffickers feed on individuals' hopes and dreams as well as on systemic social issues such as poverty, forced migration, racism, discrimination and more. Experts consider this modern slavery to be so invisible that it's possible you've witnessed victimization without knowing it. You are not alone. Even law enforcement is ill-equipped to recognize the signs of someone being trafficked. But not for long.

Southwest Indiana Region Coalition Against Trafficking (SIRCAT) was formed in 2017 by University faculty, local law enforcement, Department of Corrections Services, Youth Services, homeless services and advocates, to combat human trafficking by raising awareness, promoting evidence-based practices, identifying victims and getting them the help they need to break free. "We want everyone on the same page, so everyone understands what it is and deals with it appropriately, while communicating with one another about what is going on," says Roberts, co-chair of SIRCAT's executive committee.

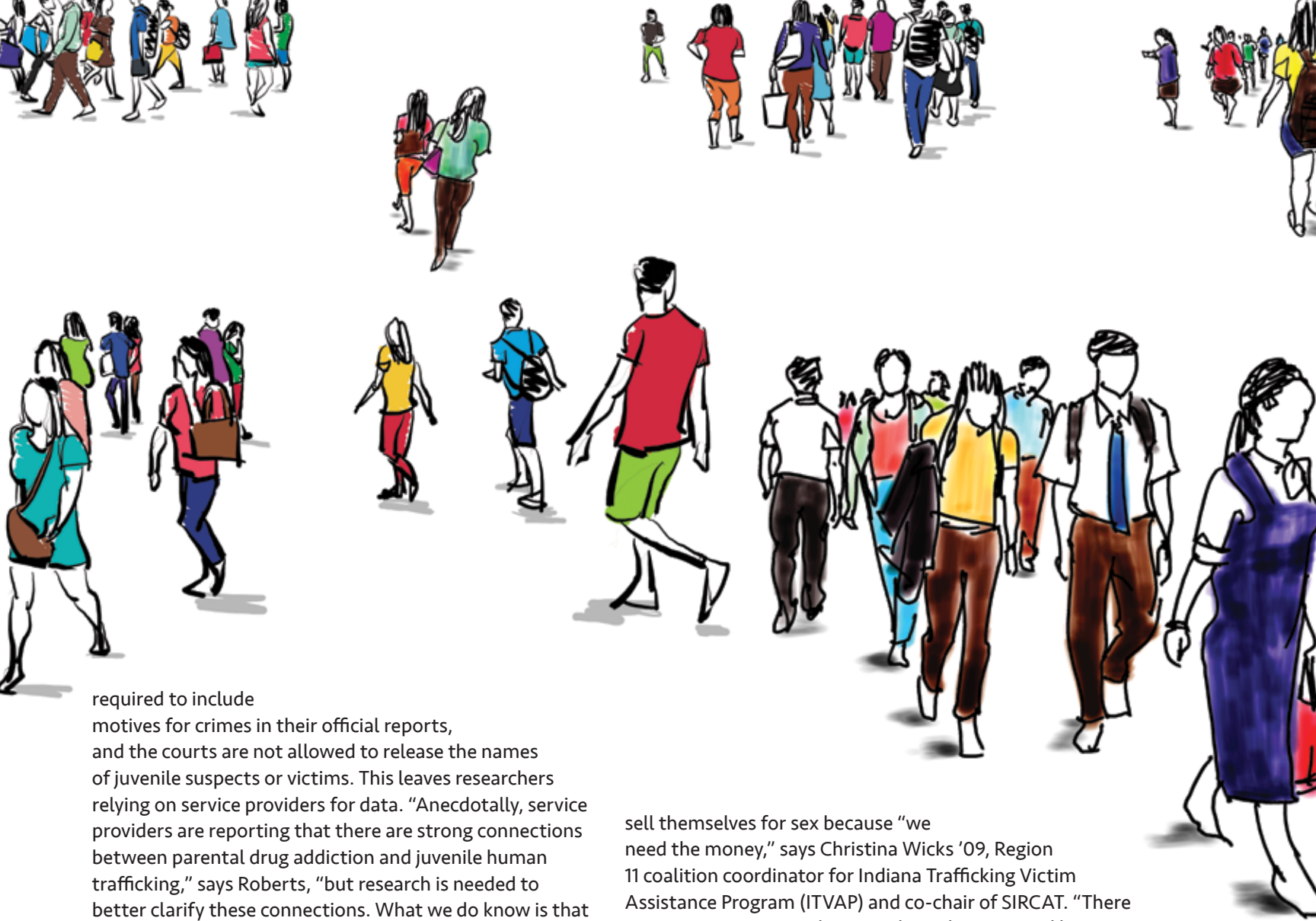
Being in the epicenter of the United States, Indiana battles both labor and sex trafficking, as humans are shuttled coast-to-coast by organized crime syndicates. The victims caught in this \$150 billion¹ web are primarily U.S. citizens trafficked for sex (83 percent), while labor trafficking victims are mostly foreign-born persons subject to working in massage parlors, the agricultural sector and domestic work². "In Evansville proper," Roberts says, "we see more sex trafficking, but in our regional coalition, we also see labor trafficking because we live close to agricultural communities. It's a mix, but mostly sex trafficking, and not typically 'organized.' But, because we are at the crossroads of America, a lot of people come through Evansville with those organized human-trafficking rings."

Awareness is the key to both subverting human trafficking and helping its victims escape the cycle, but to be aware we need to understand how it happens and to whom it happens. While the premise of *Taken* is not an impossibility, in Indiana the real scenario is far more frightening. It's familial. "One of the largest crimes here is parents selling their children into prostitution," says Roberts. "Selling them on Craigslist or other sites for money or drugs."

The statistical role the drug epidemic plays in human trafficking is uncertain, since law enforcement is not



¹International Labour Organization
²U.S. Department of Justice



required to include motives for crimes in their official reports, and the courts are not allowed to release the names of juvenile suspects or victims. This leaves researchers relying on service providers for data. "Anecdotally, service providers are reporting that there are strong connections between parental drug addiction and juvenile human trafficking," says Roberts, "but research is needed to better clarify these connections. What we do know is that roughly 60 percent of juvenile sex-trafficking victims have been involved in the foster-care system largely due to the opioid crisis."

According to the national human trafficking data source Polaris Project, 91 percent of victims know their traffickers, while only nine percent are strangers. Aside from parents, groomers in the guise of "boyfriend" or "girlfriend," often victims of human trafficking themselves, target a range of kids, romancing those in tough or loose family situations (caring but uninvolved parents), runaways, homeless youth and addicts. People who may have histories of abuse and/or won't be missed are convinced by groomers that they alone love, protect and care for them before insisting they

sell themselves for sex because "we need the money," says Christina Wicks '09, Region 11 coalition coordinator for Indiana Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (ITVAP) and co-chair of SIRCAT. "There is a strong connection between homelessness and human trafficking. Within the first 48 hours, many runaways are approached by human trafficking recruiters."

Once trafficked for sex, a person's fate is often cemented, and as he or she gets older, society ceases to see that person as a victim and instead considers them a criminal. "A lot of times there is this victim/offender dichotomy," says Roberts. "Yes, this person is guilty of prostitution, but this person may also be a victim of human trafficking since they were 12 years old." The emotional trauma experienced by a person trafficked at a young age leads to their breakdown and inability to make decisions for themselves, reshaping their identity so they fail to see themselves as victims.



Concerts, conventions and sporting events are beacons for sex traffickers, spawning online dating websites coded with innocuous-sounding ads offering “Fresh” and “Young” escorts, language designed to fly under websites’ red-flag radars. “I don’t want people to think we don’t have a problem and not look for signs of human trafficking,” says Roberts. “Anytime there is a big event, like the Fall Festival or a concert at the Ford Center, traffickers bring enslaved sex workers into town for a week or so, try to get as much money as they can and then move along.”

Preventing organized human traffickers from targeting a town starts with awareness and education. SIRCAT is focused on training law enforcement, and educating advocates and the community at-large, including local businesses, churches and organizations, to recognize the signs and take the appropriate action of providing help or reporting suspicions to authorities. “We are at the forefront of addressing this issue in Indiana,” says Roberts, noting SIRCAT has added federal law enforcement, lawyers and judges to the coalition. “We did a human trafficking 101, training eight members of SIRCAT to go out into the community and explain human trafficking—how to identify, report and talk about the problem in our community.”

Dragging the issues into the light and talking about them are foundational to abating human trafficking. Part of that process contains visual components. SIRCAT initiated a window-cling campaign prior to the Fall Festival and enlisted store owners on Evansville’s Franklin Street to display them. “The signage identified the store as ‘helping to fight human trafficking in our community’ and contained helpful contact information for victims,” Wicks says. The group is coordinating with various businesses in the downtown area to display the window clings.

“Eventually, we would like to expand community outreach by educating hotel employees,” she says, “along with various businesses where trafficking is popular, on how to recognize potential trafficking victims.”

Getting victims the help they need requires more than supplying a hotline number, it entails connecting them to the right resources, which depends upon strong communication between local and federal law enforcement and area advocacy groups. “One of the things we’ve been trying to do is get all the victim advocacy groups together to make sure we have coverage for everybody,” says Roberts. “If someone reports a human trafficking case and they are a minor and it’s sex trafficking, we know immediately we have sexual assault counselors at Albion Fellows Bacon Center and Lampion Center who are great at dealing with children. If it’s labor trafficking, then we’ve got the FBI and local Indiana State Police task force on our coalition who can help with visa issues.”

Locally, there are more advocacy services for sex-trafficked victims than labor-trafficked victims (whose so-called employers withhold their passports and pay), something that is on the rise in Indiana, says Wicks. Especially domestic servitude, as in the case of Tebby Kaisara, a 19-year-old from Botswana, Africa (see sidebar). “What’s happening in southern Indiana is labor victims get diverted to a resource that helps sex victims,” says Roberts, adding this leads to labor victims not pursuing the report of the

TRAFFICKED RED FLAGS:

Excessive amounts of cash

1

Expensive clothes, shoes, manicures

2

Multiple cell phones, hotel keys, poker chips or tokens

3

Branding—tattoos, jewelry

4



FLIGHT TO FREEDOM

Tebby Kaisara, a 19-year-old from Botswana, Africa, was forced to care for a graduate student's two children in Bloomington, Indiana, from 2004-2006. Kaisara was lured to the United States on the promise of attending college while working at a daycare in St. Louis, Missouri, but her transatlantic flight landed in Chicago with a final destination to Indianapolis.

She called the number of her American contact who instructed her to go to an address in Bloomington, Indiana. There, a woman took her documentation and informed her that she had to care for her children. Kaisara's exploitation lasted 18 months, during which she was paid \$100—she'd been assured it would be \$100 a month, plus 500 Botswanan Pula (\$50 USD). Her weight plummeted from 140 pounds to 80 pounds due to stress, manipulation and coercion. She was denied food and medicine, compelled to move the woman's furnishings to a larger apartment using a handcart, and was sometimes locked in a room as punishment. Her captor forced her to buy her own food and only communicated with her through written instruction.


Kaisara said the exploitation went undetected because the woman told everyone they were sisters. Fearing retribution, she didn't speak the truth and strangers would rather not get involved. Kaisara developed a painful cyst on her side that she insisted be treated and, armed with her passport, she underwent surgery at a Bloomington hospital.

After she got out of the hospital, her captor refused to let her back into the apartment. Kaisara sought help from a woman who owned a wig shop where she purchased the hair she braided to earn money. The woman gave Kaisara a place to live and called the FBI. Today, she has her green card and is working toward her citizenship as well as a degree in radiology while working three part-time jobs.

Tebby Kaisara's story was retold from multiple online sources.

crime, which means it can't be prosecuted and, more importantly, they don't get the help they need to break free.

Keeping a community crime-free requires community members watching out for each other and reporting their suspicions. Neighbors who notice children/teens going unsupervised for long periods of time, getting in with a bad crowd, who have bars on bedroom windows, with personality changes or no longer going to school, should call Child Protective Services or simply 911. "It doesn't make you a bad person," says Roberts. "If nothing is going on, that's fine. But it's far better to call and help someone that really needs it than not and that person fall prey to some type of human trafficking."

SIRCAT is just one thread in the state, national and global schemes fighting human trafficking. They can't, however, do it alone. "This is just the tip of the iceberg, but if we can get enough people to help identify human trafficking, then maybe we can crack down on the problem," says Roberts. "We have to, as a community and society, speak out and educate. Otherwise, people aren't safe." 

They have no I.D.

5

Lack of knowledge about where they are

6

Restricted or scripted communication

7

Physical injuries

8

Signs of psychological trauma—panic attacks, depression, suicidal, flat affect

9



THE

WIND

UNDER

WIN



INGS

by AmyLu Riley '93





Conner Sturgeon

The now-famous research of MIT professor Edward Lorenz identified a *butterfly effect* in nature. A small change, such as the flapping of the wings of a butterfly in Brazil, might lead to a major outcome, such as a tornado in Texas. His finding has led us to understand that interventions of any size can contribute to greatly altered circumstances.

In a similar way, 140 University of Southern Indiana students experience positive interventions each year from Student Support Services (SSS) that can dramatically alter the course of their lives. When the Department of Education began the program in 1968, it was for college students who most needed the winds of fortune to shift in their favor. Federally funded at USI since 2010, SSS helps students in need of academic assistance, who are disabled, economically disadvantaged or first-generation college students. They receive social, academic and financial support, including \$16,000 in combined annual scholarships. With these interventions, eligible students can enroll, persist and graduate. Along the way, they not only find their own wings—but discover how to use them to change the world.

REDIRECTING A FLIGHT PATH

Ta Gay Htoo '19, from Fort Wayne, Indiana, spent most of the first decade of her life with her family in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand and her native

Myanmar. As part of the Karen ethnic group, Htoo's family was among tens of thousands driven out of Myanmar by government persecution. Her father had initially applied to relocate the family to Australia, but died waiting for approval. It fell to Htoo's mother to refile immigration paperwork: She chose the United States. Htoo was 10 when her family arrived in America. "I just got my citizenship when I was 18, my senior year of high school," she says.

Htoo's mother had impressed on her four daughters and four sons her belief that education would be their key to better lives than the one she'd known. And so, when the time came for the newly American Htoo to select her college major, she chose mindfully.

"I was going to major in engineering, because I thought I could make money and help my family," the senior at USI says. But things did not go according to plan. She was dismayed to find she did not like her classes as much as she had in high school. "First semester, I was so stressed, I didn't enjoy college." Htoo sought help from the SSS staff. Heather Bauer, program director, and Aaron Pryor, academic counselor, suggested Htoo try several varied classes from the general electives, which she did. They also provided needed

stress relief with tickets to cultural and academic events on campus.

As Htoo found subjects she was passionate about—culture, politics and history—her personal goals evolved. By the end of her sophomore year, she'd changed her major from engineering to international studies.



She says without the help and guidance of SSS during her search for a new major, her grades probably would have suffered, and she doubts she would have found the field she clearly loves.

Htoo's post-college plans now look very different than they did when she enrolled at USI—and in SSS—as a freshman. For the second time in her life, redirection of destination will alter her future.

Ta Gay Htoo

"Right now, I'm in the process of applying to the Peace Corps," says Htoo, noting Bauer is helping her with the needed resume and essays.

"I'm hoping that I can get into the Peace Corps and work with them as a volunteer for two years," she says. "And then, afterwards, I want to work with a nonprofit organization to be able to help refugees."


Her eyes alight, she says, "I was a refugee. Aiding them is my goal."

OVERCOMING HEADWINDS

Clifton Jett, Jr. '20 was told in elementary school that he had a learning disability. Because of anxiety, he struggles with retaining information. "Once I get that test, my mind goes blank."

Jett, a theatre arts major, says he realizes he's not the only one with this difficulty, and that's why he started speaking up about it.

A learning disability, however, wasn't the first obstacle Jett faced in reaching this point in his academic career. "I didn't know how I was going to pay for my college, so that's the first thing I had to figure out." He learned of SSS during his campus tour at USI, and says the program was one of the reasons he became a Screaming Eagle. Through SSS, he was able to receive financial assistance and the guidance he needed to enroll in college. Without the program and the people in it who care about him, Jett doesn't think he'd have been able to attend college or know where he'd be today.



Once his enrollment and scholarship were secured, the next challenge was figuring out everything else about collegiate life. "I came to USI not very knowledgeable about what college was." Jett quickly connected with the SSS staff, who supplied guidance to get his college career off the ground.

"It's a struggle, because I have to maintain a certain GPA to keep the scholarships," Jett explains. In classes with mostly test-based grades, he works hard to keep his grades up by focusing on non-test assignments. Jett says he's not giving up, "because that's how much I want it."

Clifton Jett, Jr.

Even now, as a junior, Jett says SSS staff continue to help him persist in the face of his learning challenges by being accessible and trustworthy confidantes. "Talking to people about how I feel is a way to relieve my anxiety," he says, noting that the staff are always available to listen. "I walk out of the office feeling like a completely new person. I feel refreshed. Then I can go study."

Jett wants to turn the support he's received from SSS into elevation of others, by enhancing the lives of people with disabilities. After graduation, the Indianapolis native plans to teach theatre to students living with disabilities to help them present their



true selves, while deepening their communication, collaboration, creativity and awareness of self and others. “In the performance realm, those who have disabilities can notice that they are just as capable as everyone else.”

FINDING WINGS

Conner Sturgeon '20 has become something of a legend for the way he has embraced numerous SSS opportunities and made the most of every college experience. But, he still vividly recalls his misery on first coming to USI.

The first of his family to attend college, Sturgeon was filled with a sense that he didn't belong. He despaired of success and

feared failure. But that wasn't all. The Richland, Indiana, native, surrounded by a student population several times the size of his close-knit hometown, felt alone.

Then, one evening during his freshman year, something changed. He remembers standing on the balcony of the Goodrich apartments at USI and silently acknowledging his own role in his unhappiness. He realized that, although the high school experience he had reveled in was over, his life was not. He determined that if he were to have a real chance at making college work—or even

getting through the first year—he needed to undertake some personal growth and leave his old comfort zone behind.

He threw himself into attending SSS workshops to meet other students in similar situations and took part in various conferences. He later became an SSS peer mentor (all freshman SSS participants are paired with a peer mentor with whom they meet weekly) and, in 2018, he traveled to China on an SSS cultural trip. Expanding his collegiate involvement


further, Sturgeon became a resident assistant, a fraternity member and officer, a student ambassador (giving tours to prospective students) and an Archie Mascot volunteer.

No experience has been wasted on him. He's redefined himself and no longer sees the world in black and white. “Taking on these roles and positions changed my outlook on a lot of things,” he says.

All SSS staff members—Bauer, Pryor and Aaron Morrison, academic coordinator—serve as advisers, meeting with each student at least three times a semester or more, depending on the student's needs. It was Pryor who helped Sturgeon discover his passion for social work, and Bauer is helping him create his resume to apply for field internships necessary for his degree.

Sturgeon, a junior, plans to become a licensed clinical social worker, and is leaning toward USI's 4+1 Master of Social Work program. “I would love to work with underprivileged youth on a college campus,” he says.

CHANGE THE WORLD

Bauer says it takes three things to change the life trajectory of a student: “making sure they come back, keep their grades up and graduate.” Htoo's, Jett's and Sturgeon's life paths are no longer the ones society placed them on, says Pryor. “They are changing the trajectory for themselves.” 



Aaron Pryor and Heather Bauer







THE RADICAL SHAPING OF AN EDUCATOR

Born in the heart of the nation, Washington D.C., raised on a farm in rural Louisiana, and educated at Louisiana State University and Tulane University, Christy Baker, USI's associate professor and chair of social work, once tried to refuse her identity as an educator. What she doesn't refute, however, is how her life's circumstances and experiences shaped and informed the social advocate she became.

BY C.L. STAMBUSH

Baker, raised in segregation in the deep South, recalls the divide of all things black and white—water fountains, schools, doors of acceptable entrance—as well as the privileges she experienced due to her family’s status within the community. “My attitudes about race were shaped at an early age from living in a bicultural world. My family, educated land owners, could enter the small, rural grocery through the front door, but all other African Americans had to enter through the side door,” she says. “Which I found fascinating because once you entered you commingled.”

Around the time Baker, whose great grandmother was white, became aware of such subtleties of race in the South and the privileges afforded by her family’s educated heritage, she also felt the brunt of the Ku Klux Klan’s response to her family’s political activism and leadership roles in the Civil Rights Movement.

“I will never forget staring out the window of my grandmother’s den, at about 8 years old, the lights out, as we stared at the burning crosses in the pasture,” she says. “A symbolic threat of ‘We are watching you.’” Baker didn’t understand the implications at the time, but the fear and threat were penetrating. She cried and told her grandmother, “I hate them,” repeating it three times until her grandmother said, “Calm down, child. We’re okay. You will not become the people out there. You will not dislike based on race.”

Race wars escalated and surrounded Baker’s teenage years as America struggled to right wrongs, and Martin Luther King, Jr. sent waves of his lieutenants across the nation. James Farmer Jr., CORE¹ executive director, came to rural Louisiana in 1963 to protest town officials gerrymandering black precincts out of city elections. The peaceful march dissolved into hundreds of arrests that led to more marches once protestors were released from jail, culminating in a horrific assault on the black community (including women and children), involving tear gas, clubs, water hoses and the destruction of a church, in which those fleeing for their lives had sought sanctuary. The mob, led by State Troopers, intended to capture and kill Farmer, but Baker’s father and uncles helped him slip

out of town, sequestered in a hearse, as they instructed their wives and children to flee town on a bus.

“I didn’t come to grips and understand it until years later when I asked my dad, and he said, ‘We were very active in the Civil Rights Movement, and direct death threats were issued with names on a list, which included you and your brothers and sisters.’”

As America wobbled its way toward equality, schools were slowly integrated with the passage of Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954. Officials in Baker’s rural community slowly and cautiously planned to fold select black students into the white schools in 1966, treating it like a “social experiment” rather than outright declaration of integration. “They came to the African-American high schools and elementary schools to identify students who would ‘fit’ and ‘be okay’ in the Anglo schools,” Baker says.

A junior in high school and class valedictorian, Baker was chosen as one of 15 from her class of 32 to integrate, but she refused. “I had an uncle that was principal of the elementary school and it was a disgrace that I was refusing,” she says.

Baker had sound reasons for electing to stay in the African-American school. “I was going to be valedictorian in my class and would lose that status and not even be considered a graduate with honors if I went to the Anglo school. During those days, valedictorian status earned you multiple scholarships to a number of colleges.”

College bound, Baker embarked on her educational path as a legacy student at her father’s alma mater, the historically black Southern University (SU) in Baton Rouge. “Back then, my family expected me to take one of two paths: be an educator or do something in science or medicine,” she says, noting her father was a biomedical researcher seeking treatments for Hansen’s Disease (leprosy).

But Baker had other ideas: a degree in psychology. “I always wanted to work with people, study minds and

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- Alice Walker

¹Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded in 1942 with the mission to bring equality to all people regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, religion and ethnicity.

do assessments.” She expressed this to her advisor who informed her she needed a masters and would have to leave SU and attend Louisiana State University (LSU). She balked at the notion. She had great friends and roommates. She loved SU. But her advisor insisted she leave because SU didn’t offer the program she needed to enter a graduate school and realize her life goals.

Baker, who admittedly isn’t afraid to challenge the ideals of others and consistently earned “Bs” for “behavior” on her grade-school report cards, knew this wasn’t one of those times to push back. With the help of her advisor, and without discussing the decision with her father, who expected she’d earn her degree from SU, she transferred to LSU. “My dream was to move forward and do what I thought was best academically.”

Although integrated, LSU had issues. The White Youth Alliance, a radical hate group, rallied against equality, stirring the activist gene bred into Baker’s bloodline. She joined protests. Stormed the provost’s office. Insisted African-American students not be relegated to the back row when Billy Graham came to campus. “I complained to the priest at the campus center that I wanted to hear the music at the Billy Graham conference, but I couldn’t get close to the stage because [blacks] had to sit in the back,” Baker says. “The priest led a multiracial group of students on a protest, and my name got into the provost office one semester after I landed on LSU’s campus.”

Every great educator knows there is a moment in a student’s life when the road to where they need to be becomes clear. Baker realized hers on the cusp of earning a psychology degree, when she expressed dissatisfaction with the program’s focus on experimental psychology to her mentor. He asked her to describe what she wanted to do and when she finished he said, “You want to be a social worker.”

To Baker, that sounded like a career that took babies away from parents. “He said, ‘No. All this activism you’re involved in, all this community structural change that you want to see happen, social workers


are involved with that,’” she says. ““They’re not just involved with the individuals. They’re involved with community development. They’re involved with writing policies around meeting human needs.””

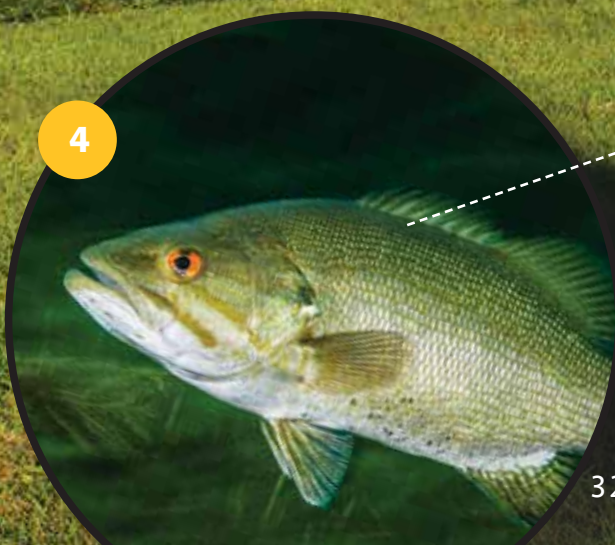
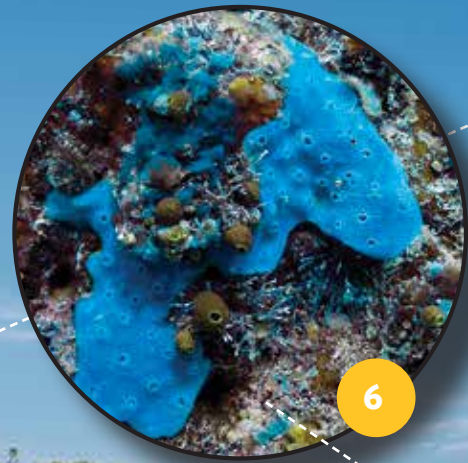
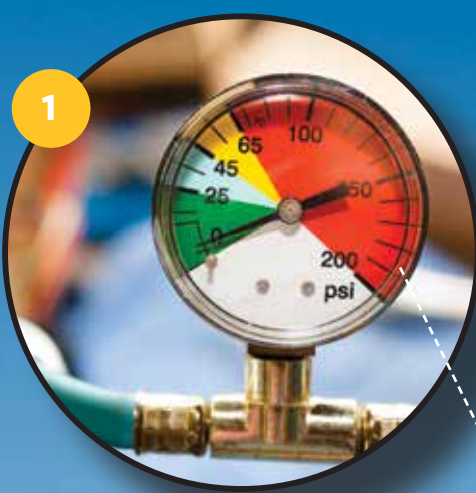
Tulane University offered the best social work program for a masters, and Baker entered a world of privilege again when her protective father used his connections to get her an apartment in the back lot of a mansion on St. Charles Avenue, two blocks from campus. “The mansion had 12 apartment units that were former slave quarters,” Baker says. “They had turned them into quarters for servants who lived on the property. I said, ‘Wait a minute, Dad. Why did we go through the Civil Rights Movement for you to find housing for me in slave quarters?’ And he said, ‘Every door that opens has an opportunity. You have to go and see.’”

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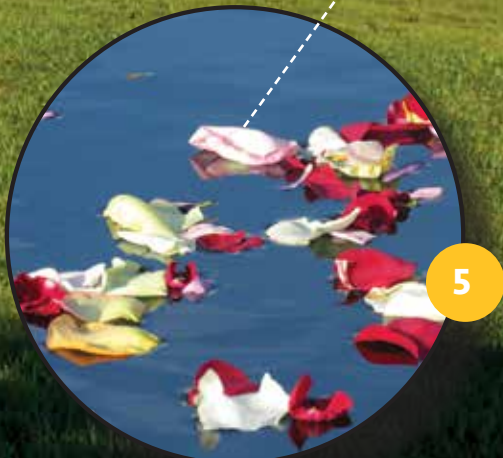
- Desmond Tutu

‘Seeing’ has been the nucleus of Baker’s life: seeing others’ points of view, seeing diversity in the world, seeing the need for social change, seeing ways in which to advocate for others. She’s spent 23 years at USI, instilling in students the value of being able to see beyond the world views they were born into. Teaching them the organizational leadership qualities she learned from the Civil Rights Movement and the interrelatedness of inequalities related to race, ethnicity, gender and socio-economic status. Challenging them to reflect and consider who they are, who they want to be and how they plan to contribute to the world.

Baker credits her grandmother’s social consciousness as the catalyst to her becoming a social worker, a divergence from the path her father expected her to take. She believed she broke tradition by earning her degrees in psychology and social work, but her father saw it differently. “Before my father died he said to me, ‘You’re a social worker, right?’ I said, ‘Yes sir. I’m proud to be a social worker.’ He said, ‘When you get up in the morning and go to work, where do you go?’ I said, ‘I’m at the University.’ He said, ‘Like it or not, you’re an educator. You’re one of us, sweetheart. Accept your identity. Accept your legacy.’” 



BEHIND THE SCENE



Beneath the surface and over the years, Reflection Lake, located on the campus' west side, has served a greater role than that of peace and beauty. As part of the land purchased by Southern Indiana Higher Education (SIHE), the lake, averaging 10-feet deep, was constructed in 1969 along with the Wright Administration Building, Science Center and Physical Plant Service Center. The rationale was it could be used for fire protection (USI has had minor fires over the years,

but lake water was never used to douse them), because the city's water supply only serviced the buildings. Today, the Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the lake since a dam was built in 1985. Over the decades, the seven-acre lake has served as a living lab for students conducting research, a host for events shining awareness on social issues, an escape for community members seeking a pretty place to sit and much more.

1. The HVAC system heating and cooling the Griffin Center is a geothermal heat pump, containing a series of looping tubes buried in the bottom of Reflection Lake. The system transfers heat to or from the ground as a heat source in the winter and a heatsink in the summer, supplying an intermittent energy source for the center.
2. The gazebo was a community-project gift from the West Side Nut Club in 2006. The first couple married in it were Dr. David Ritterskamp, instructor in mathematics, and Megan Lasky on May 20, 2006. Students can be spotted doing homework there too.
3. Research conducted in the lake ranges from aquatic biology classes mapping and sampling the lake, to invertebrate zoology students collecting species, to ichthyology upper-classes doing fish surveys. Classes may study the lake's periphery, looking at its geomorphology and sedimentology, knick-points, plunge pools, base level, stream flow, cross bedding and graded bedding. It's rumored that years ago one of Indiana University's medical school faculty kept a pen of catfish in the lake as part of his research.
4. Bass, bluegill and channel catfish live in the lake. The Department of Natural Resources restocks the catfish every fall, releasing 500 8" to 12" fish into it, as the species doesn't reproduce in ponds, but bass and bluegill do. The public is welcome to fish in the lake, provided they have a valid permit.
5. The lake's 23 million gallons of water offers a placid surface to host a variety of events, such as engineering students testing their concrete canoes or solar-powered boats before entering them in scholastic competitions, and community-awareness events such as Flowers on the Lake protesting domestic violence.
6. The 20-foot high-impact dam beneath the road leading to the Griffin Center is home to a very strong population of freshwater, encrusting sponge that can be found on the dam's rocks in late summer/early fall.



I retired 10 years ago and have spent several gratifying years tutoring students in math, English and preparing them for their GEDs. I helped a student study for, and witnessed, her American citizenship too. My wife, our golden retriever and I spend several months each year traveling in our motorhome. We've visited 46 states and more than 30 national parks and monuments. We own Mimosa Meadows Alpaca Ranch too, which helps keep us busy.

– Steve Clark '71
Bachelor of Marketing
former equipment company
branch manager

Open Dialogue

alum retirement



I realized it's not how rich you are or how well educated, but what you've seen and where you've traveled. I took early retirement after 30 years and moved to a beautiful 800-year-old village in Portugal called Ninho do Acor. I love my new life, the friendliness of the people, always helping and giving. It's what I was missing in the United States. I have an olive grove and am building a home amongst the 300-year-old olive trees and ancient templar ruins.

– Randall Forrest Snead '91
Bachelor of Science in Communications
former financial analyst

I am actively involved volunteering in the community and have been with CASA in Warrick County for nine years. I serve on several boards and committees at my church. I enjoy staying up on topics related to health, wellness and child care. I have improved my fitness schedule and try to get the proper amount of rest, but I am very busy. I have 76 pots of flowers to care for. (I need a sponsor for this addiction!).

– Marcia (Wiseman) Dick '73
Bachelor of Science in Management
former senior marketing specialist



Three months after I retired, I began working part time as the webmaster. Since 2014 I've worked in the office of the Murray State University-Henderson Regional Campus, and I teach 1-year-olds in Sunday School. I've enjoyed these two jobs because they've helped me keep busy while allowing plenty of time for other activities, such as the Gideons International and the Henderson County Sports Hall of Fame.

– Kenneth Davis '75
Bachelor of Science in Social Science
(teaching)
former technology integration specialist



I keep busy volunteering with CYPRESS (Committee to Promote Respect in Schools), Northside Civitan and the auxiliary at University Nursing and Rehab (formerly Little Sisters). Spending time with family and friends, eating and playing cards is a favorite pastime. I also enjoy having the time to reconnect with friends, to sit and read a good book during the middle of the day, to try new things such as yoga, and to travel.

– Sandy (Beard) Lasher '76
Bachelor of Science in Education
former teacher



I retired from corporate life after 40 years in the pharmaceutical business environment, but missed working with clinical trials, so I started a medical writing and editing company. My focus is no longer on career building, but on what I can do as an individual to "give back" and be more caring and giving. I am still the same person I was during my career building days, but now that person has matured, refocused and set new priorities.

– MaryJane (Baine) Silvey '82
Bachelor of Science in Management
former senior manager

“Voting IS A PRESCRIBED FORM OF *behavior*. PEOPLE WANT YOU TO VOTE. IT IS A FORM OF EXPANDATORY PARTICIPATION, *but not in all cases*. JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE VOTING DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE MORE *democratic*.”

DR. ANDREW BUCK | *associate professor of sociology, speaking on Russia*

“WE ALL NEED TO GET TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH A *strategy* TO TAKE *cyber security* TO THE NEXT LEVEL.”

CHETRICE MOSLEY | *cyber security program director for Indiana, speaking at the Inaugural Southwest Indiana Cyber Conference on USI's campus*

“OVERHEARD VOTABLES”

“I CAN ONLY *change* WHAT I CAN CHANGE. I CAN CREATE A *culture* INSIDE MY CLASSROOM THAT LETS THEM KNOW I UNDERSTAND. ENCOURAGE *loudly*. REPRIMAND *softly*. PROVIDE RESOURCES. *Engage*.”

XAVIA HARRINGTON-CHATE | *instructor in English, speaking on the plight of today's vulnerable college student*

“FOR FAR TOO LONG THE FIELD OF AGING HAS FOCUSED EXCLUSIVELY ON DECLINE AND DISABILITY. THE USI MODEL *Minka* WILL FUNCTION AS A *laboratory* THAT WILL HELP STUDENTS AND FACULTY EXPLORE NEW APPROACHES TO PROTECTING AND EXTENDING THE *independence* OF OLDER PEOPLE. THE MINKA AND THE MAGIC PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANT INSIGHTS TO THE FIELD OF AGING IN THE COMING DECADES.”

DR. BILL THOMAS | *international authority on geriatric medicine and eldercare, at the Minka ribbon cutting*

“GETTING OUT OF DEBT IS NOT ABOUT WEALTH, IT'S ABOUT *momentum*. YOU DO NOT WANT TO BUILD A BETTER CREDIT SCORE, YOU WANT TO BUILD WEALTH. A FICO SCORE IS NOT AN INDICATION OF HOW *well off* YOU ARE BUT HOW WELL YOU DEAL WITH DEBT.”

CHRIS HOGAN | *financial coach, Romain College of Business' Lessons Beyond the Classroom Speaker Series*

“*ImeTool* IS NOT OVER. IT'S GOING TO KEEP HAPPENING FOR A LONG TIME. WE WERE *surprised* IT WAS CONTAINED TO MEDIA. WE THOUGHT IT WOULD SPREAD TO *finance*.”

KEACH HAGEY | *Wall Street Journal reporter, speaking on her reporting career*



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Q & A

Working as head electrician for an international production company, Sean Nicholl '10, theatre arts, spends his days traveling with characters such as Mickey



and Minnie Mouse. The globe-hopper may be in Japan one month and Egypt the next as he tours the world wiring and electrifying live shows for Disney, Marvel, Sesame Street and Jurassic World, but it all began at USI.

What inspired you to pursue your career?

I always wanted to tour but was worried about going out on a limb. Even after working in regional theatre, freelance and



going nuts when they see their favorite

bouncing around NYC for a bit, I was still hesitant to do it. Once I decided to just go for it, I've loved every moment. International and domestic travel, a new city every week, working with hundreds of people to put on a show, thousands of kids

character and getting paid for it. How can anyone say no to that?

What are some misconceptions about your field?

Some people think of stagehands—a broad term that includes electricians, carpenters, artisans, painters, engineers and more—as dirty, rough workers who might not be that smart, but that's far from the truth. Our crews come from educated and professional backgrounds; it takes smarts of all kinds to make huge productions like ours work.

What movie genre does your life fit?

Action comedy, like a Jackie Chan film.

How do you make yourself feel better when things go wrong at work?

A good coffee and keeping a journal while I travel are very helpful in maintaining sanity. I also travel with a violin.

What was the most rewarding moment of your career?

That's tough. When touring Japan with "Disney Live" we set a new record for overall ticket sales for the brand. And then broke the single ticket sales record, twice in the same tour.

You get stuck in a loop when you're setting up shows over and over. When something breaks that cycle, it becomes this special "wow" moment because we're all responsible for making that happen. Each of the different parts of the show are a part of this bigger, grander picture.



What career advice do you have for others?

Listen to yourself.

What was your favorite course at USI, and how do you apply what you learned?

"Intro to Lighting Technology" taught the basics of circuiting, design and power distribution. It really made me THINK about how to solve issues, how to troubleshoot and how to organize myself to be prepared. I use those skills every day.

Do you ever make it back to campus?

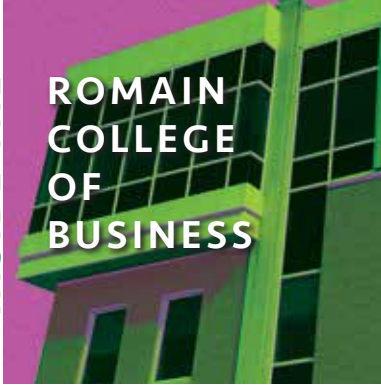
I visit about once a year and get to see the growth of the Theatre Department.

It's great to see how far it's come since I was a freshman in 2004. Each year has a bit more than the last, and it's great to see students working toward better and better productions.



What is the title of the current chapter in your life?

What Day is it, and Where Am I?



WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN—AND WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT?

BY ABBAS FOROUGHI

Blockchain is a new digital technology developed in 2008 that has already been implemented in the financial world, with digital currencies like Bitcoin, Litecoin and Ethereum, and will soon impact the life of the average person.

At the core of blockchain technology is a publicly shared, permanent digital ledger. Until blockchain, ledgers were usually controlled by a single entity and could be manipulated without others knowing. Today's private ledgers, whether in banking, real estate, taxes or health care require us to 'trust' the organization that controls it. This middle-man model has made many global organizations very powerful, since individuals are required to use it to execute a transaction.

However, networks of privately controlled ledgers, that are not connected to each other, cause transactions to take a long time to execute.

This is why blockchain has so much potential. Blockchain can be described as a public spreadsheet that is duplicated thousands of times across a network of computers and regularly updated, somewhat similar to the dynamic updating that occurs in Wikipedia. With blockchain, information and transactions are reconciled into a public database that is stored in multiple locations, updated and time-stamped with new blocks of information every 10 minutes, making the records public, permanent and verifiable.

Each block is a record of new transactions that occur in a specific time frame. A bank is not needed to verify the transfer of money or take a cut of the transaction, and blockchain is harder to hack since the information exists simultaneously in millions of places. To further secure this public ledger, encryption keys are created for each entry that tie it to the next entry, forming a chain of interconnected entries to the ledger. Every block gets a unique digital signature or cryptographic hash that corresponds exactly to the string of data in that block. Any attempt to modify an entry would result in the breaking of the chain, which would be noticed by

the millions of other connected ledgers that had the authentic entry. The offending computer would be kicked from the ledger.

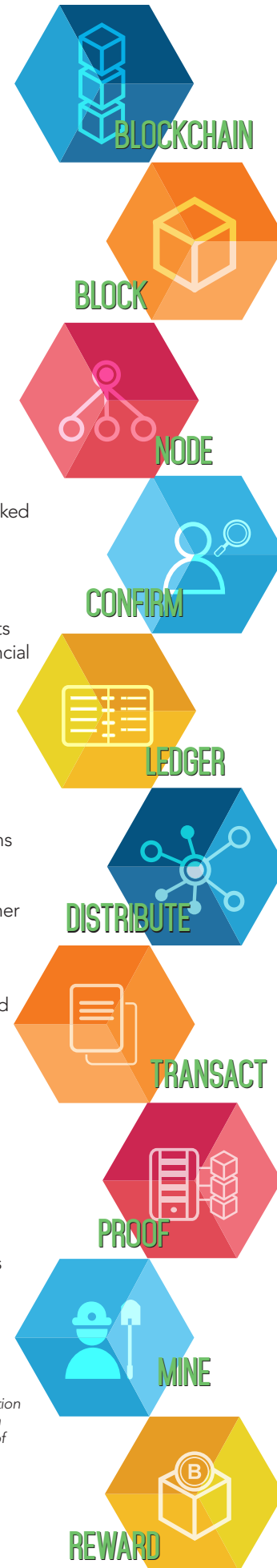
Blockchain has already begun to be used for more than just currency and transactions. IBM has 1,000 employees working on blockchain-powered projects and is investing \$200 million for development. Financial and tech firms invested an estimated \$1.4 billion in blockchain in 2016, with an increase to \$2.1 billion in 2018. At the same time, the number of openings for employees with blockchain technology expertise in startups, tech companies and government are increasing rapidly.

Here are just a few of the many potential applications of blockchain technology:

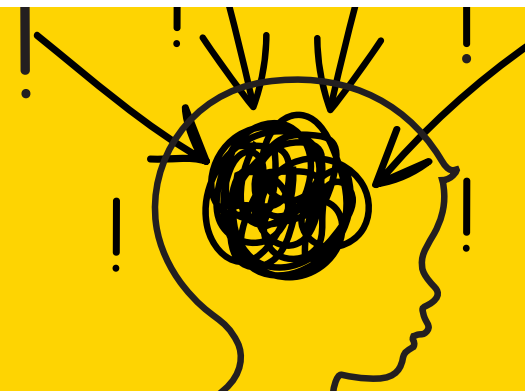
- **Financial transactions:** Transferring funds to another bank will occur instantaneously.
- **Eliminating the middleman:** Peer-to-peer payments enabled by blockchain OpenBazaar technology enables customers to avoid charges for services like Uber and AirBnB.
- **Voting security:** By making the results fully transparent and publicly accessible, distributed database technology can improve the reliability of the voting process.
- **Stock Trading:** When executed peer-to-peer, trade confirmations become almost instantaneous (compared to three days for clearance by a clearing house, auditors and custodians).
- **Product Authenticity:** Distributed ledgers that detail supply chains help certify that the backstories of items customers buy—high-end fashion items, food, pharmaceuticals—are genuine.



Dr. Abbas Foroughi is chair of the Management and Information Sciences Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics, a master's degree in quantitative business analysis and a doctorate in management information systems—all from Indiana University, Bloomington. The information technology field evolves very quickly, and he enjoys the challenge of keeping himself up to date on state-of-the-art technologies.



UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF CHILDREN WHO PROCESS SENSE DIFFERENTLY *By Jessica Wood*



Imagine what it would be like to live in a body with a brain that failed to communicate efficiently or effectively with it, resulting in a sensory “traffic jam.” As an occupational therapist and educator focused on sensory processing and integration, I work with children, families and students to help them understand and treat Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) with a family-centered focus. This neurological condition impacts approximately 90 percent of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but the reverse is not true. There are many people with SPD that are not ASD.

Children with SPD are often impacted in three main areas of dysfunction:

sensory differences that affect their day-to-day lives, visual motor integration deficits, and postural control and/or motor planning deficits.

Sensory differences include being understimulated or overstimulated by the senses in their environment. This includes tactile, olfactory, auditory, gustatory, visual, vestibular (balance), proprioception (body awareness) and interoception (awareness of hunger, thirst and need to void). Understimulation includes children unable to process their teacher’s voice over the voices of their peers, not knowing when to stop eating, or unable to feel when their faces are messy with food.

Overstimulation, such as vacuum noise, itchy tags on shirts and trips to big box stores can lead to tears, arguments and full-on emotional meltdowns as the child’s senses become dysregulated. It is important to note that these experiences aren’t five-minute ordeals. They are shocks to the child’s sympathetic nervous system, a fight/flight/freeze

effect. Their sympathetic nervous system is firing on all cylinders. It might take hours or even days for a child to return to equilibrium. Everyone with SPD is different. One child might be overstimulated to one sense and understimulated to another.

Children experiencing visual motor integration deficits oftentimes have difficulty copying letters from the board to paper, have messy handwriting or trouble catching a ball. They may have visual perception deficits and difficulty reading, write letters backwards, or have problems visualizing how to create something using LEGO pieces.

The third area is postural control deficits or weakness, or motor planning deficits. This might look like a clumsy kid who is always falling, who slumps over furniture and appears uncoordinated. Children with SPD prefer games and activities where they can sit rather than sports that require a lot of body coordination. In my practice, I mainly work with children in the three areas discussed above;

however, I find that there is a bigger piece to this puzzle that is often more important and must be the overarching aim of their therapy. The parent/child relationship and the child’s self-esteem are the deciding factors for success in occupational therapy. These children are often labeled as behavioral kids, kids in need of more discipline or medication. This way of thinking can be detrimental to family life, and even worse on a child’s self-esteem and self-worth.

In my 10 years of practicing as an occupational therapist, I have seen that when parents are educated on SPD, children are taught to know they can be in control of their environment, and teachers are trained on strategies for the classroom, children with this disorder do more than just get by, they thrive.



Dr. Jessica Wood, OTD, OTR/L, is an associate professor in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program. She is the co-owner of Forefront Therapy, LLC. Her focus of research and clinical practice, and her professional passion, is in pediatric care, specifically Sensory Processing Disorder.

MEASURING ABOVE THE REST



It won't surprise you to know that USI has something very few higher-education institutions have: a state-of-the-art Human Performance Lab (HPL) equipped with technology so advanced it's rarely found outside of medical facilities. This new lab, as well as the new Instructional Performance Center (IPC), are a win/win for students, faculty across disciplines and community members at all stages of fitness.

In both the HPL and IPC, students are afforded hands-on experience using equipment that supports knowledge gained from textbook and lectures, making them more marketable in the emerging, high-demand careers of kinesiology and exercise science. "We have everything we need to make learning better for our students and classes more effective and efficient," says Dr. Alyssa Weatherholt, assistant professor of exercise science.

The HPL provides health, fitness and performance tests that meet the needs of not only competitive and recreational athletes, but individuals seeking to improve their health. The lab contains a BOD POD, metabolic cart, hydrostatic weighing tank and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) that perform measured tests, as opposed to the more commonly practiced predicted tests that are less accurate.

Although three of the above tests calculate the body's composition of fat and lean mass, they do so differently and produce varying percentage results. The BOD POD and hydrostatic weighing tank measure a person's overall fat and fat-free composition; one uses air volume in an enclosed capsule and the other is measured via submersion in water. The two to three percent difference between their results may be more a matter of method preference rather than accuracy. The DEXA measures bone density and overall fat distribution, as well as fat concentrated in various parts of a body, such as arms, legs, belly and head. Yes, there is fat in the head!

In the IPC, a first-class resistance-training facility, students learn to use and practice on equipment they may one day prescribe for their clients or patients. Many of them are in pre-professional programs for physical therapy, occupational therapy or physician's assistant programs, or will become strength and conditioning coaches or personal trainers. Others will fulfill roles in preventive health care, as physicians refer patients to these professionals.

Athletes can measure how effectively their bodies deliver oxygen to their working muscles using the metabolic cart to gain precise information, or the Elite Form, to determine their

optimal weight-lifting capacity, via the built-in camera that records them doing resistance training exercises.

The HPL does more than benefit area athletes and others; it provides funds for the Exercise Science Club, where students achieve professional development by attending conferences, gaining insight on graduate school and learning from guest speakers.

Students are involved in some phase of all the testing. "They learn how to interact with people and do the tests, as well as why the tests are being done," says Weatherholt, noting they will also be part of future research projects. "With the precision and accuracy of this advanced equipment, we can do more research," she says. Among the potential pairing of collaborating departments are: health professions and kinesiology, biology and kinesiology, and engineering and exercise science.

Testing is available to the public by appointment. Contact the Kinesiology and Sport Department at usi.edu/science/hpl or call 812-465-1685. USI faculty, staff and students should call for discounted rates.

TESTS AND PRICING:

- METABOLIC CART — \$70
- RESTING METABOLIC RATE — \$70
- BOD POD — \$40
- HYDROSTATIC WEIGHING — \$70
- DEXA — \$100

Looking through Melissa Cregger's eyes, the world and ways to navigate it are far from straight forward. The 2003 biology major, who flunked out of two colleges and once considered nursing for all the wrong reasons, is now a mother of two and staff scientist in the bioscience division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. She researches plant-microbe interactions to identify beneficial micro-organisms associated with poplar trees as a future biofuel, and human-microbe interactions to see if their signatures can be used in understanding certain diseases.

How

1999-2003

I wasn't prepared for college out of high school and dropped out of two within one year, then took two years off before coming to USI. As a first-generation student, I didn't have a good feel for what job opportunities were available by major and planned to pursue a "practical career." But when I took anatomy and physiology as prereqs, I fell in love with biology and thought I'd become a physician.

I participated in three different faculty research projects at USI, one investigating how plants produce chemicals to ward off insect herbivores (I loved exploring plant/herbivore interactions), another mapping environmental parameters using a geographic information system, and a third studying the molecular basis for the evolution of paddlefish fins. I got a really good, broad biology toolkit working on these research projects.

Melissa

2004-2006

After graduation, I went to Yale with my USI advisor to continue using molecular techniques to explore paddlefish fin development. With his help, I secured a permanent position in Yale's Pathology Department as a research assistant, examining protein expression in cancer.

2012-2014

It's common to do a postdoc after graduate school, and I did mine at the University of Illinois' Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. Combining my education and skills, I focused on host-microbe interactions in humans. During this time, my research was on how inflammatory diseases—specifically endometriosis—altered microbial communities in the human body. I wanted to learn if we could use these molecular signatures to help diagnose enigmatic diseases.

2006-2007

I went to work for HistoRx, working on the same research as at Yale, but I missed ecology and ecological research. As a technician, I was conducting other people's research and wanted to develop projects I was interested in, write grants, get funding and advise students. I knew I needed a PhD to do those things.

2007-2012

I picked the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to earn my doctorate because I was interested in doing large-scale climate research conducted by a faculty member there. My dissertation research focused on understanding how climate change altered microbial communities in the soil and what that meant for ecosystem functions of interest, like carbon and nutrient cycling. We know the climate is changing and we don't know how that's going to affect ecosystems, how they'll shift. We need to know so we can better predict what the future will look like and mediate issues.

Got

Here

2014-present

My research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory focuses on host-microbe interactions; 50 percent is focused on plant-microbe and 50 percent on human-microbe interactions. The two inform each other. Human microbial communities are much less diverse and simpler than plants', and I use them to understand the more complex plant systems in the work I do for the Department of Energy, on poplar trees being sustainable biofuel one day. My human-microbe research seeks to find a way to use microbial signatures to improve diagnoses and forecast therapeutic responses for ovarian and endometrial cancers.

TAKEAWAY:

Slow down and explore your educational options before committing to your study.

X







Class Notes

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.*

1970s

James Jaquess '71, management, is a globally recognized attorney and senior consultant to the energy industry, including nuclear, fossil and renewable power generation.

Dr. Greg Brown '78, elementary education, visited the Great Wall of China and published a new book, *Unified Field Theology: A Journey from Evangelical Fundamentalism to Faith in What Is*. [1]

David Goodman '79, finance and marketing, president of SuperGreen Solutions in West Palm Beach, Florida. "We built the world's first sustainability certification for small to mid-sized businesses, using the world's gold standard for sustainability. The platform is called SGS ISO 14001 and is endorsed and published by the United Nations."

1980s

Curtis Uebelhor '81, art, '94, visual art teaching, has a one-person exhibition, "Time Transfixed" at Art Space Vincennes in Vincennes, Indiana, from March 1 to April 20, 2019.

Randall Haaff '84, finance, received the USI Alumni Service Award at the 2018 Founders' Day Celebration.

Roger Scott '87, communications, loves his position as associate professor at the Defense Institute of Security Cooperation Studies on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, outside of Dayton, Ohio. "Hanging out in Amsterdam in November 2018. Love traveling all over the world for my job!" [2]

Darin Hammers '88, marketing, was appointed chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors by DYSIS Medical Ltd., which is the developer of the DYSIS Ultra Colposcope used in cervical cancer screenings.

Anthony Goodwin '89, radiologic technology, is the radiology/cardiology team leader for nine states for Ascension Health in Evansville.

1990s

Owen Reeves M'90, business administration, was named chairman of the American Public Gas Association board of directors in July of 2018.

Scott Wilhelmus '94, physical education, is the owner and senior hearing instrument specialist at Hearing Works, Inc. in Evansville.

Julie Kemp M'97, elementary education, is principal of Boonville Middle School in Boonville, Indiana.

Tracy (Bagby) Fuquay '98, elementary education, recently completed her administrator's license.

2000s

Christopher Dalrymple '00, general physical education, is the internal consultant for continuous process improvement with Agilify Automation in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jeff May '01, finance, M'06, business administration, is a financial advisor/vice president with Old National Investments in Evansville.

Marcy (Hooper) Crull '02, health services, was appointed CEO of Girls Inc. in Wayne County, Indiana.

Theresa Marcotte M'02, family nurse practitioner, was named associate dean of nursing and allied health with Illinois Eastern Community Colleges in Olney, Illinois.

Joshua Gessling '03, political science, was named partner with Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders LLP, in Evansville. His focus is on labor and employment matters.

Lieutenant Colonel Brian Schmuck '03, sociology, is the region deputy chief of staff, Emergency Services for the Civil Air



Patrol—U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. "I visit local schools to talk to students about Civil Air Patrol's youth program and teach students about air and space science to get them excited about STEM. This activity is unrelated to my official position and is a secondary activity I've taken on due to my passion for teaching." [3]

Dwayne Bryant '04, public relations and advertising, is an acquisitions liaison and broker-in-charge with Greystone Property Management Corporation in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Travis Clowers '04, political science, was elected to serve a third term as prosecuting attorney for Posey County in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

April (Williams) Settles '05, accounting and professional services, and former USI Women's Basketball guard, and **Matthew Settles '05**, marketing, and former Men's Soccer forward, carried their love of sports into their current roles at White River Valley High School (WRV) in Switz City, Indiana. "Several years ago, Matt started the first high school soccer program in Greene County, Indiana, and this year he posted the school's first



winning record. He coaches the fifth and sixth grade girls' basketball team. I am currently the varsity assistant coach for girls' basketball and Girls' Biddy Ball director." Left to right: Molly, Matt, April and Madelynn. [4]

Kari Ford '06, teacher education, is principal of St. Benedict Cathedral School in Evansville.

Constance Thomas M'06, nursing education, published her doctoral research on nursing students' experience of incivility in clinical education in the *Journal of Christian Nursing* April/June 2018 Volume 35 Issue 2.

Rachel (Beavin) Folz '07, radio and television, was promoted to director of product with Cerkl, an artificial intelligence-backed, personalization solution for email, web and mobile in Blue Ash, Ohio. [5]

Andrew McGuire '08, accounting and professional services, and Abby (Reed) McGuire moved from Indianapolis to Amsterdam, Netherlands, with his job as senior manager in assurance, financial services with PricewaterhouseCoopers.



"This past December, we traveled to Morocco, our 16th country visited while living abroad." [6]

2010s

Danielle Norris '11, international studies and journalism, M'14, communication, is a marketing manager with Lieberman Technologies in Evansville.

Christopher Render '11, computer information systems, is a new computer science teacher and robotics team coach with Pike Central High School in Petersburg, Indiana.

Kara Boonstra '13, public relations and advertising, is an account executive with Matchbook Creative in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Marilyn (Davids) Brenton M'14, public administration, was elected to Posey County Council, District 3. "I look forward to serving my home county in this capacity. And, I have a new grandson, River! He is the cutest, most intelligent baby I've ever seen." [7]



Krista (Carter) Kercher '14, radiologic and imaging science, M'16, health administration, is a clinical coordinator with Southwest Indiana Area Health Education Center (SWI-AHEC) in Evansville.

Nolan Ballard '15, engineering, is a power and energy specialist with CED Evansville Supply in Evansville.

Aaron Calvert '15, mechanical engineering, is a performance engineer with Big Rivers Electric Corporation in Henderson, Kentucky.

Andrea Deutsch M'15, public administration, is program manager of the community development team with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana in Evansville.

Damien Burge '16, international relations, is an English teacher in Albania with the Peace Corps.

Brian Helms '16, finance, is a power systems analyst with Alcoa in Newburgh, Indiana.

Jason Miner '16, communication studies, is a management assistant with



Enterprise Rent-A-Car, and **Malana Boris '17**, public relations and advertising, is an account coordinator with CK Advertising in Lakewood, Colorado. "My boyfriend and I, along with our two dogs, Harley and Scrappy, moved to Denver, Colorado, in May." **[8]**

Mychelle Christian '17, health services, presented her poster at a national conference on infant mortality. "I am working with the local health department in a newly founded program called 'Pre to 3' to combat infant mortality in Vanderburgh County." **[9]**

Holly Coon '17, individualized studies, and **Jack Lipchik '17**, individualized studies, live in Homer, Alaska. He is a traveling certified occupational therapy associate with a pediatric clinic, and she is a recruiter with HireLevel. **[10]**

Kendyl Dearing '17, exercise science, is a health educator with Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Jayse Thaxton '17, criminal justice studies, is a residential counselor with Earle C. Clements Job Corps Center in Morganfield, Kentucky.

Cody Gress '18, computer science, is a software developer with Meyer Distributing in Jasper, Indiana.

Shawneis Jones M'18, human resources, is an admissions counselor and recruiter with Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Brilee Parker '18, mathematics, is a scientist with NSWC Crane in Crane, Indiana.

Thomas Piper '18, nursing, is a traveling nurse with Medical Solutions based in Omaha, Nebraska.

Anthony Roberts '18, engineering, is a project manager with Control Specialists, Inc. in Evansville.

Edward VanHoose Jr M'18, business administration, is the president of Federated Energy Services Cooperative and was named the new general manager with North Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative in northern Ohio.

Hannah Walker '18, biology and environmental science, is an environmental specialist with the Indiana

Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation in Jasonville, Indiana.

Tharushi Wattewewa '18, French and international studies, is a teacher with the Midtown International School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Marriages

Kristine (Karges) Wassmer '87, accounting, and Michael Wassmer, her high-school sweetheart, March 4, 2018. She is a credit analyst with Ag Resource Management in Haubstadt, Indiana. **[11]**

Jennifer (Chansler) Morrison '03, accounting, and Jeff Morrison, March 17, 2018, in Cocoa Beach, Florida. She is the account controller with SCHOTT Gemtron in Vincennes, Indiana. **[12]**

Brent Bridges M'06, health administration, and Dr. Jennifer Liles, October 8, 2018.

Leanne (Sprinkle) Hart '06, nursing and health services, and Joe Hart, June 5, 2017.

Julie (DeCoursey) Owen '08, nursing, **M'10**, acute care nurse practitioner, and Andrew Owen, June 11, 2016.

Chelsey (Burton) Sullivan '09, elementary education, and Michael Sullivan, June 30, 2018, in Muncie, Indiana. **[13]**

Allie (Stout) Klemann '11, health services, and Cody Klemann, June 23, 2018, in Maple Valley, Washington. **[14]**

Erin (Frankenberger) Moore '11, health services, and Gregory Moore, April 26, 2018.

Peter Williams II '11, international studies and Spanish studies, and **Jasmine Foster Williams '13**, health services, June 3, 2017.

Lauren Perigo '13, mathematics and German studies, and **Ryan Eichmiller '14**, accounting, June 20, 2018, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The couple includes in Evansville. She is a manager with SS&C Technologies' Fund Services and he is a senior associate with BKD CPAs & Advisors. The wedding party includes several current students and alumni (front left to right) **Darla Perigo '14 M'18**, **Audrey Perigo '18**, **Rachel (Freyberger) Fenneman '13 M'19**, **Kayleigh DeWitt '13**, Eric Rausch, Ryan Eichmiller, Lauren



Perigo, Marilyn Perigo, Dan Perigo, (back left to right) Jordan Stoltz, Katie Stoltz, Shannon Elfreich, William Elfreich, **Shawn DeWitt M'19**, Dylan Birdsong, Eric Peckenpaugh. **[15]**

Casey (Bartlett) Dudas '14, early childhood education and elementary education, and **Alex Dudas '18**, industrial supervision, October 13, 2018.

John Sawa '14, engineering, and Abby (Walker) Sawa, September 22, 2018. **[16]**

Brandon Shaw '14, sports marketing, and **Brianna (Whitmore) Shaw '14**, psychology, October 20, 2018. The couple lives in Chicago, Illinois, where she is a school psychologist with the Yorkville, Illinois, school district and he is an account manager with Alta Equipment. **[17]**

Amanda Brinkman '15, art, and Michael Saalman, October 13, 2018.

Ashley (Knight) Dorsam '15, public relations and advertising, and Trey Dorsam, June 9, 2018. **[18]**

Brandy (Small) Fleck '15, communication studies, **M'18**, communication, and Julian Fleck, October 7, 2017. **[19]**

Ana (Curry) Kane '15, biology, and Nathan Kane, July 29, 2017.

Adam Buddemeyer '16, engineering, and **Allison (Werner) Buddemeyer '18**, communication studies, September 22, 2018. She is a graduate admissions assistant with USI and he is an engineer with Project Associates in Evansville. **[20]**

Danielle (Wire) Nkrumah-Dartey '17, mathematics teaching, and Daniel Nkrumah-Dartey, July 15, 2018, in Accra, Ghana. "I am currently teaching mathematics at Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana, the place of my student teaching." **[21]**

Elijah Farmer '18, elementary education, and **Rachel (Miller) Farmer '18**, biophysics and chemistry, July 14, 2018.

Births and Adoptions

Ryan Harner '02, business administration, and **Brandy (Chapman) Harner '06**, social

work, welcomed Layla Kay on January 24, 2018. **[22]**

Jamie Truitt '05, kinesiology, and Rachel Truitt welcomed Jameson on May 23, 2018.

Kent Walden '05, accounting and professional services, and **Melissa (Garrett) Walden '12**, radio and television, welcomed Kole Eric on October 31, 2018. **[23]**

Scott Roberts '09, finance, and accounting and professional services, and **Kiersten (Deig) Roberts '10**, accounting and professional services, welcomed Elliott on May 21, 2018.

Sandra Villanueva '13, public relations and advertising, and Timothy Bird welcomed Theodore Augustus Bird on March 25, 2017. **[24]**

Matthew Whitacre '13, political science, and Samantha (Grady) Whitacre, welcomed Harrison Leo on August 14, 2018.

Jordan Whitledge '14, economics, **M'16**, business administration, and Robin (Forney) Whitledge, welcomed Julia Marie on August 9, 2018. **[25]**

In Memoriam

David Timothy Reed '72, political science, of Wadesville, Indiana, died November 15, 2018. He honorably served in the United States Air Force as a military police sergeant. He retired in 1994 from the Evansville Police Department after 20 years of service. His greatest achievement was publishing his latest book *Wings Held Up By Hope*.

James Kleeman '73, sociology, of Newburgh, Indiana, died January 1, 2019. He proudly served in the Navy as a radio mechanic from 1957 to 1960. After the Navy, he joined the Evansville Police Department where he retired in 1995 after 35 years. He quickly rose through the ranks before he retired as a major. He was co-director of the central dispatch in 1990.

Ramona Sebree '75, dental assisting, of Evansville, died November 24, 2018. She founded the Oakdale Reunion, participated in many organizations and loved working in the Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Audra Rose Brown '91, dental assisting, of Newburgh, Indiana, died August 26,



2018. She always loved learning and kept a quest for knowledge throughout her entire life, reading about science and the yet-to-be-discovered.

Steven Henry Wilder '91, respiratory therapy, of Newburgh, Indiana, died October 26, 2018. He enjoyed golfing, grilling, spending time outdoors and spending time with his family.

Barbara (Jarboe) Duncan '92, nursing, of Evansville, died January 13, 2019. She loved pets, especially cats, and enjoyed gardening and being outdoors. She was an excellent caregiver, always helping others and was very generous with her time and resources.

Lori (Toelle) Higgins '93, elementary education, of Evansville, died December 23, 2018. She retired from Mt. Vernon school district after teaching for 19 years. She enjoyed craft work, decorating and camping with her family.

Cathleen Miller '94, accounting and business law, of Evansville, died July 29, 2018. She was artistic and loved making jewelry, crafting, sewing, gardening and baking. She also loved spending time with her cats, and nieces and nephews.

Craig Alan Morrow M'94, business administration, of Manhattan, Illinois, died August 3, 2018. He was an enthusiastic world traveler and traveled all over the United States, Canada, Europe, Scandinavia and South America. He loved visiting Hard Rock Cafes all over the world and collected souvenirs from each.

Amanda Lyn (Diehl) Borgia '05, business administration, of Demotte, Indiana, died August 24, 2018. She always went out of her way to make people feel loved and special.

Scott Alan Harris '06, accounting and professional services, of Evansville, died September 30, 2018. He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and loved his dogs.

Gregory Martin '06, accounting and professional services, of Evansville, died August 25, 2018. Throughout his life, he was active in his community, serving as a deputy sheriff and an EMT for Posey County. He served two terms as a county commissioner.

Aaron Wood M'08, business administration, of Henderson, Kentucky, died August 14, 2018. He was grateful

to be blessed with loving parents and a successful career, and regretted only the fact that he didn't have more time to be the father he wanted to be for his children.

Honorary Degrees

USI's Board of Trustees will confer **Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett**, USI president emerita, **Dr. Stephen Bennett**, retired professor of political science and author, and **Betty Worthington**, longtime supporter of USI, with honorary Doctor of Laws degrees for their contributions to the University of Southern Indiana at the Spring 2019 Commencement.

USI FAMILY Retiring

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Craig Ehlen, professor of accounting
28.5 years

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dr. Martin Reed, chair and associate professor of radiologic technology
21.5 years

ADMINISTRATION

Joanne Artz, assistant director of Rice Library
21 years

In Memoriam

Larry Rogers, dispatcher in the Office of Public Safety, died June 7, 2018.

Tim Lockridge, director of computer services, died October 1, 2018.

Virginia Thomas, administrative assistant in the Art and Design Department, died November 18, 2018.

Phil Parker, director of Career Services and Internships, died January 14, 2019.



A jazz fan who plays it for students as they come into the classroom to relax them and ready their minds for learning.

A women's soccer enthusiast who's going with his family to France this summer for the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Conversations are at the heart of all Dr. Kevin Valadares does. As chair of the Health Administration Program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, he teaches both undergrads and graduates the value of others when it comes to health care. He also collaborates with nonprofit health care organizations in the community, in pursuit of his passion to make advance care planning (ACP) and end-of-life conversations easier for everyone. Born in Ottawa, Canada, and educated in the United States, he earned both his master's and doctorate in health administration and health care ethics, respectively—from St. Louis University before joining USI's faculty in 2001. Valadares believes ACP conversations are gifts families can share with each other.

What is advance care planning and why is it important for families to talk about?

It starts with a conversation about medical choices one wants when unable to make those choices for one's self. It's based on our values, beliefs and experiences. All families must make those choices at some point. It's better to have a plan ahead of time as opposed to making a decision in a crisis.

How did you become interested in advance care planning? My connection to hospital

ethics committees allowed me to see tangible examples of what happens when ACP conversations don't occur. Added to that was a special group of people that joined me in New Harmony, Indiana, in 2014 to spread ACP conversations in southwest Indiana.

Why is USI uniquely positioned to spearhead such an initiative in southern Indiana?

USI is a connector and facilitator that must respond to a need to improve the quality of life of the community.



What myths surrounding advance care planning need to be dispelled?

That ACP conversations will upset people. The fact is, individuals want to plan, since we tend to plan everything else (weddings, births, new homes and cars). Everyone has a story and they need to be the author of their entire story.

What phrase sums you up? Not satisfied with the status quo.

What book should everyone read, and why?

"When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi. It is exquisitely written, and you'll have to take breaks just to calm down. Any of the Dilberts written by Scott Adams. The leadership lessons are clear, real and totally applicable.

What one lesson do you hope to leave with students?

Don't just skim the surface. Dive deeper. It gets messier and you will on occasion get stuck, but you'll find your way.

What one lesson have you learned from students?

Much like ACP... everyone has a story. Each story is unique and is connected to how you may (or may not) embrace the content.

An exuberant cook who learned the art from his Goanese mother while in high school, he infuses Indian spices with American staples, resulting in garam masala-spiked scrambled eggs and such.

HAVE A FAVORITE PROFESSOR YOU'D LIKE TO SEE FEATURED HERE? Let us know at magazine@usi.edu.



Without you,
the picture is incomplete...

A large, multi-story stone tower with several windows is the central focus. A fountain at its base sprays a large amount of water, creating a misty atmosphere. In the foreground, three students are sitting on the grass, looking towards the tower. The scene is bright and sunny.

**Your gift is an investment in USI students.
usi.edu/onlinegiving**

Spirit and Heart of USI



"USI's Historic New Harmony serves to preserve Robert Owen's utopian community established in 1825. It seeks to enrich the lives of community members through cultural programs (such as Global Crossroads above) and historic collections. This living laboratory is a place where students and teachers, tourists and scholars, leaders and seekers, can come together to experience, explore and create."

Erin McCracken Merris, marketing specialist, Lifelong Learning

Visit usi.edu/spiritheart for student submission guidelines.