

engage

Outreach and Engagement welcomes Veteran Support Services



The Veteran Support Services staff includes: Joel Matherly, (left) manager, and Steve Rayner, (right) associate.

Joining USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement in October 2013, **Veteran Support Services (VSS)** assists students with applying for and utilizing Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits. Assistance is available to all prospective and enrolled USI students who are veterans, service persons, dependents, survivors of veterans, and other eligible persons. Eligible USI students who need to apply for benefits obtain the necessary application forms and program information from this office.

VSS helps ease the transition of military members from military to civilian life. The office is available to help new and transferring

veteran students who wish to apply for and utilize education benefits that are available from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The office also can assist with the application and approval process of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. An education benefit for veterans with active duty service after September 10, 2001, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill provides funds for tuition and fees, housing allowance, and a book stipend.

"Veteran Support Services offers more than just assistance with educational benefits," said Joel Matherly, manager of VSS. "We also provide information services to assist our student soldiers with a broad range of local and national resources."

VSS is located in the Education Center. The lounge in VSS features a computer lab, specialized counseling, educational programs, workshops, and seminars to help veterans complete their degrees and successfully reach their goals. In addition to educational resources, VSS also serves as a haven where veteran students can spend their downtime, participate in discussions, and enjoy the camaraderie of others who share similar experiences.

The University of Southern Indiana has been declared a military-friendly school by *G.I. Jobs*, a national magazine, for doing the most to embrace America's veterans. Only the top 20 percent of schools nationwide are named to the list each year. USI has consistently held this honor since 2009.

For more information, contact VSS at 812/461-5302 or visit USI.edu/registrar/veterans-support-services.

New American Legion post opens at USI

On November 8, the University of Southern Indiana hosted an opening and dedication ceremony for Brock Babb Post No. 324, a new American Legion post that is temporarily located in USI's **Veteran Support Services Office** on the lower level of the Education Center. Named after Sergeant Brock A. Babb, an Evansville Marine who died in Iraq in 2006, the post is the second American Legion to be housed on a university campus in the state of Indiana. The first was at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis in 2012.



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A large crowd attended the opening and dedication of the Sergeant Brock Babb American Legion Post 324 on the USI campus November 8.

Letter from the Associate Provost

Happy 2014 from the Division of Outreach and Engagement! This year is shaping up to be a tremendous one. Within the pages of this issue of *engage*, you will read about many of the new employees within Outreach and Engagement. I also am pleased to announce that Michael Thissen is joining our team in January as the innovation corridor manager. Michael is the first person completely dedicated to the I-69 innovation corridor initiative. He comes to USI from Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs, where he worked on many impactful economic development initiatives.



Bernhard

Late 2013 also brought exciting news to USI when the University was awarded a \$3 million grant from the Lilly Endowment aimed at enhancing career opportunities for our graduates. While this is a University-wide effort that cuts across all colleges and several administrative areas, the Division of Outreach and Engagement was integrally involved in the writing of the grant and will play a pivotal role in the planning and implementation of the various initiatives. These programs include enhancements to the existing Technology Commercialization Academy and internship/co-op programs, as well as the creation of the Eagle Innovation Accelerator. Certificate programs for students, graduates, and incumbent workers also are part of the planned efforts. Stay tuned to future issues of *engage* for updates on USI's progress with these initiatives.

This issue of *engage* does a great job of highlighting much of the diverse, important work we do within the Division of Outreach and Engagement. I would like to highlight the work of the Southern Indiana Japanese School. I had the opportunity to visit the school in late November to observe classes. It was inspiring to observe the engaged learning occurring between the teachers and the students at all grade levels. Congratulations to Principal Keietsu Nishimura along with Mitsuko Owa, Noriko Walters, and the rest of the teachers for providing a wonderful learning environment for their students to thrive.

Another important activity we are currently immersed in is coordinating USI's application for reclassification of the Carnegie Engaged University designation. Along with the Office of Planning, Research, and Assessment, Outreach and Engagement is co-leading this effort to collect data and assemble a report that will be submitted to the Carnegie Foundation in mid-April for this prestigious honor.

As always, until next time, be well and let any of us in Outreach and Engagement know if we can be of assistance with any of your outreach and engagement needs.

All the best,

Dr. Mark C. Bernhard
Associate Provost for
Outreach and Engagement



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Pete Snowden, a 37-year-old USI engineering major and former Navy air traffic controller, was approached by Ron Byrley, American Legion District 8 commander, and Buckey Honaker, American Legion District 8 vice commander, to launch the new post. Snowden is serving as the post's first commander.

"The American Legion was founded in 1919," said Snowden. "Most of the guys that are in a legion are older gentlemen, we call them the Old Guard. We need to bring in the New Guard, a younger generation who can take over and keep the legion going. Otherwise, the legion will fall apart."

When deciding on an individual to name the new post after, Snowden stated that the search began by researching fallen soldiers from Evansville who served in the Iraq or Afghanistan war. It was important to name the new post after someone from the new generation.

"We came across Sergeant Brock Babb," said Snowden. "He wasn't the first Marine to fall in the Iraq War, but he did receive the Silver Star and many other awards."

A husband and father, Babb also was engaged in the community. He was a volunteer, a soccer and wrestling coach, and was involved with his church.

Babb served in the first Iraq war. Then, at the age of 40, he re-enlisted and returned to Iraq with his team of Marines. Two weeks into his tour, Babb was traveling in an armored Humvee in the Anbar Province of Iraq with four other Marines. They encountered a roadside bomb that exploded and killed Babb and another Marine from Terre Haute, Indiana.

"He didn't have to go back overseas, he could have retired," said Snowden. "He went back because his team was going and he wanted to keep them safe."

The post is number 324 because Babb was in the Third Battalion, 24th Marines. During the dedication of the new post, Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke declared November 8 as "Brock Babb American Legion Post 324 Day" in Evansville.

Goals of the new post are to give support to student veterans in the Evansville community. For instance, the post can help individuals who are having issues with the G.I. Bill or who have a disability issue and are trying to get their case in front of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The American Legion is chartered by Congress and is a legal entity," said Snowden. "We can propose bills and laws to Congress so we can take veteran issues all the way to the top. When things come up and can't be handled by USI's Veteran Support Services Office, the legion can step in and take issues up as high as they need to go."

USI currently has more than 245 registered veterans on campus and the new post has more than 25 chartered members. Snowden is working with representatives from the University of Evansville and Ivy Tech Community College to grow membership. Once that is accomplished, and enough funds are raised, the post will move off campus to a location on the west side of Evansville.

"We would like to get our post off campus because that's when you can really start to do good for the community," said Snowden. "Right now we are focusing on college students because they are the up and comers. They are the ones that are lacking in the American Legion."

Brock Babb Post No. 324 is open to veterans from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, or to learn how to become a member of the new post, contact Snowden at 812/431-5519 or navy_issue@yahoo.com.

Big Read will kick off February 2

USI's **Service Learning Program** and community partners will participate in The Big Read, a program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The program is being funded through a \$12,000 grant that was awarded to USI from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This is the second year USI has received this grant.

The Grapes of Wrath, a novel that depicts economic hard times and environmental issues faced by those who lived through the Great Depression, was selected for the community read as it closely relates to the world we live in today.

Big Read events will include exhibits, discussion groups, a lecture and panel discussion, screenings of *The Grapes of Wrath*, music, and more. The opening reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, at Central Library in Evansville, where a panel of USI faculty members will discuss the relevance of the book. Free copies of the book will be available as well as a study guide to

encourage intergenerational dialogue. The culminating event will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, and will include a closing panel and reception, which also will be held at Central Library.



Additional programs and events for The Big Read can be found online at USI.edu/big-read.

"We are very excited about the program we are offering," said Dr. Anne Statham, director of USI's Service Learning Program. "Our partners have worked hard to accomplish our goals of encouraging all segments of our community to read great literature and consider the ways these classic works relate to our lives today, sharing these insights across generations. There is something for everyone in our line-up of events and activities, including programs that will be aired on WNIN."

► *Continued on page 5*

USI's Southern Indiana Japanese School honored with awards



Students from USI's Southern Indiana Japanese School pose with the 2013 School Award in Writing from the Japan Overseas Educational Services. The students also received individual writing prizes. Winners include: front row, left to right, Misaki Koshimizu, Rio Kamihira, and Rintaro Maejima. Back row, left to right, Ren Higuchi and Nono Higuchi. Not pictured: Momoko Anada and Emily Okada.

For the eighth consecutive year, USI's **Southern Indiana Japanese School** (SIJS) has received the School Award in Writing from the Japan Overseas Educational Services, a subsidiary of the Japanese government's Ministry of Education and Science. There are more than 300 Japanese schools abroad of which 230 participated in the contest. Only 20 schools received the award.

"I believe we are the only school in the world to receive the School Award in Writing eight years consecutively," said Keietsu Nishimura, principal of SIJS.

Additional writing prizes also were awarded to seven SIJS students in various writing categories.

Momoko Anada, an eighth grader at North Junior High School in Evansville, and Emily Okada, a fifth grader at Oak Hill School in Evansville, received prizes in the category of Haiku poetry.

Prizes in the poetry category went to Rio Kamihira, a first grader at Sharon Elementary School in Newburgh, and to Rintaro Maejima and Misaki Koshimizu, who are both second graders at Scott Elementary School in Evansville.

From Tell City, Indiana, siblings Nono Higuchi and Ren Higuchi received prizes in the writing category. Nono is an eighth grader at Tell City Jr.-Sr. High School and Ren is a third grader at William Tell Elementary.

A total of 43,769 literature works were submitted to the writing contest this year.

SIJS opened in 1997 at the request of, and with the financial support of, Tri-state regional companies to help prepare students for a smooth transition into Japanese school life when they return home. Currently, the school has 60 students and 11 teachers who provide instruction in Japanese language, culture, and other selected disciplines on Saturdays and after the regular school day.

Summer fellowship recipient conducts research at Eagle Slough

Prepared by Reghan Wetzel, Communications Intern for CARED

Dr. Jason Hill, assistant professor of engineering and recipient of the **Center for Applied Research and Economic Development** (CARED) Summer 2013 Fellowship, is conducting research on the 127-acre wetland, Eagle Slough. The project involves designing and installing a hydrologic monitoring network to support research efforts and installing signage to enhance the educational potential of the area. The monitoring network consists of multiple monitoring wells instrumented with a variety of sensors and a gauge to measure rainfall. These efforts will capitalize on the area's recreational and educational potential and provide a field laboratory for studying wetland hydrology.

Eagle Slough is an incredibly diverse wetland located just north of Ellis Park in Evansville. Untouched and fairly secluded, the wetland is a refuge for many species of animals and plants trying to escape the developing world. Hill sees tremendous potential for basic and applied research projects at the area.

One research area Hill is pursuing concerns techniques for estimating water loss due to evaporation and transpiration by plants (collectively termed evapotranspiration). Hill notes that conventional techniques for estimating evapotranspiration require site-specific micrometeorological data (solar radiation, wind speed, vapor

pressure, etc.) and plant growth characteristics that change with time. However, "It is difficult to apply these techniques to sites with large spatial variability in vegetation and moisture conditions," he said. A technique that involves using high-resolution water level data will be explored.

Hill notes that this technique has a long history of use for groundwater systems, but has only recently been applied to flooded wetlands. The data collected at Eagle Slough will be used to build upon Hills' earlier research on this topic. Eagle Slough is a good test site to apply this technique.

"This (Eagle Slough) is more of a complex mosaic of different types of wetlands. So, it is unique in that regard," Hill said. "The Eagle Slough natural area includes forested wetlands, a herbaceous marshland, and an area of open water surrounded by bald cypress trees that are rarely found this far north."

Hill and his team of volunteers have installed three monitoring wells and are planning to install additional wells in the future.

"In addition to supporting research activities, I also hope to incorporate field activities at Eagle Slough into my upper level engineering courses," said Hill. "The wetland is a great educational environment for our students."

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art currently exhibiting *Infodumps and Datafils*

Infodumps and Datafils, an exhibition of work by artist Leticia Bajuyo, is currently on display at USI's **New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art**. Fascinated by technology and trends, Bajuyo's work includes large-scale sculptures that are comprised of repurposed materials.

The exhibition includes a massive horn that was designed by Bajuyo to resemble an original Victrola record player. The piece was constructed with CDs, DVDs, and data discs that were donated by members in Bajuyo's community as well as communities that have participated in the construction of similar forms in the past. Bajuyo likes to involve donations by community members in the construction of her pieces so that they can feel a greater connection to the work. Donated disks were strapped together to form a giant three-dimensional quilt that was formed into a horn. The horn was then connected to a Theremin, a musical instrument that is played by moving one's hands between two antennas.

Viewers can play the Theremin and look for their contribution in the shiny, scale like skin of the sculpture. The CDs, DVDs, and data discs play multiple functions in the sculpture. For one, they represent technology itself and our consumption of it. Additionally, the materials speak to the increased speed at which technologies become obsolete. They are memories that were once important to people, but have now been discarded. However, sewn into the surface of the work, they become a new documentation of the memory they hold.

A second set of work on display includes a wormhole comprised of a series of tunnels created from discarded fiber optic cables. Donated by a company that is replacing Internet connections in Bajuyo's town, the cables cannot be spliced and are unusable.

The wormhole is a reference to Bajuyo's love of science fiction. A self-proclaimed Trekkie, Bajuyo refers to the common use of black holes (or wormholes) in science fiction for transportation between places. She relates this to the way we use the Internet to communicate between our own little worlds. In the works for the gallery, the series of wormholes serve to not only frame the viewer in the other end, but also create a sort of separation space in the form of the tunnel. The cables represent the next stage of information technology. Bajuyo points out that even as the new cables are installed, there are still days the Internet is not fast enough.

► *Big Read continued*

Program sponsors include Evansville Literacy Coalition, Evansville Protestant Home, Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Ivy Tech Community College, Solarbron, Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging and More, Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District, West River, Willard Library, WNIN, and more.

Presented by NEA, The Big Read is a partnership with Arts Midwest. The NEA inaugurated The Big Read as a pilot project



A massive horn designed by artist Leticia Bajuyo is currently on display at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The large-scale sculpture, constructed of CDs, DVDs, and data discs, was created to resemble an original Victrola record player.

When asked about underlying environmental messages in her pieces, Bajuyo jokingly suggests that while she does not mind putting on the "environmental hat," the real reason for the material choice is to keep her costs down. She also has a hard time turning down the wide array of materials people offer her when they find out she is an artist. Ultimately, it is content that determines the materials used in her projects.

Bajuyo is an associate professor of art at Hanover College in Indiana. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Notre Dame.

Infodumps and Datafils will run through Friday, February 21, and a closing reception will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 22.

The gallery will be accepting donations of CDs, DVDs, and data discs for Bajuyo until the end of the show.

The New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art is located at 506 Main Street in New Harmony, Indiana, and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. For more information call 812/682-3156 or visit nhgallery.com.

in 2006 with 10 communities featuring four books. It continues to expand to include more communities and additional books. To date, more than 1,000 grants have been awarded to communities in the United States to host Big Reads since the program's 2007 national launch.

For more information, contact Statham at 812/465-1203 or aastatham@usi.edu.

Five new faces in Outreach and Engagement



Joel Matherly has been named manager of Veteran Support Services (VSS). Formerly employed as operations officer and assistant professor of military science for USI's ROTC program, Matherly will coordinate, administer, promote, evaluate, and deliver all necessary programs and activities in the areas of recruiting veterans to, and serving veterans enrolled at, USI. Services include, but are not limited to, academic support, financial assistance, improving access to veterans'

services in the community, and developing programs to assist veterans and families in readjusting after deployment(s). Matherly served in the Indiana Army National Guard and is currently in the United States Army Reserve where he serves as a petroleum officer/operations officer. He holds a Bachelor of General Studies degree from USI and an Associate of Science degree in business administration from Ivy Tech Community College.



Rachel Price is now a part-time senior administrative assistant for USI at Innovation Pointe. Price will provide support for events, meetings, and classes held at Innovation Pointe, assist the manager of education and entrepreneurial services, and provide technical support for the computer lab, classrooms, and the Innovation Lab. She also will provide logistical support to faculty teaching credit and noncredit courses at Innovation Pointe.

Tamara Powell has joined Outreach and Engagement as senior administrative assistant where she will help support USI's Basic Orientation Plus (BOP) safety program. The BOP program is a partnership between USI and the Tri-State Industrial Safety Council,



a member of the Association of Reciprocal Safety Councils that meets most of the OSHA-mandated contractor requirements. The program helps increase safety-training efficiency for contract employees due to a reduction in redundant information being presented. Powell was employed as a caregiver for Home Instead Senior Care and also was self-employed at Cleaning by Tamara.



Reorganization has brought Steve Rayner, associate in Veteran Support Services (VSS), to the Division of Outreach and Engagement. Rayner first joined the University in 2008 as a security officer in the Office of Public Safety. In 2011, he was promoted to his current position in VSS where he is responsible for the educational benefits for veterans on campus and the coordination of veteran activities. Rayner is a former member of the U.S. Air Force Security Police and served in Operation

Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in communications at USI.



Judy Schiff has been named part-time administrative assistant for Outreach and Engagement. Schiff will perform clerical duties, particularly those related to noncredit registration. She also will update and maintain the department website and calendars. Schiff retired from Mead Johnson after more than 37 years of service as a senior document information assistant in the department of Quality Assurance.

USI's 12th Annual Norwegian Foot March was record-breaking



Cadets and soldiers from 30 states participated in USI's 12th Annual Norwegian Foot March on November 2. Nearly 500 individuals participated, making the event the largest to date.

Nearly 500 cadets and soldiers representing 30 states traveled to the University of Southern Indiana to participate in the 12th Annual Norwegian Foot March on November 2. With a start and end

point at USI, the 18.6-mile event required participants to march on a trail that covered a variety of terrain while dressed in military attire and carrying a 25-pound rucksack and frame. The event was the largest to date, with records broken in both the female and team categories.

Sponsored by Dr. Nils Johansen, retired Norwegian Artillery Reserve Officer and USI University Division advisor, the Norwegian Foot March is a boot camp tradition for Norwegian soldiers.

"When the USI **Reserve Officer's Training Corps** program began in 2001, I knew I wanted to help bring something special to the program," said Johansen, who holds a Norwegian Foot March badge in gold. "The Norwegian Foot March is a great challenge for cadets and is a typical boot camp activity for Norwegian soldiers."

ROTC cadets from Ball State University, Central Michigan University, IUPUI, Indiana University, Rose-Hulman, and USI participated in the march. In addition, soldiers from the United States Army, including those stationed at Fort Benning, Fort Knox, Fort Campbell, Fort

► *Continued on page 7*

Foot March continued

George G. Meade, Fort Leonard Wood, West Point, Fort Sill, and Camp Atterbury, also participated. States represented included Alaska, California, North Carolina, New York, Texas, and more. Ages of participants ranged from 17 to 51 and included both males and females.

Cadets and soldiers who completed the foot march in an allotted amount of time were awarded a certificate and the bronze badge for finishing, a silver badge for finishing four marches, and a gold badge for completing eight marches. The foreign badge is authorized for acceptance and wear on the Army uniform.

Nicholas Fischer, a 29-year-old from Jasper, Indiana, took first place in the march with a time of two hours and 55 minutes. Fischer is a member of the National Guard.

Emily Nordt, a 19-year-old ROTC cadet from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, was the first female to cross the finish line. With

a time of three hours and 19 minutes, Nordt set a new record in the female category. The previous record was three hours and 54 minutes.

In the team category, Raymond Cole-Machuca (17), Matt Eden (19), Joseph Loeb (22), and Said Outlaw (18) from West Point, New York, set a new record with a time of three hours and 28 minutes. The previous record was three hours and 41 minutes.

Proceeds from the Norwegian Foot March benefit the USI ROTC program.

Registration for the 13th Annual Norwegian Foot March will open in March.

For more information, contact Major Chris Dalrymple, assistant professor of military science for USI ROTC, at 812/461-5304 or cmdalrympl@usi.edu.

Nontraditional student completes BGS degree, begins work on master's



On December 14, 2013, Douglas Hazel participated in USI's fall commencement ceremony and became one of the newest graduates of the **Bachelor of General Studies** (BGS) program. While his path to a degree took a few twists and turns, Hazel's story is similar to many adult learners who decide to return to college and finish something they started many years ago.

Hazel began his college experience in a traditional way at Indiana State University Evansville where he majored in business. Two years later, he was discouraged and disappointed with his performance as a student and became content with full-time employment. He started in the "pot room" at Alcoa's Warrick Operations and eventually entered a three-year electrical apprenticeship program jointly offered through Alcoa and Ivy Tech Community College. Hazel was named to the Honors List nearly every semester and completed an Associate of Applied Science degree. His career at Alcoa included selection as a union steward and a promotion to electrical maintenance supervisor.

Hazel left Alcoa to join the workforce as a skilled maintenance team member at Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana (TMMI). After six years at TMMI, he began a new position as a plant electrician at Graham Packaging. The fast-paced, highly automated production of plastic bottles and jars proved challenging, and Hazel's electrical training and industrial experience had prepared him well for the position. Changing jobs also made him recognize how much a bachelor's degree would help him advance within the ranks of the larger employers.

With an associate's degree and credit hours from his previous college experience, Hazel realized that a bachelor's degree was within reach. He learned about the new Applied Studies major

offered through USI's BGS program and decided to pursue the Technical Supervision and Leadership major.

"I realized that obtaining a bachelor's degree would be beneficial to my career and satisfy my personal goal of becoming a college graduate," said Hazel. "The course curriculum that I followed improved my communication skills and gave me the tools and confidence to lead."

Enrolling part-time with two or three courses each semester was challenging for Hazel, especially with his position at Graham Packaging. "The time spent preparing and being prepared for tests and projects was demanding because I worked 45 to 55 hours per week. I spent a lot of Sundays studying. It wasn't easy, but I am glad I did it."

Completing a couple courses each semester was the best way for Hazel to make steady progress on his degree and earn top grades. "The BGS courses helped me put in perspective what I needed to do to be prepared for graduation and what comes next. Projects in the BGS program were real-life situations that had me using all of the courses I had taken to successfully complete course objectives."

Now that he has earned his bachelor's degree, Hazel will continue his education and begin working on a Master of Science in Industrial Management degree this semester at USI.

"This is very typical of many successful adult learners," said Lee Ann Shafer, academic programs manager/advisor for the BGS program in USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement. "Many BGS students discover how much they love learning and enter a graduate program immediately after completing the program."

For more information on USI's BGS program, contact Shafer at 812/464-1879 or lshafer@usi.edu.



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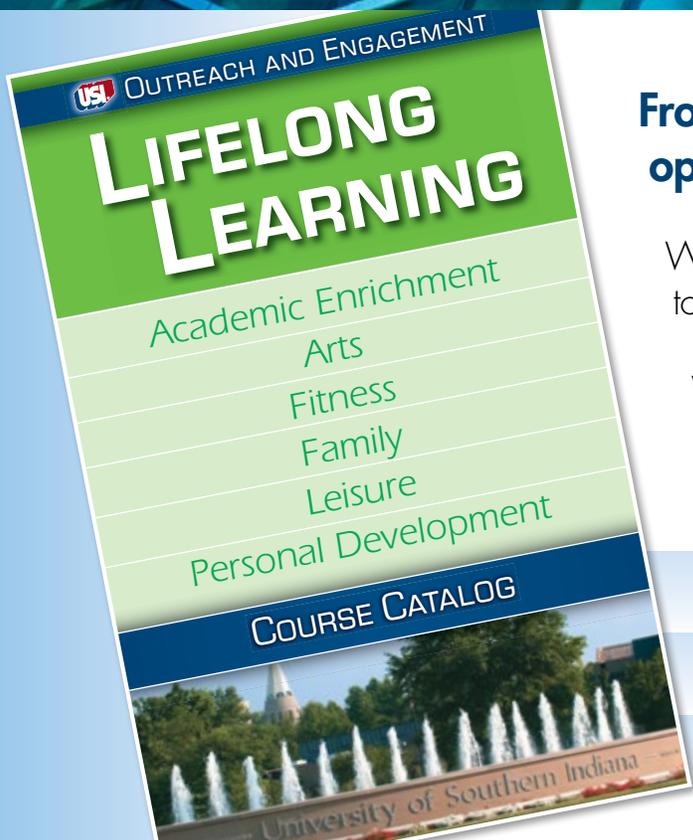
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