

ROMAIN • COLLEGE OF Business

ENGAGEMENT IMPACT INNOVATION

Look Who's Talking

On the eve of his inauguration as the fourth president of the University of Southern Indiana, sitting across from General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) on the eve of his 82nd birthday, Dr. Ronald Rochon told a buoyed crowd inside the freshly opened Screaming Eagles Arena that it was a night he would never forget.

It was also a night that—full disclosure—made him a little tense.

"I've been nervous all day," Rochon admitted, prompting laughs from the Romain College of Business Innovative Speaker Series audience and a joke from Powell that the president should "drop down and give 10."

"I'll give you five," Rochon countered.

In the end, no pushups were attempted. Instead, the audience watched and listened as a man shaped on the south side of Chicago in the 1970s sought the insights and advice of a man brought up in the South Bronx in the 1940s.

Over the course of an hour, Powell offered his thoughts on everything from diversity in higher education ("If you are a public school and you do not have a student body that reflects what the public looks like, then you're not doing your job.") to division in the Middle East ("I see no solution in sight... I think it's going to continue to be a problem for a long, long period of time, and there's no immediate solution.")

He weighed in on Russia, China and North Korea. On immigration and segregation. On partisan politics and why he won't be running for president. "It wouldn't work, politically. I didn't have the passion in me to be a politician," Powell said.

He even humored a question about aliens, playfully placing his finger to his lips as if he had a secret.

But one of the more relatable moments of the evening came when the Four-Star General and former Secretary of State, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and National Security Advisor opened-up about something many try, sometimes at serious costs, to hide: failure. "Every young person should fail," Powell said. "I did things wrong, and I had to be corrected. But doing wrong doesn't mean there's anything wrong with you. It's just, do it right next time."



General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) offers lessons on failure and leadership.

That message hit home for Darlene Short, a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Castle North Middle School who brought a group of 50 students to the program.

"Success happens through failures," she said. "You don't automatically always get things easily. And so, I loved that he talked about that, because our 'A' students, they can't make a 'B' without just falling apart sometimes."

"I was one of those kids. I got 'As' and 'Bs' in high school, and now in college, it's a lot harder," added Claudia Labhart '22, a USI student majoring in biology and German. "I'm maybe not doing as good, but it's not the end of the world. You just have to keep moving, and that was really inspirational. That's something I feel like I'll think about a lot now."

Brandon Ragland, who was a teenager the first time he heard Powell speak in Evansville, attended Thursday's event with his 16-year-old daughter, Jazmine, a student at Harrison High School. "I think that he pretty much put it in my daughter's mind that, hey, that's part of the ingredients of your success. It kind of reiterates what I try to share with her a lot. I always say, 'I don't speak from a platform of perfection, it was because of my problems that I've had that I can be able to find solutions now.'"

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Even in his retirement from public service, Powell continues to look for solutions, too. He's passionate about education and spoke about the school he opened at his alma mater, City College of New York, about a mile from where he was born in Harlem. He's been to each of the 12 schools in the United States that bear his name.

"It means more to see my name over an elementary school than it does to wear a medal," Powell said. "What I remind myself all the time is that I can't change anything in the past...The only thing I really can change is the future. And the future that is in this country, they are our children. And we can't afford to waste that."

Just weeks ago, some of those children—Darlene Short's students from Castle North—were reading about Powell in their classroom. Thursday, they sat feet away from him, waving as he prepared to go on stage. (He waved back.)

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. No other sixth-grade class is going to have the opportunity to read about a person in their textbook and then go hear him speak. To make that connection, that real-world connection, is invaluable," Short said.

Powell, who wrote an instant New York Times best seller about leadership (*It Worked for Me: In Life & Leadership*), shared a story that changed his mindset on the topic decades ago when he was a first lieutenant. He'd been so caught up about his own promotion that he failed to give one of the men in his unit the boost in rank he had earned. "I was ashamed of myself," Powell said.

He never forgot his error. But, instead of worrying, he learned. "I always remember that I'm second," said Powell. "Whether you're in the Army, in the band, any human occupation where you're leading people. Remember, it's the people you're leading who are the important ones. You can be replaced overnight, easy."

No one, however, can replace the history Colin Powell has both made and been a part of while serving 35 years in the United States Army and under four U.S. presidents. Which is why, just before the night ended, Powell, once the brigade commander of the 101st Airborne Division nicknamed the "Screaming Eagles," earned another honor to add to his vast collection: an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Southern Indiana.

"I'm deeply honored. I really appreciate it," Powell said, in closing. "I hope I can get back here sometime."

Fewer than One in Fifty



The University of Southern Indiana Romain College of Business has received an extension on its accreditation for its Business and Accounting programs from AACSB International, the world's largest and longest-serving accrediting body for business schools.

"We are grateful that the AACSB Board of Directors has recognized our continuing efforts to pursue the best possible educational opportunity for USI students," said Dr. Brian McGuire, interim dean of the Romain College of Business. "Our dual accreditation remains a testament to both the quality of our faculty and the dedication to excellence we have in our business and accounting programs. Out of the 12,000 business schools worldwide, less than 2% are AACSB-accredited in both business and accounting."

Receiving accreditation from AACSB requires institutions to complete a rigorous process ensuring alignment with 15 business standards and delivery of the best in business education. Of the nearly 1,700 member institutions, USI is one of only 189 to have earned both an accreditation of business programs and a supplemental accreditation of accounting programs.

"The commitment to earning accreditation is a true reflection of a school's dedication—not only to their students, alumni network and greater business community, but to the higher education industry as a whole," said Stephanie Bryant, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB. "Today's students are tomorrow's business leaders, and the addition of these five institutions to the network of AACSB-accredited business schools will have a lasting positive impact, both locally and globally."

The Romain College of Business offers undergraduate programs in accounting, business administration, computer information systems, computer science, economics, finance, management and marketing as well as both a traditional and accelerated Master of Business Administration Program.

AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) is the leading, global authority for accreditation of business and accounting programs. Its mission: to foster engagement, accelerate innovation and amplify impact in business education.

New Screagles Learn to Soar

Imagine you're a new student. You're settling in, navigating campus, making friends—and trying to get your head around a totally new learning environment. Maybe you're even second-guessing whether you've made the best decision.

Such feelings are only natural—but they soon dissolve with UNIV 101.

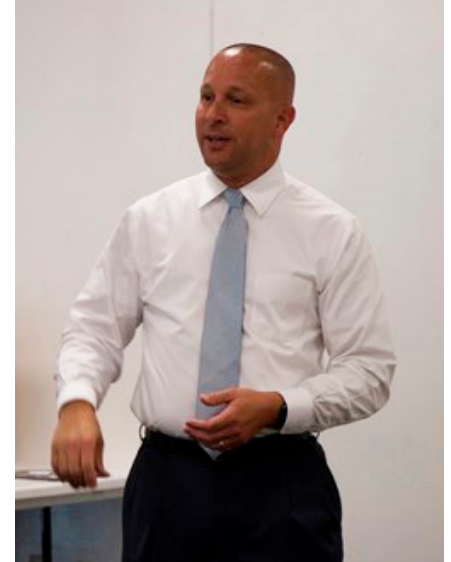
UNIV 101 introduces first-year business students to USI and builds confidence for a fulfilling undergraduate journey. They learn about what it takes to succeed academically—and about opportunities to enrich their experience outside the classroom. It's all designed to support a good transition from high school to college.

Perspectives from within and outside the University.

Presenters bring encouragement and a wealth of experience concerning business, accounting, marketing and more. In addition to presentations by faculty, Romain College alumni recall their individual struggles in orienting to college life and their transitions in the workplace. Students hear directly from those who have stood in their shoes discuss their careers and give career advice.



Matthew Mitchell '12, accounting and professional services, is an audit supervisor at Harding, Shymanski & Company, P.S.C.



Jeff Bone '97, business administration, is a corporate relationship manager for Old National Bank.



Adam Franke '11, computer information science and management, is a global technology engineer at AstraZeneca, and Courtney Mickel '10, marketing, is the community engagement director with Community One. They took students through an analysis of a business case.

High School Students Square Off in Business Challenge

The third annual USI High School Business Case Challenge took place in November at the Business and Engineering Center. Students from area high schools competed in teams and individually on challenging, real-world business problems, and were judged on their analysis of the case, solutions and recommendations and more before a judging panel of faculty, students and accounting professionals. The first-place team and their school each received \$500, and each of the individual winners received scholarships to Romain College of Business. USI's Accounting Circle sponsored the event, facilitated by volunteers from its Young Professionals on Romain College's Accounting Circle advisory board.



First place—Henderson County High School: Nick Clem, Jaycee Simpson, and Alex Wheeler received \$500.



Second place—Evansville North High School: Madysen Lowe, Erika Will.



Third place—Henderson County High School: Jordan Toribo, Nick Wimber, Brodie Trotter, Preston Hazelwood (not pictured).



First place—Alex Wheeler, Henderson County High, received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Second place—Erika Will, Evansville North High, received a \$500 scholarship.



Third place—Preston Hazelwood, Henderson County High, received a \$250 scholarship.

As Iron Sharpens Iron

Students at Romain College of Business have an added advantage as they prepare to enter the world of business. Namely, they can take part in USI's career mentor program. It matches them with a working professional—someone who takes a personal interest to help them get a good start on a career.

"As an undergraduate, I participated in the program and was matched with great mentors that helped me develop as a professional," says Jordan Whitledge, investment officer, Old National Wealth Management. "I knew I had to invest in the next generation of leaders, which is why I became involved in the program again, this time as a mentor."

Whitledge's influence made a tremendous difference for his mentee, Neal Northcott, who graduated in December with a degree in finance. The two met once a month over coffee to talk about Northcott's aspirations and how to achieve them.

"Being in Jordan's presence gave me the direction and motivation for a lifestyle change for personal growth," says Northcott. "With his feedback and tips from our mock interviews, I was able to land a great internship after just the first interview. This also carried over after graduation as I had a full-time job offer after my very first interview."



"Our mentorship program is officially over, but Northcott and I developed a great relationship and still work together," says Whitledge. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Alexa Buelteel '16, management and human resources, had the opportunity to be mentored by Janet Heldt Baas '85, senior vice president and Old National Bank Foundation president.

To know more about opportunities to mentor students, send email to Janet Johnson, director, Alumni Relations and Volunteer USI.



University of Southern Indiana alumna Michelle R. Schroeder '96, chief financial officer of Kimball International, Inc., has been named 2018 Romain College of Business Distinguished Accountant. This honor is awarded annually by the USI Romain College of Business in conjunction with the USI Accounting Circle. The selection criteria includes professional achievement and stature in the accounting industry and USI community involvement and leadership. The award was announced by Accounting Circle chair and 2014 Distinguished Accountant, Steve Mudd, partner at Riney Hancock CPAs PSC.

Schroeder joined Kimball International in 1984, serving in various marketing administrative roles. After attending USI to pursue a degree in accounting, she re-joined Kimball in 1996 and advanced through various accounting and financial leadership roles before becoming CFO. Currently, she holds responsibility for the accounting, SEC reporting, auditing, investor relations, tax, and treasury functions, as well as setting financial strategy and policies for Kimball. Schroeder is currently a member of the Romain College's Board of Advisors, which is composed of senior business leaders who are acquainted with the needs of the community and of commerce and have a strong interest in establishing and maintaining direct and effective communication between the business world and the business classroom. She was also recognized as "CFO of the Year for Public Companies in Indiana" in 2017 by the Indianapolis Business Journal.

New Certificates Approved

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has approved two new certificates in Cybersecurity and in Data Analytics for Business to be offered by the University of Southern Indiana Romain College of Business Management and Information Sciences Department beginning in the fall 2019 semester.

"These new certificates will allow students to expand their studies to include emerging, in-demand fields and skills," said Dr. Brian McGuire, interim dean of the Romain College of Business. "As opportunities arise in new fields, we are ensuring that our faculty and curriculum are equipped to provide the best possible education and resources to meet those opportunities."

Students completing the Cybersecurity Certificate will gain an in-depth understanding of cybersecurity through the study of behavioral, technical, operational and strategic approaches to the issues associated with cyber threats. Students completing the Data Analytics for Business Certificate will gain an in-depth understanding and hands-on experience in data analysis through experiential learning in data visualization and storytelling, the use of advanced predictive analytics tools and methods, and data management and preparation. Degree-seeking or non-degree seeking students will not only improve their knowledge in these areas, but can enhance their careers.

Both certificates will be 12 hours of coursework and require 9 hours of required courses and 3 hours of electives. These certificates may be obtained in concurrence with baccalaureate and associate degrees.

For more information, contact Dr. Abbas Foroughi, chair of the Management and Information Sciences Department, by email or call 812-465-1667.

Ich komme aus Universität von Süd-Indiana

In July, students from Romain College of Business will travel to Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences in Germany for three weeks of classwork and cultural immersion. They will join the ranks of more than 100 students from the College who have studied abroad over the last eight years via USI's International Summer University.

Last year's contingent numbered 18 students. Dr. Daria Sevastianova, associate professor of economics, accompanied the group and taught a course on Economics of Globalization. Highlights of the itinerary included visits to Berlin, Amsterdam and Paris; tours at ZF in Lemförde, a supplier to major auto manufacturers, and at Hellmann Logistics; and networking with local leaders and other international students. Mayor Strangmann of Osnabrück welcomed the group with a reception at Peace Hall, where the Treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648.

USI offers International Summer University in collaboration with other participating schools. In 2018, USI students were among about 70 students from around the world who participated.



Employability Made in Germany

Graduates need jobs. Jobs need graduates. Might we learn something from how Germany brings the two together?

To explore the possibilities, area and international leaders representing government, business and academia met in April at USI's Griffin Center. The event was part of a five-city tour titled "Wunderbar Together: The Year of German-American Friendship," discussing Germany's leading role in university-industry collaboration, dual-study programs, apprenticeships and educational concepts of applied teaching and research.

"Our purpose was to share how the German model of dual education combines practical training with curriculum to prepare students for the job market," says Dr. Daria Sevastianova, associate professor of economics, center for economics education director, and study abroad coordinator. "We looked at how we can increase engagement with the business community to better prepare students and provide better job and internship possibilities."

The audience included students and educators from the University's Colleges and Career Services office; representatives from University of Evansville; and a delegation from Evansville's sister city, Osnabrück. Among notable attendees were Lloyd Winnecke, mayor of Evansville; Jonathan Weinzapfel, former mayor of Evansville and chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College; and Dr. Mohammed Khayum, provost, USI.

"We filled the Griffin Center for a very productive discussion panel, followed by a Q and A from the audience, and a networking reception for panelists, students and others from the audience," says Sevastianova, who planned the event and recruited panelists and audience members.

USI was one of five U.S. institutions selected to participate in the discussions of collaboration. The University continues to develop partnerships with the business community to provide internship opportunities in the Osnabrück area. Such internships are intended primarily for alumni of USI's International Summer University; however, students interested in international careers are eligible too.



Jonathan Weinzapfel, chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College; Greg Wathen, president and CEO, Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana; Dr. Kay Hofmann, professor of management, Hochschule Osnabrueck, Germany; Patrizia Nobbe, director, Universities of Applied Sciences Consortium-7 in New York; Dr. Daria Sevastianova, associate professor of economics and director, Center for Economic Education, USI; Marco Graf, CEO, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Osnabrück, Germany; Jeff Bennett, executive vice president, Human Resources, Berry Global; Alicia Frederick, student, USI, and alumna, International Summer University; Dr. Sudesh Mujumdar, professor of economics and chair, Economics and Marketing, USI; Lloyd Winnecke, mayor of Evansville.

Rainwater is a potential rainmaker

When Scott Anderson, instructor in computer science, isn't riding four wheelers with his wife or spending time with his grandkids, he's likely working on his aquaponics system in downtown Evansville.

Aquaponics combines aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics (growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid, with added nutrients but no soil). It's a natural ecosystem in which fish and plants thrive together. Fish produce waste, an organic food source for plants that in turn filter the water for the fish.

Anderson's system uses trapped rainwater, but no pesticides or fertilizers. This prevents contamination by e coli and salmonella—pathogens found in the excrement of warm-blooded animals that can get into food through additives in the growing process.

Lettuce varieties in Scott Anderson's aquaponics garden: Green and Red Butter, Green and Red Oakleaf, Green and Red Sweet Crisp, and Romaine. The eco-friendly system minimizes the introduction of outside materials and maintains balance through the addition of rainwater and fish food only. Photo courtesy Scott Anderson.

A win for fish, plants and people.

Aquaponics pulls out the good and eliminates the drawbacks of aquaculture and hydroponics to create a more effective means for sustaining life. Although Anderson has been working on his system for just over a year, he became interested in aquaponics in 2000.

"I have been involved in local food production since I owned and ran the Evansville Municipal Market 20 years ago," he says. "I wanted to get back into the process as an urban farmer and farmer's market participant."

Currently, Anderson's garden accommodates 120 tilapia and about 600 heads of lettuce—using approximately 8,000 gallons of water. A gallon of water weighs a little over eight pounds, which adds up to about 33 tons. Fortunately, he is not only a teacher but a real estate developer whose holdings include a parking garage in downtown Evansville. It was a logical choice for housing the system because, he says, "It was built to withstand the weight of all the water that I'm using."

You can find his produce on the menu at Arazu in Newburgh and Evansville. If we're lucky, we may find his products (APE Aquaponics) at the Evansville Farmer's Market this summer.

"I sell my products as live plants, with the roots on," he says. "A head of lettuce in the refrigerator is still fresh after three weeks."



Connect with Romain College of Business

812-464-1718 • usi1rcobnewsletter@usi.edu

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