



Magazine



Sex, Lies, and Butterflies

an evolutionary tale of research

**Instant
Access**
Page 10



Some years ago I tossed a coin to determine which country I'd start what I thought would be a six-month journey. Heads—Ireland; tails—the cheapest ticket to any city in Europe. Until that time, I'd worked for many years at a major pharmaceutical company, first on the assembly line and then in an office overlooking the Ohio River. My plan was to climb the proverbial corporate ladder until I found the perfect position, but then the company announced it was downsizing and I was faced with a dilemma: go or stay. Something in me said "Go," and I tossed the coin.

I wanted to visit Ireland, but winter was creeping in and I loathed the notion of lugging around heavy winter clothing. I needn't have worried because the coin came up tails, and I booked a flight to Frankfurt, Germany. When I landed, I quickly realized how far out on a limb I'd gone. I'd never traveled alone, didn't know how to exchange money, couldn't read the 24-hour clock European trains ran by, and my backpack was too heavy. I sat in the airport for several hours gathering courage before venturing out. Eventually, I summoned the resolve to leave, and my adventure took off. Instead of being away six months as originally planned, however, I didn't return to the United States for two years. I lived, worked, and travelled through Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Germany, and the Czech Republic before coming home for a brief visit only to head out again, this time to India where I lived and worked as a reporter and editor for four years.

My journalism degree afforded me the opportunity to see the world, and now it's delivered me to USI as the new senior writer and editor of *USI Magazine*, among other campus publications. It's a position I feel I've been working toward for many years. I'm excited to be among so many talented and creative people at USI, in an environment bursting with innovation and intrigue. Every day takes me on an excursion into unknown worlds where I write about butterflies and African artifacts, or edit stories of diversity, bridging the gap between young and old, and the benefits of social media.

This edition is full of adventures taken by USI students and faculty. Some have travelled physically far while others' journeys were more cerebral. All of them, however, will open your mind and allow you to glimpse the subjects in a way you might not have otherwise. Additionally, in this issue you'll notice we're emphasizing features by moving them to the front of the magazine and relocating alumni and campus news to the second half. We plan a few more changes in coming issues, so stay tuned.

As a life-long learner and explorer, I didn't need to flip a coin to help me decide if this position was perfect for me. I instinctively knew I wanted to be part of this team—this University—bringing you stories of ground-breaking news and writing about the explorations of students, faculty and alumni, and their ventures into uncharted subjects.



Connie L. Stambush
Editor

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FEATURES

Documenting Lives 2

Project changes peoples' perspectives

Blue Butterflies 4

Curiosity-driven research into nature's survival traits

A Diverse Community 8

What is it?

DEPARTMENTS

President's Perspective 14

Celebrating what defines us

Campus News 15

Rare and exotic corpse plant thrives in campus greenhouse

USI Foundation 20

Presidential scholar encourages students to seek award

Sports 22

Student athletes balance school and sports

Alumni Today 24

The importance and how-to of networking



Social media enhances experiences



African artifacts expand knowledge



On the Cover

An Eastern Tailed blue butterfly searches for nourishment in the fields surrounding USI's 1,400-acre campus. The butterfly's evolutionary characteristics were the focus of an interdisciplinary project involving biology and engineering that investigated the hindwing stiffness of the blue butterfly to discover if certain traits aided in its escape from predators. See page 4.

USI Magazine Online exclusives

- Butterfly research videos
- Instant access blogs and video posts
- Stinky plant slideshow
- New campus store slideshow



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Documentaries create connections between residents and staff

By Danielle Norris



*K*ara Bovair, health services major, would never have known the rich life 95-year-old Dorothy Raymond has lived had the two not sat down and talked. Through their conversations Bovair learned Raymond, a resident of The Terrace at Solarbron on Evansville's west side, uses a Kindle and a laptop computer, has a doctorate, and served in the SPARS—the now defunct U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve—during World War II.

As Raymond talked about her life, the facets of it bloomed in Bovair's mind—with one story in particular standing out. Raymond was in charge of her SPARS unit yet she reported to a captain. One day, she and her shipmates took in a parrot despite their fear of the captain's disapproval. When he came to inspect their living quarters, however, he seemed amused by their feathered acquisition, asking Raymond, "Can it talk?" to which the parrot responded,

"Well, who the hell are you?"

Answering that question is what Katie Ehlman, assistant professor of gerontology in USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions and director of USI's Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, hopes to do with her service learning project titled "Hidden Treasures: Video Documentaries Promoting Person-Centered Care in Care Settings." She wants to teach students firsthand the benefits of person-centered

care and provide experience working with elders for their future careers, emphasizing humanity and the importance of getting to know people while providing effective care. In doing so, the project also will build bridges between residents and the staff at local retirement communities.

"There are many stereotypes and negative attitudes toward aging," Ehlman said. "Creating an inter-generational activity like this basically changes attitudes about aging."

The endeavor earned a Sigma Phi Omega Service Project Award and encourages students not only to interact with elders, but also to recognize and confront any negative perceptions they might have of older populations. According to the Institute of Medicine's 2008 report, these perceptions are a major contributor to a widespread disinterest in gerontology and geriatrics among young people and a shortage of healthcare workers in these fields.

The project began in the spring semester of 2012 with nursing and health professions students video recording interviews with residents of retirement communities, asking them to describe stages of their lives and soliciting words of wisdom. The raw footage was then edited into 8- to 10-minute documentaries of each resident and viewed by the staff as a means of getting to know the residents better. So far, the stories of more than a dozen residents age 75 or older, some at Bethel Manor and others at The Terrace at Solarbron, have been captured on film.

"I learned a lot. One of my residents ran away from home and later got put in boarding school. I had no idea," said Josh Bowman, a 2012 graduate of USI and administrator at Bethel Manor. "It was surprising for me because I feel like I know them and their families pretty well." The facility is small, and the staff and residents are relatively tight-knit, yet despite that, the staff members were "amazed at the kinds of lives they had lived," he said.

"Personally, I was overwhelmed at times when I saw the documentary. They almost brought me to tears," said Shelly Miller, administrator and compliance officer at Solarbron, where the project was conducted in the spring semester. "I've gotten closer to some of the participants since we've seen the videos, and it's been nice."

One of those people is 97-year-old Cora Heumann, with whom Miller has bonded over a love of flowers. Miller's grandmother worked building fighter planes for the World War II effort. So did Heumann, whose job was to drill skins on P-47

Thunderbolts in the Republic Aviation factory while her husband Mervin was serving in the South Pacific. Heumann's stories help Miller imagine what her own grandmother's life must have been like.

Senior health services major Ethan Ault, too, grew close to Heumann over the course of the project. "She's a sweet lady," he said. "She just shared so many stories. She talked about her World War II experience and how she helped build airplanes in the war effort, and she also talked about when she was a child, just living a simple life in the middle of Illinois. She was just so much fun to work with."

Staff, students, and elders who participated in and observed the project agree they learned something important from

"There are many stereotypes and negative attitudes toward aging. Creating an inter-generational activity like this basically changes attitudes about aging," Ehlman said.

change the way people who are much older or much younger think.

Ault admits he was nervous going into the project, not knowing what to expect. "It's so easy to put older people into a separate category. We sometimes stigmatize them, but actually they have so much to share with us, and we were really able to capture that with this project," he said.

Learning goes both ways. Residents of the facilities were able to get to know young people personally, rather than judge younger generations based on media representations of youth. "I think it showed

the residents that some of the younger generation are much more respectful than what you read in the newspapers or hear about on television," Miller said. "They couldn't say enough good things. I think there've been some bonds built between some of the students and the residents, and they've been ongoing."

Since the end of the project, Ault has returned to visit Heumann, on one occasion with flowers for her room. Working with her changed Ault's perceptions of elders and how he plans to approach long-term care in his career. "We students are young, and we're just beginning our lives. The residents are older and

having the ending chapters of their own lives," he said. "By showing their stories, we can encourage the staff to get to know them better."

Ault's final thoughts on the experience ring true not only for student participants in "Hidden Treasures," but for staff and residents of the facilities as well. "Really we all are people, and we have so much to share. We have our own stories, and we need to get to know one another better. We need to bridge the gap."



Mableline Heiger, resident of Solarbron Retirement Communities, shares photos and stories of her life with activities coordinator Jamie Espenlaub.

the experience. "Students begin to find the similarities that exist between themselves and the older adult, bringing the two generations together," Ehlman said, with Miller adding, "I think anybody who sees those videos gains a new respect for the history these people have added to our community, what the residents have done, and what they have been through."

"By opening yourself up to people of all ages, you're able to learn many new things," Bowman said, and maybe even



Sex, lies, and butterflies

an evolutionary tale of research

By C. L. Stambush



Dr. Eric McCloud, associate professor of biology, left, Dr. Julian Davis, assistant professor of engineering, and Dr. Brandon Field, assistant professor of engineering, search USI property for Eastern Tailed blue butterflies.

IN VLADIMIR NABOKOV'S FAMED NOVEL, *Lolita*, the sexually-charged story of the illicit affair between a predatory middle-aged man and his 12-year-old step-daughter, the two take a trip across country. On their journey they stop and visit "a zoo in Indiana where a large troop of monkeys lived on a concrete replica of Christopher Columbus' flagship." Nabokov doesn't name the city in his novel, but any reader who's visited Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, Indiana, recognizes the famous ship—now *sans* monkeys—and knows exactly where the duo are.

What many don't know, however, is that Nabokov wanted to be a lepidopterist—study butterflies—before becoming an author. His father's imprisonment for political activities during the Russian Revolution forced the family into exile and, somewhat serendipitously, Nabokov into a writing career; but his scientific spirit never quieted. His longing for a career unrequited evolved into a life-long study of butterflies—and, eventually a hypothesis about the evolution of Polyommatae (a subfamily of the highly diverse and very speciose Lycaenidae family—4,750 species worldwide—of which another subfamily is now found in the fields of Southern Indiana). He imagined the species morphed from a kind found in Asia that had winged its way across the Bering Strait in a series of waves, evolving into a new class in the New World some 10 million years later. The scientific community of the day scoffed at his hypothesis, however, claiming it would have been too cold for this to occur—and, perhaps secretly wondering what an author knew about butterflies.

But Nabokov knew quite a lot. As a teenager he hunted butterflies in Russia and Europe, as an adult he collected them around the

world, and after the rise of the Nazi regime when he fled to America and became a famed author, he also became a research fellow in zoology, and eventually the curator of lepidoptera at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

Nabokov published his hypothesis on the evolution of his beloved blue butterflies in 1945 in painstaking detail, but his idea languished unsupported until 2011 when a team of Harvard scientist proved him "right." Now, a trio of USI researchers has joined forces to explore a different hypothesis about the evolution of Nabokov's blues, namely that some of the Eastern Tailed blues have developed a "constellation of characteristics and behaviors intended to deceive predators" as a means of survival, specifically a false-head and a bouncy backside that mimic the movements of more dangerous insects.

"I noticed something odd; the butterflies moved their tails out of sync with the rest of their bodies, with long hairs on their hindwings moving much like the antennal movement of beetles and wasps."



Colorone Loge News linen postcard circa 1933, University of Southern Indiana Library Archives

While the false-head hypothesis—markings that look like eyes and hair-like extensions that resemble antennae—of butterflies in the Lycaenidae family has been known to biologist for the past two centuries, the bouncy rear thread-like protrusions on their hindwings yielded something new to Dr. Eric McCloud, associate professor of biology, who first noticed it three years ago when a departmental colleague showed him a film of the butterflies.

"I noticed something odd; the butterflies moved their tails out of sync with the rest of their bodies, with long hairs on their hindwings moving much like the antennal movement of beetles and wasps," said McCloud. "This bouncing movement seemed different than the crossing and 'flickering' of the tails



that had previously been written about.”

He’s not sure if other scientists have noticed this odd movement in some of the Lycaenidae hindwings or not because he’s not found any published research documenting the discovery, but he does know butterflies don’t have muscles in that part of their anatomy, and wonders how they can move like that and what purpose it serves.

In other words, McCloud wants to try to learn if the species “lies” to stay alive, and does that deception have something to do with its muscle attachment, particularly the stiffness of its hindwings. “For the tails to move like that there must be some difference in that part of the butterfly—the hinge of the wing is floppier,” he said.

To help examine his hypothesis, McCloud enlisted the help of Dr. Brandon Field and Dr. Julian Davis, both USI assistant professors of engineering. Field has a high-speed camera that McCloud has engaged before, and Davis has a background in creating differential finite element models (in the past it was turtles and bats) to help determine how nature works.

The project combines the curiosity of biology and the mechanics of engineering to test the hypothesis of whether the thread-like projections on some of the blues’ and

coppers’ hindwings along with their ability to oscillate their hindwings either deters predators and/or if that part of the body has evolved to “tear away” as a means of survival after being bitten by a bird.

The research involves a three-phase investigation: computational modeling of the wing and tail structure, experimental testing of the tear strength of the hindwing, and analyzing images from high-speed video to quantify the natural frequencies of the bounce in the hindwings and tails.

“From these three approaches, we’ll test some predictions of the false-head hypothesis as well as explore the structural and compositional basis using techniques that have never before been applied to these insects,” McCloud said.

The faculty may have been behind the curiosity-driven research, but what makes the project unique is that it provides students—10 in all—an opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research using an apparatus and applications readily available to them.

“I never got to do that in college, not as an undergraduate,” Field said. “That’s what makes this project so exciting.”

The students involved are both biology and engineering majors, and have logged hundreds of hours observing, marking,

tracking, and capturing the butterflies in their natural environment—the back fields of USI. Once the outdoor observations have been exhausted, students move into the lab to test the hindwing stiffness using a simple apparatus involving a lab scale and a clamp that was devised by Davis, McCloud and Field, and built by Keith Benedict, instructor in engineering. Mounting a dissected wing between microscope slides so the wing extends out, a student applies pressure in



narrow-band increments using a dull razor blade to acquire data that will inform the hypothesis concerning the tear strength of the wings.

Nehal Ninad, biology major, volunteered for the project after taking a lab with Dr. McCloud, and spent the summer marking, recapturing and observing butterflies in the fields, and bending wings in the lab. It's a process that's informing his critical thinking skills while providing a backbone of research experience for future graduate studies. "This research experience will improve my analyzing and observing skills, and most of all will put me on the path of being a professional researcher."

Researchers grasp the need for pure exploration, but the average person often doesn't he said. "Once, we were in the field and a man wanted to know what we were doing. After I explained it he said, 'I'd have never thought that there would be a science behind butterflies.'"

The beauty of the research being done at USI by its students, Davis said, is that it employs low-tech tools students have ready access to, rather than lasers and other advanced technology typically out of reach to most students. "You don't need all that high-tech stuff if you are trying to

"I never got to do that in college, not as an undergraduate," Field said. "That's what makes this project so exciting."

characterize the stiffness of the butterfly's wing."

The USI faculty and students are conducting pure research, meaning they're increasing their understanding of a fundamental principle and their minds are open to other discoveries that might come from the project. "We don't know what we'll find," McCloud said.

In fact, some of what they find might potentially lead to high-tech stuff, Davis said. "The Department of Defense is doing lots of research into the mimicry of insects. Research in this area may lead to less obvious clandestine devices; one day a butterfly on the roadside may be a fluttering camera. But it could also lead to more agile flight characteristics in future airplanes: maybe future airplanes will look like dragonflies."

That's the wonder of basic research over applied research—done with a specific aim in mind—you don't know where it will

take you. For now, the butterfly project (funded through a small \$4,000 grant to pay students) is still undergoing extensive testing with the analysis of the data to come. Science, however, is not about finding final answers but rather gathering pieces of life's puzzle. "This line of inquiry advances human knowledge as to how the universe works," Field said.

Understanding the universe is the artful inquiry of scientists, and while Nabokov proposed how and when a new species arose, USI faculty and students from varying disciplines are working together to gain insight into nature's mechanics and how it's evolved to help the gentle butterfly survive in the face of predators.

"We're doing potentially groundbreaking research at low cost with crude instruments," McCloud said. "It's kind of thrilling that we have the audacity to make that happen."



DIVERSITY

A campus perspective on inclusion

By John Farless

Creating a diverse community can be a challenge for a university that draws primarily from a region that is not inherently diverse. In recent years, however, the University has worked toward creating a more ethnically diverse faculty and has seen student diversity in terms of ethnicity increase. Traditionally, USI has slightly surpassed the diversity of the Evansville region, according to National Census Bureau data, and in 2012, the campus was more than 11 percent diverse across all ethnic backgrounds.

But diversity is more than ethnicity. When we look in the mirror, who do we see? What are our fears? What do others think of us? How do we accept those around us? At the end of the day, diversity is about fostering a community that respects differences and provides a sense of belonging and inclusion. Diversity stimulates learning, encourages imagination, and benefits all—students, faculty, employees, and the community. Here's what some at USI say diversity means to them.

“I consider people from different socioeconomic backgrounds diverse or people from different areas of the country diverse. Diversity on campus increases the number of niches in which students can find their “home.” College is about meeting new people and learning in ways that you’ve never experienced before. So, a diverse community, may it be friends or faculty, gives insight into ways of thinking and living that you may never have learned otherwise. Increasing diversity at USI can only impact the community in a positive way.”

Carynn Koch

JUNIOR—BIOLOGY AND PRE-MED MAJOR;
HISTORY MINOR, MT. VERNON, INDIANA

“Diversity is about inclusion of all the people in the room, so to speak—everyone has the freedom to speak, share, and be themselves regardless of color, culture, gender, etc. Diversity enriches the fabric of the community; it expands its vision. An increase in diversity at all levels of the campus reduces hate, suspicion, and lack of trust among its members. If USI can increase its diversity, it can serve as an example for the community at large to emulate.”

Diane Utley

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
AND GRANTS, COLLEGE OF NURSING AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

“What a person looks like and the assumptions made about that person and who that person is are two very different things. A person’s identity is complex and multi-faceted, influenced by many perceived statuses. When faced with diversity, I think many people on campus should be asking themselves, ‘Do I value diversity, or do I see it as a threat?’

When we refuse to see and value alternative perspectives in the world, or fail to see how people who are privileged can choose to reject these alternative perspectives, that’s a sign that diversity is not valued. If diversity is valued, those who are privileged must ask the critical questions as to why they think they speak for all—how they marginalize the perspectives of people from groups not in power. If you don’t have diversity amongst faculty and students on campus, there’s a lack of critical perspective. Diverse people have a different perspective and ask questions that create social change instead of perpetuating the status quo.

As a public university, USI has an important responsibility to provide multiple, critical perspectives that are sometimes not valued in this region of the country. Our students need to know how someone’s racial status influences the way they perceive the world and how their racial status is perceived by the people around them.”

Dr. Thuy DaoJensen

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION
TEACHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

“It means having the ability to interact with people of different cultures, different upbringings, and different races. It means having the ability to learn from individuals’ different lifestyles. Diversity is everywhere you look here on campus—from foreign exchange students to non-traditional students, we have a variety of students at USI. It’s important to have this diversity to gain the most from our learning experiences and the people around us.”

Maria Anderson

SOPHOMORE—BIOLOGY PRE-MED MAJOR,
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

“No two people are alike on this earth. We each have quirks. I feel when most people think of diversity they may only see the outside, meaning skin color. Diversity goes much deeper than that. It’s the person as a whole—how they act, talk, think, and look. It takes all kinds of people to make up this world. To have the best college experience and truly understand where other people are coming from, you need to be immersed in every facet of life.

I had the wonderful experience of being involved with USI’s Small World Project, where I was paired up with a student from a different country. We got to know each other well—talking about the crazy weather in Southern Indiana, the different traditions that are practiced in our countries, and more. It was a great way to get to know another person. By keeping to yourself and ignoring the rest of the world, you hinder yourself from the amazingness of this world.”

Aireca Rich

JUNIOR—NURSING MAJOR, OBLONG, ILLINOIS

“I maintain that being an inclusive community member is an intellectual and moral responsibility. I believe everyone at USI can contribute to these efforts and, as provost, I’m personally committed to holding myself and the members of our campus accountable for advancing our diversity goals. We must remember that diversity not only enhances our University, it also communicates who we are.

One of our strategic goals is to increase the diversity of our students, staff, and faculty. We find it necessary and essential to continue working to enhance our environment, so that we not only accept human differences but also celebrate and embrace them.”

Dr. Ronald Rochon
PROVOST

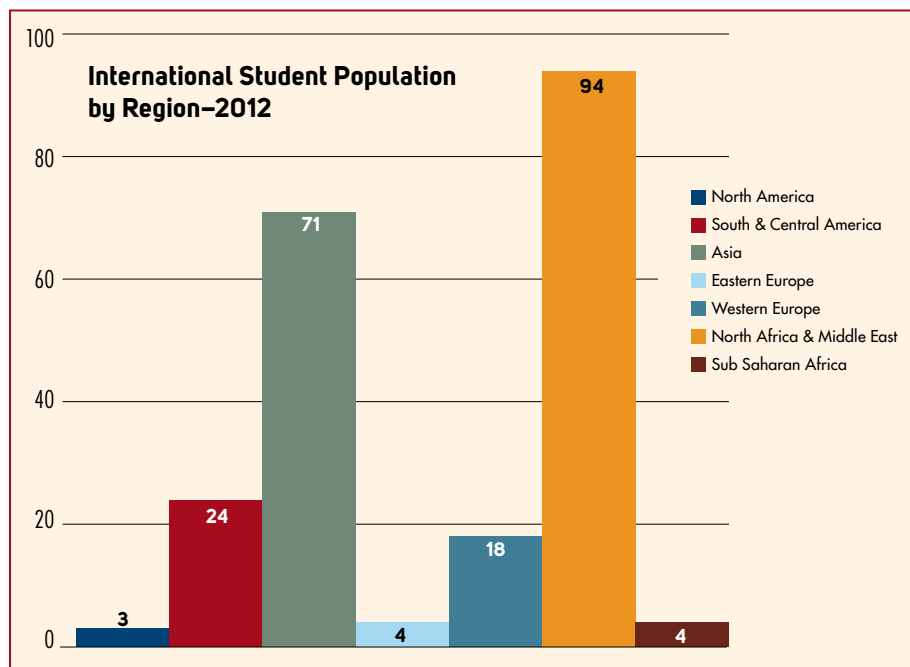
“Diversity is a shorthand way of referring to all of the ways that peoples’ lived experiences can differ. It includes every aspect of our identity: the identities that other people place upon us, our history (both personal and cultural), the breadth of our experiences, and the way in which these interact to shape our worldview and our relationships. It involves an appreciation of the fact that we all have a lens through which we perceive the world, and recognizing that this lens differs for each of us because of our identities and experiences. It also includes an acknowledgment that we all exist within social systems that attach greater value to certain identities and devalue others. Appreciating diversity means shifting this perspective to emphasize the value of those identities and experiences that historically have been marginalized.”

Dr. Stephanie Cunningham
STAFF THERAPIST AND OUTREACH
COORDINATOR, COUNSELING CENTER

“It provides for insight from many different types of people during class or during involvement on campus. It allows for other perspectives, which is a vital part of the learning experience. It helps bring the best and brightest students to USI, and allows them to become more cultured people.

Without USI, Evansville would not be as diverse. The campus becoming increasingly diverse causes surrounding communities to become more diverse. People of the greater Evansville community learn to cooperate and work with people who are different from what they may be.”

Duncan Alexander Taylor
SENIOR—POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJORS;
PRE-LAW MINOR
MORGANFIELD, KENTUCKY



“We want everyone who comes to campus, as an employee, student, or community member, to feel like they belong here. The best way to accomplish this is to make them feel comfortable and supported. If a student or employee comes to campus and can find no one to relate to, then that student will not feel connected to the University and will find it easier to leave.

Employees and students are active in the community through service learning projects and internships, and work side by side with citizens. The more interaction between people of diverse backgrounds, the more accepting people become of differences.”

Jeanne McAlister
RESEARCH COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF
PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND ASSESSMENT

Sampling of courses addressing diversity at USI

- Cultural Anthropology
- Spanish American Culture
- Religion in America
- Psychology of Gender
- Philosophy of Religion
- Constitutional Rights
- Macro Systems: Institutional and Community Systems
- Social Welfare Policy and Service
- Human Diversity, Social Policy and Social Work
- After Darwin
- Western Science and Medicine to 1800
- Diversity and Equity in Education
- Managing Diversity in Organizations
- Diversity in Spirit
- American Life, Anthropology
- International Communications



INSTANT ACCESS

Students use social media to share study abroad experience

By Wendy Bredhold

It wasn't so long ago that when students went abroad, family and friends had to wait to hear of their travels. Phone calls were expensive; postcards didn't arrive for weeks. But with social media and mobile technology, they can follow along from moment to moment. And if posts are public, anyone with access to the Internet can, too.

This summer, USI students studying abroad took advantage of Facebook, Instagram, YouTube,

Twitter, blogs, and Skype to share their experiences and stay connected while overseas.

USI's mission includes enhancing students' cultural awareness and preparing them to live in a diverse global community. That commitment has resulted in the tripling of study abroad participation in recent years and new opportunities with universities in Ghana, Malta, Scotland, China, Germany, and India.

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EAGLES ABROAD



While any USI student with access to the Internet likely used social media overseas to some extent—since social media is like breathing for today’s students—the aim of USI Eagles Abroad, a project created by USI senior Brian Lewallen, was to intentionally promote USI’s study abroad programs through social media.

During 28-plus days in Spain, Lewallen and fellow USI students Matt Rust and Jarae Gibson shared their travels in Madrid, Barcelona, Toledo, Seville, Granada, Almeria, and Valencia with fans, friends, and family in the United States by posting YouTube videos and updates on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

They visited universities and study abroad companies, spoke to groups of Spanish high school students and their parents about USI, interviewed American students about their experience studying abroad in Spain, and even met up with other USI students.

“Our overall message was to share with people how accessible study abroad can be, and the kind of experiences that are out there you would never expect,” said Gibson, who has traveled to Ireland with the USI Chamber Choir and plans to study in Japan next year.

“OUR MESSAGE IS THAT STUDY ABROAD IS NOT SCARY”

When Lewallen studied in Spain last year, things were different. “I had to log on to a computer, sign into Facebook, and upload photos from my digital camera, and by that time the experience was gone,” he said.

This time, however, with the help of Wi-Fi and mobile technology as well as the ubiquity of social media, the Eagles Abroad compadres were able to share dinner with their followers as soon as it was served. “We were updating our audience as we were taking a bite of paella,” Lewallen said.

Lewallen mailed his parents a postcard a week before he left Spain, but he arrived at their home in Avon, Indiana, before it did. “They were following me through USI Eagles Abroad and we Skyped twice, so they knew I was alive,” he said.



JOB ACCEPTED FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

Lin Pang, USI instructor in Chinese, took several USI students to China this summer, where they attended classes at Southwestern University in Chongqing, taught English in local schools, and blogged about their experience at traveltochina.usi.weebly.com.

“GETTING TO SHARE THAT WHILE WE WERE STILL IN CHINA HELPED US PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE WHAT WE WERE DOING WHILE WE WERE STILL THERE.”

Jessica Roos, who graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in teacher education, said she chose to use the “one-way social media” of a blog so that she could focus on her own experience—experience that led to securing a job while overseas. “I had two job interviews on the same evening an hour apart, both via Skype,” she said. The interviews were at 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. China time, and when she awoke the next day both schools had emailed her job offers.

Roos believes her study abroad experience gave her an edge in the job market, and accepted the position teaching middle school math at a private school in Brownsburg, Indiana, posting “I am coming home with a teaching job!” on her blog. “Not a lot of teacher education students chose to travel because it's difficult to fit into our study schedule. But I think having done so makes me stand out.”

Along with Shannon Joyce, an education major, and Joyce Reitman, director of advanced clinical experience and co-teaching in the Department of Teacher Education, Roos Skyped from China with USI associate professor of education Dr. Jeff Thomas' science methods class. Thomas' students were able to ask questions about the differences between teacher education in China and the United States.

Thomas told Roos and Joyce they are “trendsetters and path-makers for emerging teachers who might have the same opportunity.”

That highlighted the value of the trip before it was over, Roos said. “Getting to share that while we were still in China helped us put into perspective what we were doing while we were still there.”



Jessica Roos teaches kindergarteners at Tuopai Shiyuan School in Sichuan, China.

Left to right, Jessica Roos, Katlyn Storey, and Tiffany Kong pause for a pose on the Great Wall of China.



Elementary school boy watches Collin Williams write a letter.

FACEBOOKING FROM AN AFRICAN ORPHANAGE

Nursing major Erika Schmitt made her second trip to Ghana this summer on a Global Engagement Internship. Schmitt and fellow intern Ariel Crenshaw, a biology major, also participated in last summer's course in Ghana. They stayed at an orphanage and school while working with staff at Ghana's Mount Sinai Hospital, following doctors on their rounds, assisting nurses, and witnessing births and deaths.

"I WANTED PEOPLE TO SEE THAT NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE OR HOW BORING YOU THINK YOUR LIFE IS, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, AND COMPLETELY CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT AND EXPERIENCE LIFE."

Schmitt said Ghana holds "a special spot" in her heart. "This year was filled with much deeper connections to the people I worked and lived with," she said. "Although I stuck out like a sore thumb, Ghana feels like a second home to me."

Though her intention was not to explicitly promote study abroad, like the Eagles Abroad or blog like the class in China, Schmitt regularly posted Facebook updates and photos during her 12 days in Ghana, providing a window into another world for her family and friends.

"I feel that's how social media outlets should be used, rather than complaining about traffic or posting food pictures all the time," she said. "I wanted people to see that no matter how old you are or how boring you think your

life is, it's never too late to do something extraordinary, and completely change the way you look at and experience life."

Since her schedule was filled helping villagers, there was little time to sign on to Facebook, so Schmitt would post late in the evening, while in bed under her mosquito net. "I would mention happenings that occurred that were important to me, and if I had a strong enough Internet connection, I'd post a photo."

On one occasion, she allowed her followers a "sneak peek" into a service learning opportunity in which she and Crenshaw cleaned and dressed children's wounds, taught a lesson in hygiene, and "were swarmed by a sea of children for the toothbrushes and toothpaste" donated by the USI Dental



Erika Schmitt tends to a child's injury at Ghana orphanage.

Hygiene Program that he was passing out.

"This is only a fraction of what I've done so far," she wrote. "More to come if I get time and a decent signal."





Celebrating What Defines Us

By Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, President

When you visit USI, it's hard to miss the 97-foot-tall conical tower that rises from the center of our campus. We lovingly refer to it as "the cone" and it's become an iconic landmark for the campus and the community. While other campuses may have a bell or clock tower, USI's conical tower is a statement of architectural and institutional uniqueness.

There really is no other building like this. Its construction alone was an impressive feat of design and engineering. Our cone, with its rough-hewn Indiana limestone exterior, is a symbol of USI's commitment to this state and its people. Its angles represent the competitive edge we bring to our students and the community—excellence in education with individualized attention, modern and cutting-edge facilities, opportunities to study outside the classroom, both at home and abroad, and a commitment to building a stronger Indiana.

Located at the center of campus, it's a gathering place for students—a focal point on campus. On the second level of the iconic

structure is Traditions Lounge, honoring our alumni, now numbering more than 34,000. That's something to be proud of.

This fall we're building upon the "Get the Edge" campaign by highlighting our unique landmark and the University as a whole—"Nothing like it. Proud of it." That pretty well sums it up. We're sharing our excitement in what has come to be a point of pride for this campus and community. You'll see this campaign on billboards and other ads in the coming months. In fact, you can take a look at it right now on the back cover of this magazine. If you haven't been to our campus in a while, I encourage you to stop by and see the cone and other changes.

We have a lot to be proud of here at USI. As we welcome students back for the fall semester, I look forward to the opportunity to grow and celebrate our achievements. It will be an exciting year—one filled with new experiences, new challenges, and defining moments for the University.

Get the Edge at USI. There's nothing like it, and we're proud of it!



Corpse plant excites scientist

By Mary Woehler

Dr. Katherine Winsett, USI lecturer in the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, was touring a greenhouse at the University of Washington in Seattle when she was given a tuber for one of the foulest-smelling plants in the world—the *Amorphophallus titanum*—also known as titan arum.

Realizing the incredible opportunity for USI to house one of the world's largest inflorescence, Winsett took special care to make sure that the cantaloupe-sized tuber survived the trip back to Evansville. Titan arum tubers—also known as the “corpse flower”—are only housed at large universities and botanical gardens in the United States, and generally aren't for sale.

The plant's native habitat is the equatorial rainforests of central Sumatra in Indonesia where for most of its life it will grow a single, umbrella-like leaf with complex leaflets at the top. In the wild, the main leaf can reach 20 feet tall and 15 feet

wide, while in cultivation it usually grows 12 feet high before branching into a single, compound leaf. Winsett's leaf, kept in the greenhouse on the roof of the Science Center, sprouted in August 2012 and grew to be five feet tall before going into a dormant period after four months.

Winsett hopes that her titan arum bud is one of the few that will produce a massive flowering structure, putting off its famously foul odor: “rotting-fish-with-burnt-sugar.” In the rare event that a corpse flower blooms, its unique, unpredictable, and headline-grabbing blossom will typically last only three days.

The first time a titan arum bloomed in the United States was at the New York Botanical Gardens in June 1937, becoming a sensation. Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis and Franklin Park Zoo in Boston also have titan arums that recently bloomed, drawing large crowds to see and smell the flower. Of the plants in cultivation, less than 130 flowerings have been

documented in nearly 120 years.

The “corpse flower” is pollinated by sweat bees and flies, which are attracted to rotting meat. The smell that titan arum are famous for is composed of heavy, sulfur-based compounds that aren't easily airborne. The plant heats itself up (to near human body temperature) and puts off a vapor to attract many flies and increase the chances of pollination. The enormous amount of energy the plant expends in attracting flies limits the amount of time it can bloom, which is why flowering typically only lasts a few days, and why they don't bloom every year, Winsett said. The full inflorescence, which opens abruptly, emits a repulsive scent that is strongest at night.

If flowers are successfully pollinated, the surrounding spathe eventually falls off, exposing the maturing seeds. When ripe, the cherry-sized fruits turn a bright orange-red, a color attractive to birds, which pick the berries off, digest the flesh, and excrete the pit, dispersing it in nature.



US Botanic Garden



Go to USI.edu/magazine
for expanded web-only content

Katie Winsett, a botanist and mycologist by training, came to USI in winter 2011 after receiving her doctorate at the University of Arkansas, where she studied slime mold ecology. INSET: Open flower at United States Botanic Garden, Washington, DC.

African artifacts travel far to educate widely

By C. L. Stambush

Spilling out of boxes, lined along the wall, and sitting on tables are some 200+ masks, games, reliefs, musical instruments, and art from countries in Africa waiting to be used in classrooms both on USI's campus and in schools across the community. The Artifact Loan Program is the initiative of three USI professors—Dr. Joseph Uduehi, associate professor of art education from Nigeria, Dr. Michael Ndemanu, assistant professor of education from Cameroon, and

Dr. Amanuel Beyin, lecturer in anthropology from Eritrea. Although the three come from different disciplines and nations, their aim is single-minded: teach USI and Tri-state students about Africa's culture, history, geography, and value systems by letting them touch, smell, see, and listen to items crafted by men and women half way around the world.

“There is a lack of information about Africa, as there is more to it than people know and have seen in the media,” said Uduehi. “We want to use the Artifact Loan Program

as a way to bring people together and let them learn and discover the differences and commonalities between their cultures and those in Africa.”

Experiencing other cultures through all the senses and not just the eyes while using the Internet was the cornerstone of the loan program, but its impetus grew out of ignorance about Africa. It's a continent of 54 countries, a fact sometimes misunderstood, Uduehi explained—who often was thought of as the expert on Africa. “I know some things but there are others who can share much more.”

The need for such a program has long bubbled in the mind of Uduehi, who used to loan his personal possessions to professors interested in incorporating African culture into lesson plans, but his items were costly to replace if damaged or lost. So he



For more information on the program or to donate items, contact either Joseph Uduehi at juduehi@usi.edu, Michael Ndemanu at mndemanu@usi.edu, or Amanuel Beyin at aybeyin@usi.edu.

approached Ndemanu and Beyin for help in devising a program to make artifacts accessible to all, and together they enlisted the collaborative support of Dr. Ron Rochon, provost, Michael Aakhus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Scott Gordon,

“We want to use the Artifact Loan Program as a way to bring people together and let them learn and discover the differences and commonalities between their cultures and those in Africa.”

dean of Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education.

“This initiative will enlighten audiences about historical and contemporary cultural differences and political structures within specific regions and counties studied,” said Rochon, “enlightening them about historical and contemporary cultural differences and political structures within specific regions and counties studied.”

Items in the loan program are inexpensive and replaceable if broken, costing anywhere from \$7 to \$50, unlike priceless artifacts found in museums with “Do Not Touch” signs. Having the articles, however, is one thing—understanding their significant cultural complexities is another. “Our ultimate goal is to broaden students’ perspective by expanding their existing knowledge about Africa’s diverse traditions as well as the history and values behind them,” said Beyin.

For the meaning of each item to translate into a transformative lesson, educators will need to know how to use them in their classrooms. Currently, that’s happening on USI’s campus, but in the near future the items will be available to teachers in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. “We intend to organize workshops for K-12 teachers to help them understand the embedded cultural

and historical references of each artifact with the hope that they will feel comfortable borrowing them,” Ndemanu said.

The trio plans to send letters to local principals

and hold workshops to help educators develop lessons centered on multicultural diversity, something that USI student teachers have already done, said Uduehi. He explained how a Japanese student replicated the theme of a sculpture titled “Unity”—an intricate wood carving of five interlocked figures—using a medium and art form organic to her culture—paper and origami. “It’s the same concept but a different perspective using different materials,” Uduehi said.

We all see the world through our unique cultural lenses; this program aims to increase students’ world vision one artifact at a time.



1. *Biakoye for Unity*, carved from one block of wood; Ghana
2. *Mesob Werki*, woven cotton and grass stems used for storing valuables; Eritrea
3. *Oba of Benin* ebony statue; Nigeria
4. *Origami Unity*; Japan
5. Mask; Cameroon
6. Boat figurine; Nigeria
7. Candle holder; Cameroon
8. Seed clackers worn on the ankles of dancers; Cameroon
9. *Ovare* game; Ghana
10. *Wata* violin made of wood, horse hair, and goat or sheep skin; Eritrea



Little red schoolhouse replica of USI's humble beginnings

A restored replica of the 1876 Centennial School was given to USI Foundation by the Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science. Evansville native and retired Air Force Brigadier General

Gene Thweatt volunteered more than 500 hours restoring the replica, using materials underwritten by Robert C. Roeder '71 (a graduate of USI and Centennial School). USI was founded in 1965 at Centennial School; 412 students attended the first year, compared to approximately 10,000 students

enrolled to date. The restored replica was presented by Donald E. Pitzer, emeritus professor of history, during a ceremony in May 2013. Pitzer—one of two professors who taught in the schoolhouse when USI was established—said the little red schoolhouse was a far cry from the sleek surroundings USI students have now. “Crawling, running, and creeping occupants inhabited the place. Plaster fell from the walls and ceilings, and there was no air conditioning. At night, classes filled with bugs because there were no screens on the windows.” Despite the harsh conditions, Pitzer said he was excited to have the opportunity to teach at USI then. “The spirit of USI was different than anything I'd ever experienced.”



Air Force Brigadier General Gene Thweatt with the schoolhouse replica he renovated.

Student trustee Davidson

Brenden Davidson of Worthington, Indiana, has been appointed by Governor Mike Pence to the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees.

Davidson is a Presidential Scholar with a cumulative GPA of 4.0, who is entering his third year at USI as a political science major with a minor in business management. He will serve as student trustee for two years beginning July 1.

He serves as a University Court justice and previously was representative-at-large within the Student Government Association. He has held a variety of positions within Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, including president, scholastic chairman, member of the executive committee, and International General Assembly delegate. He also serves as a senior delegate on the

USI Interfraternity Council.

“The students named today to our state universities’

boards of trustees

represent some of Indiana’s best and brightest,” Pence said. “Their insights,

experience, and guidance, coupled with those of their fellow trustees, will further enrich

higher education in Indiana and will benefit each state university accordingly throughout the duration of their terms.”



New environmental science program Equips students for diverse futures in several careers

The USI Board of Trustees received approval from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education for a new environmental science bachelor degree program beginning this fall. The Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education’s new program will provide students with a rigorous introduction to, and survey of, the hydrologic cycle as it pertains to human-environment interactions, connections of the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere, use and exploitation of natural resources, environmental impact of growing energy needs, and the ability to integrate important scientific principles across disciplines. The study of biological and ecological interactions as well as threats to our water resources, both to quantity and quality, will be explored in this degree program. The program prepares students to pursue graduate work in environmental consulting, environmental engineering, resource management, and others.

USI CAMPUS STORE

University of Southern Indiana



The USI Campus Store unveiled its sleek new look recently, complete with a lounge area and iPhone charging stations, gift items such as baskets and crystal ware, and clothing brands such as Nike, Adidas, Hurley, and Columbia. But the biggest attraction of the renovated store will be the opening of the much-anticipated Technology Center, featuring Apple and Dell products and accessories. USI students, faculty, and staff will have the opportunity to purchase computers and iPads at the Technology Center, which also will include a repair center that will be open to the general public.

Go to USI.edu/magazine for expanded web-only content

Campaign USI *Elevating Excellence*

Breakdown on broadening student experiential learning

The University of Southern Indiana Foundation's *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* has earmarked \$2 million to Broadening Student Experiential Learning, one of six campaign components. The experiential learning element aims to ensure all students have hands-on access to learning opportunities through internships, service-learning projects, independent research with faculty, and study-abroad programs. Additionally, the funds are used to operate a central office where staff can identify, promote, coordinate, and evaluate student experiential learning opportunities.

How exactly do students benefit from gifts to this component of the campaign?

Ensure all students have access to experiential learning through internships

- Approximately 475 USI students take advantage of internships each year.
- More than 450 local and national companies employ USI student interns, helping them build résumés and giving them on-the-job experience. These often lead to paid positions.
- Your gift provides stipends for unpaid internships with nonprofits and government agencies.

Ensure all students have access to experiential learning through service-learning projects

- Projects enhance civic engagement while allowing students to apply principles learned in class to real-world situations.
- Dental hygiene students regularly visit inner-city schools in the Evansville and Warrick County School corporations while criminal justice students visit prisons to learn about the criminal justice process.

Ensure all students have access to experiential learning through independent research with faculty

- Health services majors recently worked on a study to gauge the use of city trails and parks for exercise and fitness; students in the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education are studying how to optimize worker training efficiency.
- Students have the opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world problem solving. They work with other students, faculty mentors, and local businesses or industries during the research phase, and many students continue to present findings at academic conferences.

Ensure all students have access to experiential learning through study-abroad programs

- More than 220 students studied abroad during the 2011–2012 academic year.
- It allows students to expand their world view through the exploration of cultures, globalization, poverty, and social inequity.
- Students often find themselves in new situations, requiring them to discover new strengths and skills; to improve, learn, and refine decision-making, problem-solving, and analytical skills; and to adapt to new circumstances.
- It promotes new contacts and forms lasting connections.
- Study abroad opportunities are available in more than 50 countries.

Grateful presidential scholar

By Sarah Harlan

Since graduating from the University of Southern Indiana in 1997, Presidential Scholar Nicole Cable Hume has been singing the University's praises. A chemistry teacher at Faith Christian School in Lafayette, Indiana, Hume always encourages her students to consider USI when applying to colleges. As a result of her advocacy, she's influenced 13 students from



Faith Christian to attend USI. One of those students, Edward "John" Hilt, was awarded a Presidential Scholarship and will begin classes at the University this fall.

"I am so grateful that I had a Presidential Scholarship," Hume said. "It was more than just a scholarship; it was an investment in me, so I was really excited that John was accepted as a Presidential Scholar. He's not only extremely intelligent, but a well-rounded individual."

Hilt, a pre-med biology major, is one of 10 Indiana high school valedictorians and salutatorians selected to receive full four-year scholarships. The Presidential Scholarship program was established in 1988 to attract Indiana's brightest and best students to USI. These scholarships are funded through private gifts to the USI Foundation.

"Dr. Hume has really been helpful—telling me about all the opportunities at USI," Hilt said. And he is already taking advantage of these opportunities. "During freshman orientation, I visited the Chamber Choir's table on campus, auditioned, and now I'll be singing tenor with the group this fall."

Every student Hume recommended attend USI has expressed his or her gratitude. "I get lots of 'thank you' emails from former students," Hume said. "They talk of the great interactions they've had with the faculty and how much they truly enjoy attending USI."

touts stellar education



Hume family: Nicole, Elly, Jason (also a Presidential Scholar who graduated with a degree in economics), and Josie. It's Elly's goal to be a Presidential Scholar herself one day.

Hilt's mother, Tina Overley-Hilt, said if Hume hadn't encouraged her son to consider USI, he never would have. "She's been one of his most wonderful teachers, and an incredibly positive influence throughout his life."

Hume stood behind Hilt 100 percent during the Presidential Scholarship application and interview procedure, putting in recommendations and helping guide him through the interview process that he sometimes found "a bit overwhelming." But Hume knew—and had known since the age of 19—the importance of receiving a Presidential Scholarship.

"My education at USI was stellar," Hume said. "Although I was unable to give back much when I was younger, it was always important for me to show my appreciation and give back to the Presidential Scholarship program to make it possible for other students, like John, to receive the same gift."

Pay it forward

The Presidential Scholarship program, along with other merit-based programs (Deans Scholarships and B/MD (Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine) Scholarships), attract top students, and it is a priority of the University to fully endow them. *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* aims to strengthen these and other scholarships by raising \$10 million to build scholarship endowments. An expanded scholarship and financial aid program helps highly motivated students, like Nicole, for whom costs can be a barrier.

A gift of \$200,000 will perpetually endow a Presidential Scholarship, while an annual commitment of \$8,800 in each of the next four years will fund one full four-year Presidential Scholarship.

USI family has lost a devoted friend

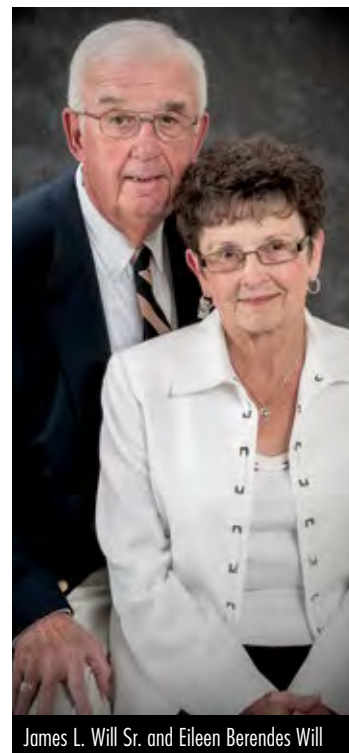
The University of Southern Indiana lost a treasured visionary and faithful friend on May 25, 2013. James L. Will, Sr. was a member of the University of Southern Indiana Foundation Board of Directors for 15 years (1980–1995), advisory council member for 18 years (1995–2013), and served as trustee of USI for 12 years (1996–2008), where he was chair from 1999 to 2002. He became acquainted with President Emeritus David L. Rice in 1967 when the University was located in the former Centennial School near James L. Will Insurance, a company he established in 1957 and retired from as chief executive officer in 1999. Will was a board member of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc., the entity that purchased 1,400 acres of land to provide a new home for the University in 1969.

Because of his personal volunteer efforts, dedication, and expertise in helping shape the University of Southern Indiana, Will was inducted into USI's President's Circle in 2002. He was a charter member of *Reflections*, the USI Foundation's planned giving society, and avidly supported the USI Varsity Club as past president and as a long-time member of the USI Coaches Club. This past spring, he and his wife of 58 years, Eileen Berendes, were singled out for conferral of honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University. "It was the surprise of their lives," said Sherrienne Standley, vice president emerita for Advancement. "Jim and Eileen never did anything for themselves. All they've done was for a simple vision: commit yourself to your community so that friends and family have a wonderful place to live, work, raise children, be educated, build businesses, and care for the less fortunate."

In 1988, Governor Robert D. Orr awarded Will the Sagamore of the Wabash, then the highest honor the Governor of Indiana bestowed as a personal tribute for rendering distinguished service to the state or to the governor.

His legacy continues through students who pursue higher education thanks to the James L. Will, Sr. and Eileen Berendes Will Endowed Presidential Scholarship.

Will was a caring, kind, and compassionate man who was dedicated to his family, his friends, his community, and to his many philanthropies. The University is saddened by the loss of a wise, kind, and generous person, but feels fortunate to have had a giant like him to set an example for all of us.



James L. Will Sr. and Eileen Berendes Will

Balancing act: life as a student athlete

By Dan McDonnell

Being a student athlete isn't easy. Fans and spectators show up to watch them dunk a basketball, score a goal, or win a race, but when the crowds go home the student athletes are left on their own, navigating the worlds of "athlete" and "student." To many, a "student athlete" is someone who plays a sport in college on a scholarship. But there's a reason why "student" comes before "athlete" in the term student athlete. And student athletes must find ways to manage the double life of athlete and academic, pushing their minds as much as they do their bodies.

"My pride wouldn't let me just sit back and be the type of person that just goes to school for basketball," said Kenyon Smith, sport management graduate and two-time

Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) All-Defensive player in men's basketball. "I didn't want to be the person in class that everybody laughed at or talked about behind his back saying, 'this person can't read or this person can't figure it out.'"

Despite our enlightened age, young athletes sometimes still find themselves fighting stereotypes. "Occasionally, I'll have a teacher who sees me as that 'dumb jock'

who's only here to play sports," said Jeff Neidlinger, senior goalkeeper in men's soccer, noting that when he earns an 'A' in class the response is often shock. "They say, 'You can do this.'"

The drive to excel in both arenas spurs USI student athletes to excel. The Eagles captured three GLVC titles in 2012–2013 and finished fourth in the GLVC All-Sports Trophy standings. In addition, USI student athletes, as a whole, maintained a 3.045 cumulative GPA in 2012–2013.

Neidlinger said he thinks "there's more pride in being able to graduate with a GPA above a 3.0 while playing college sports" than accomplishing either one independently. Excelling, however, requires time management skills, something that challenges



Ariel Barnes, left, studies the cardiac conduction system with lab partner Kali Hayes.



Kenyon Smith

any student—but especially student athletes with difficult course loads and demanding athletic schedules.

"Probably the biggest challenge for most student athletes is time management and study habits," Neidlinger said. "You have to study hard, knock everything out Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday so you can focus on the competition later in the week."

Ariel Barnes, a senior point guard and a GLVC All-Defensive player on the women's basketball team, said "time management, getting things done ahead of time, and being able to talk to professors" are some of her top challenges.

"If you're shy, you have to overcome that fear (of talking to professors) so they can help you prepare," said Barnes, a two-time Academic All-GLVC honoree. "Being able to stay focused between games and classwork also can be difficult at times."

While student athletes have to find the balance between sports and studies, they don't have to go it alone. "It's really great to have an extra set of eyes on all your course work," Neidlinger continued. "The coaches and athletic department really care about how you're doing in school because the student comes first."

Coaching has deep roots in USI volleyball

By Dan McDonnell

USI Volleyball head coach Leah Mercer '02 said she can't remember which one of her team members coined the term *USI till I Die!*, but the message and their time as teammates resonated deeply with each of them, instilling such a love for the sport that six of them went on to coach volleyball at colleges across the Midwest.

"It was a crazy collaboration of people," adds Mercer, referring to herself and five other players on the 2001 volleyball team who became coaches: USI Hall of Famer Shannon Wells '05, Academic All-American Kristi (Kavanaugh) Griffin '04, Randi Raff '05, Leanne (Gross) Gleim '06, and Kristine Wheeler '07.

Mercer speculates that there was a certain drive in her teammates along with a series of circumstances that pushed her and the others into coaching.

She recalled the turmoil of the constant change in leadership with three head coaches in three seasons saying, "We were responsible for ourselves when it came to training, getting ready, and open gyms. Little did we know that would lead us down this career path."

The coaches' time at USI may have been short-lived, but they still made an

impression on the players. "I look back at it and I was trained under unbelievable people, each having their own strengths that I could adopt into my own coaching style," Wells said. "I graduated college with a reference list of four great college coaches who taught me a ton about coaching, volleyball, and life. How many athletes can say that?"

Mercer launched her collegiate coaching career at Purdue University as a volunteer assistant coach. Now as USI's all-time winningest volleyball coach, with 141 wins, she's brought stability to USI's volleyball program after five head coaching changes in a six-year span.

Wells began her coaching career as a student-assistant at USI in 2004.

"I look back at it and I was trained under unbelievable people, each having their own strengths that I could adopt into my own coaching style."

She made stops at NCAA Division I Morehead State University and Winthrop University before landing as associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at Ole Miss. Griffin also started as a student-assistant at USI in 2003. She went on to Jacksonville State University (Alabama) and, most recently, Western Kentucky University. Raff coached briefly at USI as well as GLVC foe

Saint Joseph's College before going on to Southeast Missouri State University, Christopher Newport University (Virginia), landing as the assistant coach at Northern Kentucky University. Wheeler broke into the collegiate ranks as an assistant coach at IUPUI, then spent



two seasons at Saint Joseph's College. Gleim coached as a graduate assistant at Florida State University.

"As I've gotten further away from it, coached here for eight years and other universities for three years, and talked to my former teammates, I realize how special our group was," Mercer said. "You don't have teams like that anymore."

"It's funny to think back at the number of times we would kick each other out of the gym, or call each other out," Wells recalled. "Little did we know at the time that we were a bunch of coaches on the floor. I think that is why we were so successful; we all had so much passion for the game."

Keeping the tradition alive

Under Mercer, USI has become a hub for future coaches. Since taking the program over in 2005, she has seen 14 of her student athletes enter the coaching ranks at the club, high school, or collegiate level. "I want to get my seniors out there because this area needs help in high school coaching," she said. "To have so many of my former players out there now in some fashion is awesome."

As for the 2001 group, they're still as close as ever. "We're all still amazing friends. We get together several times a year, whether it's at recruiting events, work camps, or social events. I hope to keep that going with our alumni events in the future," Mercer said.

USI till I Die! The tradition remains alive.



Leah Mercer (Back 2nd from left), Kristi (Kavanaugh) Griffin (Back 4th from left), Shannon Wells (Back far right), Randi Raff (Front 1st from left), Kristine Wheeler (Front 3rd from left), Leanne (Gross) Gleim (Front far right), with the rest of the 2001 volleyball team.

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Calendar of Events



All alumni are invited to attend these events.

- August 28** Volunteer USI Recognition Dinner
6 p.m., Carter Hall
- September 10** Alumni Council Meeting
5:45 p.m., University Center 206
- September 13** Alumni Golf Scramble
11:30 a.m., Helfrich Hills Golf Course
- September 17** USI Founders' Day Celebration Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Carter Hall
- October 6** USI Day at the Colts
1 p.m. game, Lucas Oil Stadium
pre-game gathering at stadium
- October 24** USI Eagle Hour
5–7 p.m., TBA
- October 26–27** Parents and Families Weekend
- November TBA** USI Night with the Evansville IceMen
The Ford Center
- November 7** Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Gathering
7 p.m., TBA
- November 12** Alumni Council Meeting
5:45 p.m., UC206
- November 25** Lighting a Tradition
7 p.m., UC East/Fireside Lounge/Quad
- December 14** Fall Commencement Exercises
USI Campus, Alumni Receptions, University Center East

More events at USI.edu/alumni

Alumni honored

Deborah Hartz '75, has been named the 2013 Hoosier Educator of the Year, an award jointly sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association and Horace Mann to recognize, reward, and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the education profession. Hartz has taught in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation for 36 years. In her current position as lead coach for innovative and alternative models, which she has occupied for two years, she works with the Academy for Innovative Studies, the New Tech Institute, and the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center. In addition to a \$2,500 monetary award from Horace Mann, Hartz will be considered for the National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. Hartz and her husband Daniel live in Newburgh, Indiana.

1970s

Mary Jo Covey '71, dental assisting, a dental assistant in Crawfordsville, Indiana is retiring after 41 years.

Stanley Covey '74, elementary education, an elementary teacher and varsity golf coach at North Montgomery High School in Crawfordsville, Indiana, is retiring after 39 years.

Deborah Butcher Hartz '75, elementary education, received the 2013 Horace Mann, Indiana State Teachers Association Hoosier Educator of the Year, an honor that is aimed to recognize, reward and promote excellence in teaching and advocacy for the education profession. She is currently a lead coach for Innovative and Alternative Model Schools with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in Evansville.

Gary Walton '77, management, has started a new position as president and chief executive officer for the Huntington Area Development Council in Huntington, West Virginia.

Stay Connected



We want to hear from you!

Do you have good news to share? We'd love to share your success with other graduates here in the *USI Magazine Alumni Today*.

Send us your updates online at
USI.edu/alumni/update
Email: alumni@usi.edu



Karen Kuester Stormont '79, elementary education, is a guidance director at Gibson Southern High School in Fort Branch, Indiana.

1980s

Clifton Brewer '82, communications, has taken the position of director, media support services at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida.

Joyce Schmitt Brewer '82, marketing, is senior manager of field systems training and communications for Novo Nordisk in Jacksonville, Florida.

Donald Breivogel '83, accounting, was promoted to chief financial officers at Atlas World Group in Evansville.

John Borland '84, business administration, is a command and control specialist with the U.S. Air Force Reserves in Grissom, Indiana.

Joseph Aldridge '85, marketing/sociology, is managing director of Northwestern Mutual Insurance in Bloomington, Indiana.

Janet Weisling Seiler '86, management, is director of care integration at Hospital Sisters Health System in Springfield, Illinois.

Marlene Hirsch '87, English, has joined Harding Shymanski & Co. as a marketing director in Evansville.

Steven Dealph '88, marketing, is manager of leadership development at Walt Disney Company in Burbank, California.

How to network with purpose and strategy

By Janet Johnson

In the age of instant connections—where everyone is meeting and tweeting online—we often think we're establishing important contacts for our future. But are we? The art of networking requires more strategic thought than friending someone on Facebook for it to be the effective and imperative tool necessary in your professional future. If approached wisely, however, networking can deliver new jobs, establish contacts, or develop client/customer bases.

Doing this requires thoughtfulness, so here are some tips to networking with a purpose.

Connect...

- Anybody and everybody
- People in your professional field
- Fellow alumni
- Committee members
- Parents of your children's friends
- Members of organizations you belong to—religious, fraternal, private clubs, etc.

Attend...

- Go to industry-related events, conferences, and workshops.
- Join philanthropic organizations.
- Attend USI Alumni Association events.
- Volunteer for nonprofits that interest you.

Network...

- All the time. It's a process that is ongoing and growing.
- Build networking opportunities into your schedule before it fills up with other activities.

Follow-up...

- Update your contacts after each networking activity.
- Add relevant notes to help you remember important details about each person you meet.
- Call, email, text, and meet face-to-face to stay in contact.
- Send a hand-written (legible) note to someone once in a while to build stronger relationships.
- Following up immediately when you are invited to do so is easy and essential.

Prepare...

- Ask to be introduced to others at gatherings.
- Ask to connect with professionals on LinkedIn.
- Have an online presence that maintains a high level of integrity and professionalism.
- Request the registration list prior to an event, and study the list to see who you would like to meet.

Proper networking is an ongoing investment we make in ourselves, so make the most of your time and contacts as you build your professional future.

Basem Dugheish '88, computer information systems, is a senior sales executive at Algosaiibi Services Co. Ltd in Damman, Saudi Arabia.

Kris Hormuth '88, social work, made history as Branford Police Department's first female lieutenant in Branford, Connecticut.

Dean Wagoner '88, management, has been promoted to vice president of human resources at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana.

Jeffrey Devine '89, history/political science, has accepted a position of corporate secretary and manager of human resources at Florida Reliability Coordinating Counsel, Inc. in Tampa, Florida.



USI to produce new alumni directory

Our alumni often change emails, jobs, and locations, making it hard to keep up with them. In order to stay better connected with you, we've contracted with Harris Connect to update contact information for our alumni and help keep us up-to-date on news, activities, and events.

The directory will allow you to reconnect with old friends as well as network professionally. In the coming months, you will be contacted by email and/or regular mail or by phone to verify and update your contact and career information. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

1990s

Dean Happe '91, accounting, was promoted to senior vice president, chief procurement officer at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Tamara Drone Brown '93, business administration, has joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor in Evansville.

Stacy Jobe Dye '96, business administration, has been named vice president of client services at Service Industry Research Systems in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.

Caron Leader '96, Master of Social Work, is partner/psychotherapist at Within Sight, LLC in Evansville.

Lori Sutton '96, accounting, has been promoted to manager of diversity and inclusion for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Christopher Gibson '97, biology, was promoted to principal at New Tech High School in Evansville.

Stephanie Dunn Norrick, '97, political science, '08, Master of Public Administration, has been promoted to project director at AARP Foundation in Evansville.

John Farless '98, communications, has been promoted to director of USI's News and Information Services.

Eileen Weber '98, chemistry, is an ultraviolet coatings product manager for Red Spot Paint & Varnish, Inc. in Evansville.

Steven Stump '99, communications, '09, Master of Business Administration, has accepted the position of director of development and alumni engagement at Ivy Tech in Evansville.

M. Daniela Vidal '99, Master of Business Administration, was named director of the Center of Applied Research at USI. She will support the diverse needs of businesses in southwestern Indiana and beyond by conducting high-impact applied research, economic development, consulting, and student engagement.

2000s

Kayce Wenderoth Wahl '01, psychology, '13, Master in Nursing, is a nurse practitioner at Tri-State Orthopedics in Evansville.

Jacob Winsett '00, history, was appointed magistrate by the Warrick County courts in Newburgh, Indiana.

Jean Cunningham Blanton '01, public relations and advertising/political science, a partner/attorney at Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders LLP, has been recognized for her fifth consecutive year as both a 2013 Rising Star and a 2013 Super Lawyer.

Dustin Greenfield '01, accounting, has been promoted to manager of plant accounting for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Tony Lewis '01, Master of Secondary Education, has been selected head football coach at Henderson County High School in Henderson, Kentucky.

Kimberly Arvin Long '01, social work, '02, Master of Social Work, has been hired as a behavior support specialist for Evansville ARC.

Baker offers good will and social services to families in need

housing, employment, child care, and life skills

By Danielle Norris

Tucked away in the hills of Evansville's north side is Bryan Baker's office ('02, MSW '11), a cinderblock room papered with photographs and children's artwork that conjures up feelings of hope and security—something the director of Goodwill Family Center has worked hard to instill for families who would otherwise be homeless.

"We're a family shelter that will accept any type of family," he said, "whether they are single-parent families, same-sex parent families, or families headed by non-parent guardians."



"If it hadn't been for some of the advisors and professors at USI, I wouldn't be where I am today," he said. "My heart will always be with USI because they helped turn a country bumpkin into... whatever I am."

Overseeing the Center's staff, programming, and facilities, Baker ensures meals, temporary housing, and daycare services (for children up to two years of age) are provided for as many as 10 families in transition. In addition, the facility's programs offer assistance in finding permanent housing and employment, as well as teaching financial responsibility and life skills.

"We genuinely try, whatever the family's needs, to get those needs met," Baker said.

Baker is personally involved with each of the families, sharing their achievements and encouraging them to remain hopeful when they experience setbacks. Fortunately, celebrations are more common, as the Goodwill Family Center enjoys an 80 percent success rate in transitioning families from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

His work at the Goodwill Family Center has personal significance. Growing up, he remembers

experiencing financial struggles in his own family. His mother worked in a furniture factory until it shut down, and his father was a maintenance worker and later a farmer.

A first-generation college student from Salem, Indiana, Baker was a resident assistant in USI's campus housing while earning his bachelor's degree in psychology. Since graduation, he has worked for Ireland Home Based Services, the Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging (SWIRCA), and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department. In search of further career advancement, he returned to USI to complete a master's degree in social work in 2011.

"If it hadn't been for some of the advisors and professors at USI, I wouldn't be where I am today," he said. "My heart will always be with USI because they helped turn a country bumpkin into...whatever I am."

Autumne Baker '02, business administration, is a community representative for the Southwest Indiana Office of the American Cancer Society in Evansville.

Amy Duke '02, marketing, is a marketing manager for Saks Fifth Avenue in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Ben Joergens '02, marketing, was been named financial empowerment officer, assistant vice president at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Joy Huff Cook '03, radiologic imaging science/health services, '09, Master in Secondary Education, has accepted a national appointment to be on the ASRT Practice Standards Magnetic Resonance Subcommittee. She is a clinical assistant professor and clinical coordinator in the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences Program at USI.

April Lawyer '03, marketing, is a senior area business specialist for Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. working from the Evansville area.

Christina Mayes '03, English, is a technical training supervisor for Vectren Power Supply in Evansville.

Alfonso Vidal '03, Master in Industrial Management, is president of Vidal Plastics, LLC in Newburgh, Indiana.

Lauren Lesher '04, social work, '05, Master of Social Work, has joined aha! Architects of Human Awareness as an independent psychotherapist in Evansville.

Debra Smith '04, political science/Spanish, is a community representative for the Great Lakes Division of the American Cancer Society in Evansville.

Joshua Raleigh '04, finance, has joined Vectren Corporation as manager of facilities and fleet in Evansville.

Lindsay Botsch '05, finance, has been promoted to commercial banking officer at German American Bank in Evansville.

Andy Lannert '05, accounting and professional services, has taken the position of assistant financial controller and auditor at Mead Johnson Nutrition in Evansville.

James (Cas) Swiz '05, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to director of regulatory and implementation analysis for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Mary Doerner '06, Master in Nursing, is an instructor in nursing at USI.

Ken Clark '06, public relations and advertising, was named chief financial officer of the Indianapolis/Marion County Information Services Agency in Indianapolis, Indiana.

William Krowl '07, economics, has opened a law practice, Krowl Law, LLC in Evansville.

Michael Carter '08, finance, has been appointed assistant vice president, senior credit analyst for First Federal Bank in Evansville.

Brittany Harrison '08, nursing, '12, Master in Nursing, is a family nurse practitioner at ECHO in Evansville.

Angela Miller '08, accounting and professional service, '11, Master of Business Administration, has joined Harding Shymanski & Co. as a staff accountant in Evansville.

Tyler Showalter '09, accounting and professional service/finance, was promoted to supervisor with BKD, LLP in Evansville.

Brian Ankenbrand '09, post baccalaureate certificate of accountancy, is a fund accountant for SS&C Technologies in Evansville.

Amanda Osbourne Elikofer '09, nursing, a Deaconess Hospital nurse in Evansville, has been selected by the Society of Trauma Nurses and the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma to receive the 2013 Foundation Nurse Fellow award.

Robert Malcomson '09, social science teaching, was awarded the Logan County Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year Award. He is a world civilization teacher and an assistant girls' basketball coach at Logan County High School in Russellville, Kentucky.

2010s

Whitney Hackler Noland '10, English, has joined the University of Evansville as a grant manager.

Anna Shade '10, finance, was promoted to senior accountant with BKD, LLP in Evansville.

Jackie Beach '11, nursing, has joined the United State Air Force stationed in San Antonio, Texas, as a registered nurse.

Kayna Deffendall '11, mathematics, a senior sales associate at Tracy Zellers Jewelry, has successfully completed her Gemological Institute of America Accredited Jewelry Professional certification in Evansville.

Dani Finkelstein '11, business administration, is a catastrophe claim representative for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Illinois.

Mallory Majors '11, Spanish, has been appointed a marketing and communications assistant at Ivy Tech in Evansville.

Ashley Murphy '11, marketing, an executive assistant and accredited jewelry professional at Tracy Zellers Jewelry, has successfully completed her Gemological Institute of America Accredited Jewelry Professional certification in Evansville.

Molly Burrell Snider '11, nursing, has joined Visiting Nurses Association Plus Home Care & Hospice as a registered nurse in the agency's Intermittent Services Department in Evansville.

Educator preps Chinese students for university life abroad

By Mary Woehler

As a lecturer at SSFBC, a Britain-China affiliate of Shaanxi Normal University located in Xi'an, China, Anthony Adams M'06 prepares Chinese high school students for university life abroad by teaching them to ask questions and challenge ideas.

At SSFBC, one of the key institutions of higher learning in Northwest China, the classes are conducted in English using British education curriculum. Adams, the sole American lecturer at the school, not only teaches English for academic purposes but also trains students to research and write university-level papers on subjects ranging from physics to sociology to business. Since most Chinese students have little experience in the Western academic

process, he guides them away from their usual mindset of rote memorization and encourages them to exercise critical thinking.

"I enjoy teaching them the process and seeing the results once their meticulous work is finished," he said. "Upon graduation, our students are eligible to attend the upper-tier universities in the UK, and many are accepted for study in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand."

Adams credits his ability to teach



City Wall in Xi'an, China

students to think outside the box to the thought-provoking courses he completed as a graduate student at USI. He said that Dr. Howard Gabennesch, professor emeritus of sociology, influenced him to write his thesis on something unrelated to history, which was his main interest area at the time.

"My dream of being a teacher was always about the subject of history, not English," Adams said. "What I learned at USI was how history is more than just world-changing events—it's causes, results, the people involved, and much more. Hopefully, someday I'll return to USI as a part-time student—not for career purposes, but just for the sake of learning about those things I enjoy."

Originally from the Boston area, Adams has called Evansville home since 1986, when he transferred for a management position at the T.J. Maxx Distribution Center. Before moving to China, he worked at Haeryong Science and Technology High School in South Korea. He holds an associate's degree in business from Tampa College, a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from University of Evansville, a master's degree from USI, and a graduate certificate in modern European history from Western Kentucky University. Two of Adams' children also are USI graduates—Geneva '06, with a degree in theatre and French, and Richard '12, with a degree in nutrition.

HELP FUND THE USI ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT AND SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Take Your USI Spirit on the Road!

It's easier than ever to tag your car with a red and blue USI License Plate. Ask for a USI License Plate at your local Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. BMVs state-wide will collect your \$25 tax-deductible contribution in support of the Alumni Scholarship Endowment and forward it to the University.

When you purchase or renew your License Plate, you will pay the state-assessed fees, a \$15 BMV processing fee, and your \$25 scholarship contribution directly to the BMV. You can request a USI License Plate from the BMV by mail, at your local license branch, or online through the BMV website at www.state.in.us/bmv.

For more information, call the Alumni Association at 812/464-1924.

Get rolling today with a collegiate license plate!



Tabatha Alford '12, finance/accounting and professional service, has joined Harding Shymanski & Co. in Evansville as a staff accountant.

Amanda Allen '12, communication studies, has taken the position of human resources assistant at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Sara Bealor '12, public relations and advertising, has been hired as the annual fund and grants coordinator at Evansville ARC.

Kyra Hiatt '12, nursing, has been appointed program chair for Health Care Support at Ivy Tech in Evansville.

Caleb Schmitt '12, nursing, is a registered nurse at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana.

Ashley Hilton '13, social work, has joined Good Samaritan Hospital as a community resource specialist. Ashley graduated summa cum laude and was the 2013 USI President's Medal recipient.

Bridgette Hoover '13, theatre arts, a native of Edwardsville, Illinois, is the house manager at New Harmony Theatre, the University's professional Equity theatre, this summer and begins a paid, year-long internship at the Orlando (Florida) Shakespeare Company in August.

Linda Stickland '13, Doctor of Nursing, is an assistant professor at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Emily Pedevilla '13, social work, has taken the position of family case manager for The Department of Child Services in Noblesville, Indiana.

Marriages

Chad Horrell '03, political science, and **Abigail Curran**, April 13, 2013.

Andrew Koors '03, accounting, and **Leslie Hornbach**, June 11, 2011.

Jessica Hybarger '05, public relations and advertising, and **Daniel Klage**, November 23, 2011.

Sara McBride '11, business administration/Spanish, and **Lee Fehrenbacher '10**, engineering, August 18, 2012.

Births & Adoptions

Jennifer York Farless '96, sociology, and **John Farless '98**, communications, welcomed Luca Carter, May 6, 2013.

Jessica Michl Fehrenbacher '99, communications, and **Tony** welcomed Emma Elizabeth, June 6, 2013.

Jean Cunningham Blanton '01, public relations and advertising/political science, and **Jared Blanton '05**, marketing, welcomed Jack Thomas, December 6, 2012.

Sandra Chapman Ambrose '03, health services, and **Mark Ambrose '04**, accounting, welcomed Chloe Rae, January 21, 2013.

Amanda Wallace Moore '03, health services, and **Nathan Moore '11**, Master of Business Administration, welcomed Emma Kay, January 10, 2013.

Summer Schmuck Wilderman '03, Master of Social Work, and **Roger Wilderman '04**, psychology, welcomed Emma Marie, April 22, 2013.

Tiffany Hall Williams '05, special education, and **Wesley** welcomed Abby Renae, August 10, 2012.

Katie Schneider Omohundro '06, social work, '07, Master of Social Work, **Clinton Omohundro '06**, English, welcomed Silas Waller, February 11, 2013.

Audrey Merkley Zimmer '08, accounting and professional services, and **Nicholas Zimmer '05**, computer science, welcomed Aiden Keith, April 28, 2013.

Emily Wickman Johnson '11, business administration, and **Kevin** welcomed Mackenzie, February 21, 2013.

Elizabeth Richardson Clephane '09, English, and **Jezra** welcomed Finnegan, April 16, 2013.

Reduce energy, build the Alumni Scholarship Fund

USI Alumni Association is participating in a community outreach and enrichment program with Energizing Indiana to reduce energy costs and increase scholarship dollars for USI students.

Energizing Indiana provides free residential home energy assessments to lower energy bills, improve in-home air quality, and increase your home's value. The initiative is a united effort by participating utilities and residents to decrease energy costs across the state.



For each home that enrolls through the USI Alumni Association, \$25 is donated to the USI Alumni Scholarship Fund.



To sign up or find out more about the program, contact USI Alumni and Volunteer Services at alumni@usi.edu or 812/464-1924.

In Memoriam

Catherine Schwenk '72, elementary education, of Evansville, died February 19, 2013. In 2013, she celebrated 40 years of teaching in the Evansville Diocese. For the last 16 years she was a third grade teacher at Holy Rosary School. Catherine received the Diocesan Teacher of the Year Award in 1993.

Steven Moore '73, business administration, of Evansville, died June 11, 2013. He served in the United States Army in the Vietnam War. Steve worked as a consultant and procurement manager which allowed him to travel and reside in different cities and countries.

Carmalita Odom '74, sociology, of Phillipstown, Illinois, died April 29, 2013. She enjoyed traveling and all types of art, especially pottery.

Michael Cody '91, business administration/computer information systems, of Evansville, died June 8, 2013. He was a retired IT developer from Atlas Van Lines.

David Broyles '93, physical education, of Poseyville, Indiana, died May 11, 2013. He served in the United State Marine Corps for seven years.

James Summers '97, political science, '05, history, of Princeton, Indiana, died April 15, 2013.

Rebecca Baumgart Schnur '99, elementary education, of Newburgh, Indiana, died February 13, 2013. She taught at Saint John the Baptist Catholic School for 17 years.

Jeremy Yarger '99, chemistry, of Evansville, died February 20, 2013. He was a chemical salesman for Regents, Inc.

Faculty/staff In Memoriam

Jerry Williams, instructor emeritus in mathematics, died June 26, 2013. Williams taught mathematics at USI from 1994 until his retirement in 2005. He organized many Christmas dinners for the mathematics department, nurtured sick plants, and landscaped many yards at no cost. His interests included trains, music, landscaping, recycling, and fine dining. Memorial contributions may be made to the Carmi Public Library.

Scotland

USI Alumni Association trip

July 7-16, 2014

Ten days with 14 meals

Tour operator: Collette Vacations and Lifestyle Tours

Tour Highlights

Experience the riches of Scotland on this 10-day leisurely tour by visiting Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, St. Andrews, Dunrobin Castle, Orkney Islands, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye, and Armadale Castle.

Essential Experience

- Explore Edinburgh Castle
- Learn the secrets of making Scotch whiskey
- Spot "Nessie"
- Discover Ring Brodgar (older than Stonehenge)
- Experience a Neolithic village
- Cruise Loch Lomond

Please Join Us!

RSVP to Janet Johnson, 812/464-1924, or alumni@usi.edu. Visit alumni.usi.edu and select Alumni Travel for additional trip information. Proceeds from alumni travel fund scholarships for USI students. First informational session will be held in Traditions Lounge, in UC East, on Tuesday, September 3, at 6 p.m.



alumni.usi.edu



Ruth Ann Waller (1950–2013)



A “TRUE PIONEER” FOR WOMEN’S ATHLETICS

In a circa 1970 yearbook photo, Ruth Waller grins as her team scores points on the court. Ruth began her coaching career at 25, and was instrumental in the birth of women’s athletics at USI for 36 years, creating the women’s basketball, tennis, and fast-pitch softball teams in the early days of Title IX. She coached the women’s basketball team for nine years, when women’s college basketball was in its infancy. Waller also began the USI softball program, coaching the squad for 10 years and posting 100 victories. During her tenure as softball coach, USI was a major force in the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), the predecessor to women’s athletics in the NCAA. In AIAW, USI was on the same level as many of Indiana’s Division I programs. Waller died April 13, 2013, from complications due to a stroke. “Ruth was a true pioneer and meant so much to the development of our department,” said Jon Mark Hall, director of athletics. “Her vision for women’s athletics helped propel our programs to what they are today. She loved USI and she will be missed.”



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