

USI *Magazine*



Lori Reed
Building dreams

**How USI
engages Indiana**

Page 10

**Research in
the Ukraine**

Page 26

FROM THE EDITOR

Tracking change

Unlike a courier who proclaims good news and bad news, I'm reporting USI has good news and more good news. We are celebrating 15 years of outstanding work by Betty Vawter, who served as the *USI Magazine* editor. A telecommuter and a senior writer/editor, Betty retired at the end of 2011. For the first 10 years she worked from her home in Newburgh, Indiana. In 2006, her husband retired as publisher and president of the *Evansville Courier and Press*, and the family moved to Louisville, Tennessee. I felt blessed when Betty and USI agreed to continue her telecommuting status from another state so she could continue as editor of this magazine, among other duties. She always demonstrated the qualities of an effective telecommuter. A person with self-discipline, Betty needed no supervision and managed her time well. Deadlines were common for Betty, and she met them with creative and accurate stories. Her interview skills and a natural talent to write a good story have kept readers informed and entertained for a decade plus.

A new magazine editor is the other good news. John Farless, a 1998 USI graduate in communications, joined USI in mid-January after more than 12 years of experience in public relations, writing, development, photography, and graphic design. He has knowledge of such communication tools as web site content management, social media, and video production, skills he developed while working as associate director of communications at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology for the last 10 years.

You have the benefit of an issue with dual oversight. Thanks to Betty Vawter for beginning and completing much of this issue and to John Farless for following up and adding recent news. You'll see more of John's work in the coming months.

I'm excited about this issue and what we'll be bringing you in future issues relating to the inspiring work and people of the University of Southern Indiana.



Kathy W. Funke
Director, News and Information Services

USI Magazine is published three times annually by the University of Southern Indiana for its alumni and friends.

Vice President for Government and University Relations
Cynthia S. Brinker

Assistant Vice President for Marketing and Communications
Todd A. Wilson

Director of News and Information Services
Kathy Funke

Director of Alumni and Volunteer Services
Nancy Johnson '83 M'95

Editor
Betty R. Vawter

Contributing Editors
Wendy Knipe Bredhold '98
Susan Fetscher
Ray Simmons

Art Direction and Design
Christopher M. Norrick '98

Photography
Elizabeth Courtney
LaVerne Jones '05
MaCabe Brown

Administrative Assistant
Barbara Goodwin

Send editorial information to the Office of News and Information Services. Send alumni information to the Office of Alumni and Volunteer Services. Send donor information and address changes to the USI Foundation Office.

Address
University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, IN 47712

Telephone
USI Magazine 812/465-7005

Other University phone numbers
Alumni and Volunteer Services 812/464-1924
USI Foundation 812/464-1918
Admission 812/464-1765
Athletics 812/464-1846

It is the policy of the University of Southern Indiana to be in full compliance with all federal and state non-discrimination and equal opportunity laws, orders, and regulations relating to race, sex, religion, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Affirmative Action Officer, USI Human Resources Department, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712.

www.usi.edu





FEATURES

Providing leadership to the region 10
How USI engages Indiana

Alumni success 17
Profiles of graduates making a difference

DEPARTMENTS

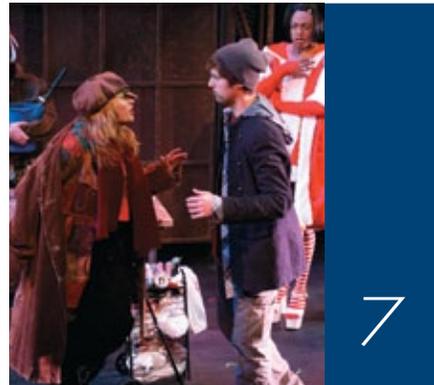
President's Perspective 2
USI-Crane affiliation leads to brighter tomorrow

Campus News 3
Tuition lower for summer session

USI Foundation News 8
Young alumnus establishes scholarship

Sports 20
Peer coaches help student athletes

Alumni Today 22
Current news on classmates



RENT in regional competition

7



Glenwood Community Health Center

14



On the Cover

As executive director of Habitat for Humanity Evansville, Lori Reed '99 helps families achieve their dream of home ownership. See page 17.

USI Magazine

Online exclusives

- Commencement fall 2011
- Ideation contest by Anchor Industries
- Profiles: USI Hall of Fame
- and more online content



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

President's Perspective

by Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, President

USI-NSWC Crane partnership leads to a brighter tomorrow



The teacher in me was delighted when I was invited to serve on a panel to judge student presentations in a marketing class this fall. While not as dramatic as an episode of “Dancing with the Stars,” it was more engaging because student groups were presenting their innovative ideas inspired by patented creations by scientists at the Naval Surface Warfare Center–Crane Division (NSWC).

USI and Crane established a partnership in 2007 in an effort to strengthen STEM education in the region and to explore the commercialization of inventions by Crane scientists and engineers. In addition, USI’s College of Business and the Center for Applied Research have been instrumental in developing sessions at Crane on how to build an innovation culture. The working relationship between Crane and USI has resulted in a marked increase in patents by Crane scientists and growing regional and national recognition for both institutions.

But turning back to those class presentations, working from three patented concepts, students developed several ideas including ways to make mobile

homes better able to withstand tornadic winds, as well as safer and less expensive lodging for fishermen and hunters. At the end of the class, students talked about the challenges of working together, developing ideas quickly, and doing the research needed to develop the most effective way to present their ideas.

Jonathan Rietman, a 2011 MBA graduate, worked closely with Crane scientists to “translate” the language of a patent into text that an entrepreneurial non-scientist could use for a commercial product. Jonathan said his experience was “invaluable” and could “only be gained from interaction with different types of professionals.” Those skills will come in handy for Jonathan as he begins his career as an associate manager with Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Jonathan’s experience and the presentations of the students in the marketing class highlight the importance of USI’s commitment to exhibiting leadership in the region and state. There is no question that partnerships for economic development, such as that with Crane, elevate USI’s visibility, impact, and reputation. But most

important, the commitment to leadership in outreach enriches the learning environment for our faculty and students and serves a greater good in assisting Hoosier communities achieve a brighter future.



President Linda L. M. Bennett listens to marketing students give presentations on innovative ideas they've imagined possible from patented works by scientists at Crane.

President's Perspective APPEARS IN EACH ISSUE OF USI MAGAZINE.

Trustees approve reduced cost for summer sessions

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has reduced the price per credit hour for summer session courses taken by in-state undergraduate students. The measure will result in savings of approximately 20 percent. The reduction will apply in summer 2012 and 2013.

The move decreases the current \$193.07 per credit hour for Indiana undergraduates to \$154.50 per credit hour in summer 2012 and \$162.30 per credit hour in summer 2013. For an undergraduate taking a full-time summer load of 12 credit hours, this new program cuts costs by \$463 in summer 2012 and \$510 in summer 2013.

“The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees takes very seriously the issue of affordability and access,” said Ted C. Ziemer Jr., board chair. “This program for summer sessions will help reduce the cost of excellent higher education for Hoosiers and is in line with USI’s history of affordability. By offering classes in the summer at a lower price, the University will make it more attractive for students to speed up their achievement of a college degree and, by increasing the number of students it serves in the summer, make better use of our resources.”



In-state students may take advantage of a reduction in the price per credit hour of summer classes due to a recent ruling by the University trustees. The reduction will be effective in 2012 and 2013.

President Linda L. M. Bennett said, “The reduction of summer session costs will encourage our students to take advantage of earning credits in the summer and will help with timely degree completion, a priority for the state and for the University.”

“For students from Evansville and the southwest Indiana region home for the summer from other colleges and universities, this price reduction also will be a benefit,” Bennett added. “They can earn credits at USI that apply toward their degree completion, most likely at a much lower cost.”

USI’s 2012 summer sessions begin May 9 and June 18, with more than 560 courses scheduled so far. Last summer, 4,455 students were enrolled in summer courses, an increase of over nine percent or 400 students over the last five years. With the reduced cost of taking summer courses, the University anticipates increased enrollment in summer sessions and more efficient use of state-funded facilities.

For more about summer sessions at USI, see www.usi.edu/summer.

A promotional graphic for 'EXPLORE Summer @ USI'. It features a person wearing a tan hat and binoculars, with the USI tower visible in the reflection. The background is a tropical jungle scene with palm trees and a bird flying in the sky. The text 'EXPLORE Summer @ USI' is written in large, bold, red and orange letters. At the bottom, the website address 'www.usi.edu/summer' is displayed in white text.

Educators in Health Professions and Liberal Arts recognized for teaching talent

Outstanding Teaching Awards were presented at the beginning of the spring semester to Dr. Joy Cook '03 M'09, assistant professor of radiologic and imaging sciences in the College of Nursing and Health Professions and clinic coordinator of the radiologic technology program, and Dr. Brian Atra, instructor in philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts.

Cook is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award for a new faculty member.

"Joy's successful teaching is a major contribution to the students' high performance on the national board exams," said Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "She maintains an active practice in order to effectively provide students with current advancements and practice methods in support of their learning."

Cook joined the University in 2005. She has been employed as a radiologic technologist at Deaconess Hospital since 1995.



Joy Cook reviews images with students.

In September, she received the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists 2011 Outstanding Technologist. The award is presented to a technologist in the state of Indiana who consistently exemplifies outstanding values and ethics as a radiologic technologist.

Cook was elected 2011-2012 vice president of the Indiana Society of Radiologic Technologists (ISRT). She will serve as the vice president for

the state affiliate society for the 2011-2012 term. She was one of 16 radiologic technologists from across the nation to graduate from the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Leadership Academy this past June.

Cook holds a Master of Science in Education degree, Bachelor of Science degree in radiologic and imaging sciences, Bachelor of Science degree in health services, and Associate of Science degree in radiologic technology from USI.

Cook will receive a \$1,000 cash stipend and a faculty development grant of \$1,000 as part of the award.

Atra received the Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member Award. He will receive a \$500 cash stipend and a faculty development grant of \$500.

The awards are funded by the USI Foundation. They recognize young faculty and part-time faculty who help students grow intellectually and think critically.

Shaw Biology Lecture features science writer

Ricki Lewis, a science writer with a doctorate in genetics, is the speaker for the second annual Marlene V. Shaw Biology Lecture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in Carter Hall of the University Center at the University of Southern Indiana.



Her topic is Gene Therapy: A Forever Fix. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Lewis' latest book tells the true story of 8-year-old Corey Haas, who was cured of hereditary blindness in 2008 just four days after undergoing gene therapy. Called *The Forever Fix: Gene Therapy and the Boy Who Saved It*, the book will be published March 13 by St. Martin's Press. It provides a brief history of this biotechnology that nearly disappeared after the death of an 18-year-old who received gene therapy at the same hospital nine years earlier. The book is written for a general audience.

The Shaw Biology Lecture is funded by an endowment established in the USI Foundation by Dr. Marlene Shaw, USI professor emerita of biology. Shaw retired in 2009 after 36 years with the University. She selected Lewis for the annual lecture, which features speakers based on their expertise at the crossroads that biology shares with fields such as medicine, ethics, law, and business.

"Ricki is gifted at weaving current stories and case studies in human genetics—making them come alive," Shaw said. "She engages her audience with her knowledge of the science and her passion and compassion for the personal stories of individuals and their families."

Copies of *The Forever Fix: Gene Therapy and the Boy Who Saved It* will be available for purchase and signing following the lecture. In addition to the public lecture, Lewis will speak on genetics to biology classes and will offer insights on genetic counseling and science-writing as career choices during her visit to USI.

The endowment for the annual Shaw Biology Lecture continues to grow with support from Shaw and generous alumni, faculty, and friends.

Girl Scouting celebrates 100th anniversary

Linda Bennett named honorary leader

University of Southern Indiana President Linda L. M. Bennett has been named Honorary Girl Scout Leader for Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana's 2012 year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary.

"Girl Scouting empowers girls by providing a foundation for growth in personal development, leadership skills, community awareness, and global understanding," Bennett said. "I am proud to serve as Honorary Girl Scout Leader as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting."

In connection with the anniversary, approximately 300 high school girls are expected to attend a STEM Summer Event at Holiday World and Splashin' Safari. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Faculty, staff, and students from USI's Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center and the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education will coordinate hands-on STEM activities.

"This will be a fantastic way for girls to learn about science and technology," said Jan Davies, chief executive officer for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana, "with activities designed by students from the University of Southern Indiana and implemented on and around the rides and attractions at this fun theme park."

Don Pitzer receives Hoosier Historian Award

Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, professor emeritus of history and director emeritus of the Center for Communal Studies, is the 2011 recipient of the Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award presented by the Indiana Historical Society (IHS). The award is given annually to a historian who has made significant contributions to either the field of historical scholarship or the affairs and activities of the IHS.



William Bartelt, left, Indiana Historical Society board member, congratulates Don Pitzer and his wife Connie.

Pitzer received a doctorate in 19th century social and intellectual history in 1966 from The Ohio State University. He joined the history faculty at the University of Southern Indiana in 1967 and directed the University's Center for Communal Studies from 1976 to 2007.

In 1975, Pitzer was a founder of the Communal Studies Association (CSA) and served as its first president and executive director. The CSA, in 1994, granted him its first Distinguished Service Award, which was then named in his honor. He also has contributed to scholarly and intentional community-related publications, including

America's Communal Utopias, which he edited in 1997. Pitzer wrote the text for the book *New Harmony Then and Now* published in 2011 by Indiana University Press.

The award was presented in November at the Indiana Historical Society's annual Founders Day Dinner in Indianapolis. USI's Dr. Darrel Bigham, director emeritus of Historic Southern Indiana and professor emeritus of history, and William Bartelt, former adjunct instructor in history, received the Hoosier Historian Award in 2002 and 2003, respectively. The award has been known as the Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award since 2005.



Joanne Wright receives Volunteer Inspiration Award

A special Volunteer Inspiration Award was awarded this year to Joanne Wright for her guidance in creating Volunteer USI. Wright was the volunteer chair of the initial Volunteer Advisory Council. Under her leadership the council developed the volunteer program to enhance services provided by faculty and staff.

"I was surprised and honored to be given this award," Wright said. "When I received the beautiful cut glass bowl with the Volunteer USI monogram, it brought my memory back to the committee that organized the program. It was a great committee. Everybody contributed to develop this new program for USI."

Modeled after successful hospital volunteer programs, Volunteer USI began in July 1996. The program celebrated a milestone in spring 2011 when the number of volunteer hours surpassed one million.

The award was announced at the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Wright and her husband, Byron Wright, vice president emeritus for Business Affairs and treasurer emeritus, live in Fishers, Indiana.

Colleges to hold on-campus Commencement ceremonies in 2012

USI will start a tradition of Commencement on campus in the spring. Separate ceremonies will be held for each college on Saturday, April 28. Students earning doctoral, master's degrees, and post-baccalaureate certificates will participate in a 6:30 p.m. ceremony on Friday, April 27. All events will be in the Physical Activities Center.

"The value of being on campus with families and friends to celebrate will be significant for our graduates," said Cindy Brinker, vice president for Government and University Relations. "That lasting campus memory prompted the venue change."

There will be four ceremonies on April 28 in the Physical Activities Center.

- College of Business and Outreach and Engagement, 9 a.m.
- College of Liberal Arts, noon
- Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, 3 p.m.
- College of Nursing and Health Professions, 6 p.m.

Five accomplished alumni are being invited to deliver the Commencement address for each program. Those alumni



Amidst a background featuring University colors, fall graduates received degrees in December 2011. Dr. Barbara Davis, professor of nursing, delivered the Commencement address to more than 350 graduates.

will be announced at a date closer to the event.

Documents report that the first USI Commencement was held in 1971 as an outdoor ceremony on the front lawn of campus. With the uncertainty of the weather and no large venue

available to move inside in the event of bad weather, Commencement has been held at Roberts Stadium for many years.



Senator Lugar gets update on USI regional engagement

Indiana Senator Richard Lugar met with President Linda L. M. Bennett and other USI administrators and deans on campus in October. Senator Lugar was briefed on the NSWC–Crane partnership, STEM initiatives, and other programs offered by USI. He visited the Business and Engineering Center and viewed the STEM trucks that carry outreach programs to schools in the region.



USI Theatre's *RENT* selected for American College Theater Festival

USI Theatre's production of *RENT* was chosen to advance to the regional competition of the American College Theater Festival (ACTF), where two performances were received enthusiastically in January.

The regional festival took place at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The musical closed USI Theatre's fall season with sold-out shows for each performance. An added performance scheduled because of the production's popularity sold out in five hours. The student cast performed in November for a full house that included adjudicators for the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. They selected the show for the regional competition.

Double exposure

Eric Altheide, director of the production, said a total audience of approximately 800 persons saw the cast's two performances at the festival.

"Considering our sold-out performances at USI were for 99 people at a time, the festival provided us the opportunity to double our exposure in those two performances," he said. "Both shows received exuberant standing ovations."

Altheide said judges also responded well to the production.

"We received a response from two national adjudicators who spoke highly of the show," Altheide said. "Overall, they felt the show was energetic, powerful, and full of heart and passion. One responder even said he liked our production better than the current *Off-Broadway* revival. Several of my colleagues from other schools also made specific efforts to congratulate us. The artistic director of the Krannert Center said the production was very emotionally affecting and that he was moved to tears several times."

"Putting together this production required the effort of about 50 students, staff, faculty, and community members,"



Following sell-out shows on campus, the cast of *RENT* was invited to perform in the regional competition of the American College Theater Festival.

said Elliot Wasserman, director of theatre. "Its success depended on tremendous commitment from all these individuals. Credit must go to our extraordinary young director, Eric Altheide, and to the University at large, which listened to his requests for support, evaluated his need, and saw the importance of supporting this project."

Largest production

"*RENT* represents the largest production our program has ever attempted," Altheide said. "It has been a wonderful lesson to our students that it is important to dream big and then work hard to bring your vision to reality."

Amelia Dalto served as choreographer. Music director was Patrick Ritsch.

Besides the production of *RENT* being selected, five cast members

— Anachebe Asomugha, Preston Harris-Dunlap, Bridgette Hoover, Patrick Litteken, and Kalab Sullivan — were named to participate in auditions for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship during the regional American College Theater Festival.

The cast also included Dustin Stephens, Adam Woodruff, Antonio King, Shawnte Gaston, Emily Durchholz, Melissa Brown, Brandis DeWilligen, Preston Edge, Daniel Harris, Kevin Hawkins, and Gwendolyn Snow.

Due to national budget cuts, no shows will be selected this year for a national showcase. Following the last regional festival, national adjudicators will announce awards for outstanding achievement in several categories.

Former student athlete identifies need, establishes scholarship

A 2010 marketing graduate and former men's soccer player already is giving back to the University of Southern Indiana through the establishment of a scholarship.

Paul Hutchens has created the Paul Hutchens Athletic Scholarship for an out-of-state student on the men's soccer team. Hutchens came from the Chicago area to play soccer at USI.

Acknowledging that USI has the most affordable tuition in the state, Hutchens knows firsthand that the cost of higher education for students coming from out of state is higher. The scholarship he established will help a student athlete from another state meet that cost. Student athletes face strenuous demands for their time both athletically and academically. In season, practices and games may require 20 hours a week, giving student athletes little or no time to pursue a part-time job that might help with expenses.

Philanthropic spirit

Soccer Head Coach Mat Santoro said, "We are extremely grateful for Paul's generous contribution to the soccer program. It is the ultimate compliment when a former USI soccer player wants to give back to the program. Paul's scholarship not only will help a current student athlete, but it also sets a precedent for continued alumni involvement in USI soccer."

Kevin Minor, a midfielder from Edwardsville, Illinois, is the first recipient of the scholarship, a \$500 award. Minor is a junior majoring in English.

Hutchens said a scholarship he received in 2008-2009 was inspirational to him. He was the recipient of the Tim Mahoney Business Scholarship, which goes to business majors demonstrating University and community service. A popular academic advisor, Mahoney encourages students to network and participate in activities that connect them to the real world. He established



Men's soccer coach Mat Santoro, left, Paul Hutchens '10, and Kevin Minor, recipient of the first annual Paul Hutchens Athletic Scholarship, attend the USI Foundation Scholarship Donor Recognition Luncheon held in November.

the scholarship to recognize students who make a time commitment to the University and to the community.

Mahoney applauds the way Hutchens has identified a need and met it with the scholarship he established.

Hutchens' parents instilled in him a belief in philanthropy. "I'm fortunate to be in a position where I am able to give," he said. "My parents always taught me that the more fortunate you are, the more you should give back. The scholarship I established is limited now, but I want it to grow into something bigger and better."

Good fit

In the fall, Hutchens attended a luncheon sponsored by the USI Foundation to recognize scholarship donors. He described the new additions of the Business and Engineering Center and the University Center East as an incredible transformation of campus.

Hutchens lives in Minnetonka,

Minnesota. In November, he joined the Minnesota Swarm lacrosse team as an account executive. He also has applied his marketing education with the Minnesota Vikings as a seasonal ticket sales representative and with the Minnesota Timberwolves as a corporate sales associate. In summer 2009, he completed an internship in corporate sponsorships with the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Hutchens remembers USI as a good fit for him. In addition to the Mahoney scholarship, he received the Susie and Richard Gumberts Business Scholarship for three years. He was a four-year Screaming Eagles soccer player, appearing in 63 contests during his career. Hutchens started 40 games for USI and finished his career with 17 points on six goals and five assists. The three-time Academic All-GLVC performer had three career game-winning goals and had a career-high 10 points on four goals and two assists as a sophomore in 2007.

Bronze bust by Evansville sculptor honors accomplishments of Hoops

In celebration of the many accomplishments of Dr. H. Ray Hoops, president emeritus of the University of Southern Indiana, a bronze bust of his likeness was unveiled recently in the O'Daniel Atrium of the Business and Engineering Center.

Hoops served as president of USI from 1994 until 2009 during a time of rapid enrollment growth, approval of new academic programs including a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, and a construction sequence that included the Liberal Arts Center, David L. Rice Library, four residence halls, the Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center, the Education Center and Torrington Wing of the Science Center, the Business and Engineering Center, and the expansion of the University Center.

The sculpture was created by local artist Don Ingle. Ingle, 90, identified the Hoops bust as his last work, but said, with a twinkle in his eye, "Unless another project comes along."

Ingle worked for three months to produce the clay model, and it took another month for the foundry to cast the bronze. The bust is a 1.5 scale portrait of President Hoops from the mid-chest and up. It is over 30 inches high and weighs approximately 90 pounds. It is 22 inches across at its widest part.



Dr. H. Ray Hoops, left, greets sculptor Don Ingle during the unveiling of the bronze bust of Hoops in the Business and Engineering Center.

The bust will remain in the Business and Engineering Center. At the unveiling, USI Board of Trustees chair Ted Ziemer said, "It is because of Dr. Hoops' involvement in bringing the engineering program to the campus and his leadership in making this building a reality that this prestigious location was chosen for placement of the sculpture."

MAKE a GIFT. MAKE an IMPACT!

Your gift to the Annual Fund will provide outstanding opportunities for students. Student leadership conferences, scholarships for students with financial need, and participation in artistic endeavors are made possible by support from alumni and friends.

Make your impact on students by supporting the Annual Fund today.

ONLINE secure giving
<https://www.usi.edu/onlinegiving>

PHONE
812/464-1918



MAIL
USI Foundation
University of Southern Indiana
8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, IN 47712



Providing leadership to Indiana and the region

One of the strategic goals of the University of Southern Indiana is to use University expertise and other resources to provide leadership to Indiana and the region. While USI has a long history of outreach and engagement, the opportunities to collaborate and provide applied research on issues impacting the region have never been greater. The stories that follow about the partnership with the Naval Surface Warfare Center–Crane Division, the new USI–Glenwood Community Health Center, the Mid-America Institute on Aging, and the annual business ideation contest are but a few of the many ways the University joins with community partners to make a difference in the state and in Southwest Indiana.



Ryan Richardson of SAIC, a Crane contractor, served as head referee for the inaugural First Lego League tournament held at USI. The event was a regional qualifier for the state competition.

USI and NSWC–Crane Division Working together to build a tech-savvy workforce and generate economic development

The partnership between the University of Southern Indiana and the U.S. Navy’s engineering and technical support center in nearby Crane, Indiana, is deep and broad.

From a fourth-grader building a robot to the company executive looking for a solution to a technology problem, the relationship between the University and the Naval Surface Warfare Center–Crane Division, the third largest naval installation in the world, comes to bear. “We don’t have this kind of relationship with any other university,” said John Dement, technology transfer manager for Crane. “Usually, when a lab like Crane deals with a university, we’re doing research and development with them. It’s fairly narrow and project-based. There’s a contract.

“But, with USI, it’s not about money. It’s about a long-term commitment to change a region. USI is leveraging Crane’s authority to provide technical assistance to make a difference.”

USI and Crane officials signed agreements to enhance USI faculty research and student-learning opportu-

nities. One agreement also provides for collaboration to identify information or technology developed at Crane for military uses that could be commercialized or further developed for other uses, spurring economic development.

STEM activities

Both Crane and the University are making an impact by promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) activities and careers. The goal is to build a workforce in Southwest Indiana that will support a technology-based economy and continued economic development.

The Southwest Indiana STEM (SwiSTEM) Resource Center, hosted by USI’s Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, has partnered with Crane, as well as its industrial contractors, on a number of activities—including SeaPerch, a national robotics program funded by the U.S. Office of Naval Research. The first SeaPerch competition for Southwest Indiana was held at USI in 2011, attracting 21 teams of middle and high school students from

12 schools. Participants built their own remotely operated underwater robots for the competition. At press time, the University was planning to accommodate up to 80 teams for the 2012 contest. The event encourages learning basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme.

In the fall, USI introduced another robotics contest, the regional First Lego League (FLL) competition. It attracted 13 teams of children ages 9 to 14. Allison Grabert, interim director of the SwiSTEM Resource Center, said the opportunity to network with professionals from Crane and its industrial contractors infuses events such as these with a real-world connection.

Ryan Richardson of SAIC, a Crane contractor, served as head referee for the FLL tournament. "Every student I spoke with had a different reason for participating, but one theme continued to rise to the top and that was the students' desire to succeed, learn, and have fun with one another," he said.

Opportunities such as SeaPerch and FLL give children visibility into the high-tech world of engineering and technology.

Crane also has hosted summer faculty development workshops for middle school and high school teachers sponsored by the SwiSTEM Resource

Center and provided judges and awards for the annual Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair hosted by USI. In 2011, Crane recruited high school sophomores from Rickover Naval Academy to attend the Pott College's GO (Girls Only) STEM! Camp and assisted them with transportation costs.

Developing curriculum

USI faculty member Dr. Jeff Thomas has developed curricular materials that relate to the work at Crane. An associate professor of education, Thomas worked with the USI Office of Distance Education, the U.S. Navy Crane STEM coordinator, and six scientists at Crane to complete the project.

The videos feature scientists from three Crane divisions (Elastomers, Prototypes, and Solar Power) discussing and demonstrating how science is involved in their work and how it relates to elementary students. Shooting took place in a tower, in a machine-filled laboratory, and in a field at the expansive Crane site. The project was coordinated through USI's Center for Applied Research. Crane will host the videos on its web site.

"The collaborative approach was instrumental," Thomas said, "in creating



Bryan Woosley, a transducer and elastomers scientist at NSWC - Crane, presents the Department of Navy - Senior Division Award to Brianne Neeley during the 2011 Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair. Neeley is from Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana.

a superb product that will help classroom teachers across the nation connect with students about the role of the U.S. Navy and the exciting work that scientists do."

In an earlier partnership, Thomas developed lesson plans for regional fourth- and fifth-graders to complete during field trips to Crane. One set of plans focuses on harnessing power and includes experiences to help students understand the role of solar power in the lives of U.S. Navy personnel. The other set focuses on power and propulsion and includes experiences in building rockets.

Undergraduate research

USI students investigating the relationship between the mechanics of the butterfly hind wing and its false-head behavior in an undergraduate research project visited Crane facilities last summer. They planned to use Crane's microcomputer tomography (microCT) capability to collect information on the dimensions and microstructure of the butterfly hind wing for numerical modeling.

"Although we were not successful with the CT imaging, the Failure Analysis group at Crane was kind enough to offer another imaging technique (scanning electron microscopy) to help collect data," said Dr. Julian L. Davis, assistant professor of engineering. "I believe the students gained an appreciation for the



USI's Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center hosts the SeaPerch robotics competition, generating interest and excitement in engineering and technology among middle school and high school students.

collaborative efforts—between individuals and institutions—that motivate many research projects. I also hope they gained an appreciation for the persistence necessary to succeed in research: it doesn't always work perfectly the first time around!"

Innovation Discovery

Crane and USI are collaborating on ways to commercialize Crane's military inventions and otherwise match Crane's experts, facilities, and additional resources with appropriate businesses, industries, and entrepreneurs. USI's Center for Applied Research (CAR), and the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE) are significant links in this endeavor. Transferring technology from military use to commercial applications can trigger economic growth and create jobs.

CAR has developed a mining process for intellectual property that is designed to discover and document commercially viable projects. Called Innovation Process Discovery (IPD), it has been identified as a best practice by the Navy Technology Transfer Program and is a prototype for federal research laboratories throughout the country.

"At NSWCC—Crane, technical staff develop innovative solutions to enhance existing devices and develop future capabilities in the areas of electronic

warfare/information operations, special missions, and strategic missions," said Dement of Crane.

With a technical staff of more than 2,000 persons working every day to develop solutions for military use, Crane offers fertile ground for spotting innovation with additional application.

Before the Innovation Discovery Process, there was no process in place to identify and capture the intellectual-property aspects of discoveries at Crane. And there was little awareness among the scientists, technological personnel, and engineers of the technology transfer and commercialization potential of the innovations developed and implemented within their military projects.

At IDP events, Crane inventors present their specific project to a panel of technology transfer experts, business and engineering faculty, serial entrepreneurs, and industry experts who then explore potential inventions and commercialization opportunities using a structured creative-thinking process led by USI.

Since 2008, 40 Crane employees have presented 23 projects to expert panels. The process has led to 21 formal disclosures of inventions and 18 patent applications. Many more potentially viable projects have been identified.

The process unlocks the potential

for commercial opportunities and exposes NSWCC Crane's inventors to external partners. Once patented, these inventions become licensable to businesses and entrepreneurs leading to new business start-ups.

Student entrepreneurs

Expert panels are not the only ones who delve into thinking about how Crane's patented concepts can be applied elsewhere. Students in USI's College of Business program on entrepreneurship recently developed ideas for three Crane innovations: an airborne cargo mounting system that eliminates the need for tie-down chains, a crane, and pallets; a mechanism that allows a pilot's goggles to tilt and lock into position; and a modular safe room designed to provide protection from ballistics. Students in a class on ideation and innovation were challenged to produce ideas that would employ the technology in the commercial market and an additional "weird and wow" idea that was a take-off on the patent idea.

"In essence, the students are another outlet that generates creative new ideas for Crane," said Bryan Bourdeau, instructor of business. "At the same time, students learn about ideation and critical thinking from engaging with



Students enrolled in the entrepreneurship program in the College of Business present ideas to a panel of experts.

Crane. It's a real-world educational platform. I believe commercially viable ideas will come out of that class. It's only a matter of time."

A nine-person panel, including USI President Linda Bennett, recently judged the student presentations. As a judge for a similar event last year, Dement said USI students demonstrated some of the best presentation skills he has seen.

Technology transfer

To match Crane innovations with regional companies and entrepreneurs, the USI-Crane partnership also relies on GAGE, an economic development organization dedicated to enhancing the overall economic vitality of the region. USI is the education partner in GAGE.

"We are going out and working with regional companies that typically have a technology base," said Gene Recker, manager of education and entrepreneurial support for Innovation Pointe, a business incubator associated with GAGE. Dement and Recker, along with Debbie Dewey, president of GAGE, and the USI-Crane partnership manager, Dr. Andrew J. Moad, work as a team to stimulate technology transfer.

"We want to find out if companies have a product development challenge or issue that needs a technology-based solution," Recker said. "We ask them to describe the problem in concrete terms or what the solution would look like. Then we search through Crane or through the entire federal lab consortium to see if there's a technology out there that might be a potential solution.

"We have had success in doing that. In one case, a company needed a material with certain attributes. We found a similar material and were able to connect the person at the company with the scientist who invented it. They are now exploring how to move forward."

The technology transfer effort also can connect companies or individuals with experts at Crane for informational purposes.

"Crane has scientists who are leaders in their field," Recker said. "Sometimes a company wants to know

where technology in that field is going. They want to know trends. Talking with experts in their field can be beneficial."

Crane test facilities offer another opportunity for collaboration. Companies often cannot afford state-of-the-art laboratories like those at Crane. Under certain circumstances, laboratory work may be done at Crane. Recker said this may require formal agreements and a fee, but is advantageous in some situations.

Dewey said the one-on-one "pull" approach working with companies was successful in a pilot program in 2011. This is a focused strategy different from

Moad named USI-Crane partnership manager



Dr. Andrew J. Moad has joined the University as USI-Crane partnership manager.

The manager serves as the liaison in growing the University's

relationship with the Naval Surface Warfare Center - Crane Division in areas including applied research, technology transfer, innovation, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

"I'm very excited that Andy Moad is joining USI," said Dr. Mark C. Bernhard, USI associate provost for Outreach and Engagement. "His work as an analytical chemist in both government and corporate sectors, combined with his entrepreneurial spirit, made him the candidate of choice."

Moad was most recently a new product development chemist at Red Spot Paint and Varnish in Evansville. He also has experience as a research chemist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. He earned a doctorate in analytical chemistry at Purdue University.

the technology showcase that offers a more general look at available technology to a broad audience. Moving forward, the technology transfer team will expand the "pull" approach and add a "push" approach to identify technology or expertise in the region that might be useful to Crane.

Another boon to those interested in Crane technology is a business translation project completed by Jonathan Rietman as a student in USI's Master of Business Administration program. With the assistance of Dement, he and fellow student Nick John analyzed and translated complex patent information into non-scientific terms. The business translations helped inventors at NSWC Crane better understand the value of their patents for potential use in a commercial setting.

The translations were distributed to partnership intermediaries such as Tech Link and First Link and to a university network for use in helping transfer the technologies. These partners also provided assistance in identifying markets to explore for companies that could have interest in the patents.

Future collaboration

Senior leaders of both USI and Crane continue to brainstorm new ways to make a difference in Southwest Indiana. Also under consideration are studies of how innovation takes place and more collaboration in the area of education.

Dr. Mohammed Khayum, dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Kevin Celuch, professor of marketing, will lead a study to identify mechanisms in Crane's innovation process.

"Crane is a living laboratory to study innovation," Dement said. "USI brings the measures and metrics of innovation. If we can quantify and measure what we do, we can do it more effectively."

In the area of education, the partners are exploring the prospect of connecting doctorally prepared Crane scientists with USI as adjunct instructors. Instruction could take place at USI or at Crane facilities.



Glenwood community residents participate in the Open House activities held at the Glenwood Community Health Center. The USI College of Nursing and Health Professions established the center with a \$1.3 million federal grant in partnership with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and other community organizations.

New community health center serves Evansville's Glenwood neighborhood

More than 550 people attended an open house for the University of Southern Indiana-Glenwood Community Health Center which opened in January at Glenwood Leadership Academy in Evansville.

The USI College of Nursing and Health Professions established the center with a \$1.3 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant was announced in August.

"We had an incredible turnout for the open house," said Dr. Mayola Rowser '95 M'99, principal investigator and project director. "The participation is a testament to the need for healthcare services in that community. It demonstrates that residents value healthcare services and they value it where they live."

The center will provide primary healthcare for the children and staff of Glenwood Leadership Academy and to area residents.

Medically underserved area

Rowser, associate professor of nursing and director of the graduate program in nursing, credits the vision for the center to Dr. Nadine Coudret,

dean of the college. The Glenwood neighborhood is among the most medically underserved and culturally diverse communities in Evansville. The grant will fund the center for five years.

"The USI-Glenwood Community Health Center will strengthen and expand access to primary healthcare and wellness for Glenwood area residents across the lifespan," Coudret said. "The center will provide these services to underserved and vulnerable populations without regard to income or insurance status."

The college established the center in partnership with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, St. Mary's Medical Center, and Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare Inc. The former Glenwood Middle School re-opened in fall 2010 as the K-8 Glenwood Leadership Academy following a \$9 million renovation. The building has an outside entrance for the new healthcare center.

A three-member staff provides services. Malea Wolfe '08 M'10, nurse



Providing services at the clinic are, from left, Mia Brown, medical assistant; Karin Pruitt, outreach and operations manager; and Malea Wolfe, nurse practitioner.

practitioner, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in the acute care nurse practitioner track at USI and is pursuing a post-master's certificate in the family nurse practitioner track. She said the center will offer acute care, chronic disease management, well-child visits, and women's and men's healthcare services.

"We also will focus on prevention and healthcare education," Wolfe said.

Karin Pruitt, outreach and operations manager for the center, grew up in on South Bedford Avenue in the Glenwood community.

"I am familiar with this area," she said. "When the opportunity came up, I fell in love with the idea of being involved with the community. I feel that we're doing something really good here."

The third member of the clinic staff is Mia Brown, medical assistant. She previously served in a similar capacity with the college's grant program providing healthcare services at correctional facilities in Vanderburgh County.

Clinical training site

The center will become a valuable clinical training site for USI nursing and health professions students. Graduate-level nursing, occupational therapy, social work, and health administration students along with undergraduate students in nursing occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, dental hygiene, food and nutrition, and health services will participate in the delivery of inter-professional healthcare services.

During the spring semester, three graduate students in health administration are serving as interns. They assist with activities related to setting up the new center, such as marketing, establishing an inventory tracking system, building a web site, and assembling policies and procedures.

"This is a unique opportunity for students to be on the ground floor of learning what it takes to set up a practice," Rowser said. "This work is right in line with the objectives of their capstone project."



Patch Adams extolled the benefits of laughter in his presentation at the 2011 Mid-America Institute on Aging.

Annual conference focuses on successful aging

Are you sure you know what factors lead to a long life? As a keynote speaker for the fifth annual Mid-America Institute on Aging (MAIA), Dr. Leslie R. Martin will bust myths and share results of a study about longevity that began in the 1920s.

Martin is coauthor of the book *The Longevity Project: Surprising Discoveries for Health and Long Life from the Landmark Eight-Decade Study*, published in March 2011.

The institute will take place August 9-10, 2012, at the University of Southern Indiana. It is cosponsored by the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging (SWIRCA). This year's conference also will feature Lettie Heer of Louisville, Kentucky, who served after retirement as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal.

Groundbreaking information

"Educating our community on the aging population has never been more important," said Rhonda Zuber, executive director of SWIRCA. "It is projected that the number of older adults in the United States will nearly double over the next 20 years. We need to constantly examine our way of thinking and expand and reshape our service systems to prepare our teams to face the challenges ahead."

Dr. Katie Ehlman is assistant professor of gerontology and director of the Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness for the College of Nursing and Health Professions. "Our goal is to bring groundbreaking information on gerontology and successful aging to this area," she said. "This is an important topic as our baby boomers near retirement."

The Center for Healthy Aging was established in 2008, the year of the first MAIA. The conference is designed to focus on aging issues of concern to healthcare professionals as well as a general audience of older adults.

Prominent speakers

In 2011, MAIA featured internationally known speakers Patch Adams, medical doctor, clown, and social activist, and Dr. Bill Thomas, whose Eden Alternative concept and Green House Project are changing notions about nursing home facilities and elder care communities. More than 300 individuals attended each day of the conference.

Each year breakout sessions cover about two-dozen topics of interest to older adults, family members, caregivers, healthcare professionals, social workers, employees working in long-term care settings, nursing home administrators, and case managers.

Ideation Challenge develops future business leaders

An ideation competition that has become an annual event available to all University of Southern Indiana students demonstrates that preparing tomorrow's generation of leaders takes on new dimensions when the University and regional companies combine resources.

This year's challenge was to develop novel ideas for the design of party tents. The contest was sponsored by the College of Business and Evansville-based Anchor Industries, the leading manufacturer of outdoor recreational and industrial fabric products, primarily tents.

"Wow" factor

Besides aesthetic appeal, ease of installation, durability, and other factors that make for a good product, judges of the Anchor contest were seeking a "wow" factor.

Pete Mogavero, president and chief executive officer of the company, noted that college students are at a time in their lives when they attend a lot of parties, weddings, and events. "There may be something about attending parties that we're not hip to," he said.

Members of the winning team developed a reconfigurable design they called "infinity." The runner-up team used A-shaped frames in their design. They dubbed it "the cloud."

Sarah Krampe, a sophomore marketing major, was a member of the first-place team.

"The ideation challenge allowed our team members to synthesize talents and strengths and learn to work with peers toward a successful outcome," she said. "It is a slice of real-world experience. You don't get reminders from your teacher about the deadline or a schedule of what must be done and when it should be completed. We were in charge of meeting the deadline and set our own schedule."



The top two teams show their tent designs. The winning team, left, includes Chelsea Schmidt, Adam Kaps, and Sarah Krampe. Second place team is Sara Rasnick and Jon Bond.

Joint expertise

Throughout the 11 weeks of the contest, students had opportunities to confer with Anchor executives in marketing, sales, and engineering and learn from USI faculty about ideation, innovation, and problem-solving. Anchor hosted an evening event that included a guided tour of facilities, hands-on experience in installing tents, and opportunities to talk with company professionals.

The competition coordinator Dr. Chad Milewicz, assistant professor of marketing, said the event is an opportunity for immersion in a creative challenge outside the classroom. "These teams presented original ideas that impressed and excited the lead executives of a global organization that is the leader in its industry!" he said. "This is one example of how USI stands for opportunity."

In addition to cash prizes, top-performing students in each year's ideation contests have received opportunities to interview for internships with the sponsoring company.

Mogavero introduced the contest in September as Executive-in-Residence for the College of Business. "By partnering with USI, it is a sincere effort to invest in the local community and economy by engaging and developing the leaders of tomorrow," he said.

Anchor is the third area company to contribute time and talent to cosponsor an ideation contest as part of the College of Business' executive-in-residence program. Berry Plastics initiated the first challenge in 2009; Escalade Sports partnered with the college on the contest in 2010.



Success stories of USI alumni

Lori Reed, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Evansville, and Marilyn Rogers, head of the Science Department at North Posey High School in Posey County, Indiana, are two of many University of Southern Indiana alumni who put the knowledge and skills they gained in their educational programs at USI to work every day. Read in these stories how they are making a difference in Southwest Indiana.

Lori Reed '99

Building homes, relationships, dreams through Habitat for Humanity



Sociology graduate Lori Reed '99 is an enthusiastic believer in the way Habitat for Humanity goes about providing simple, affordable housing for low-income families.

Since January 2007, she has served as executive director of Habitat for Humanity Evansville, a chapter that has been ranked among the top 30 out of 1,500 chapters in the nation based on house production and giving to an overseas affiliate.

Habitat requires volunteer “sweat equity” hours from those who apply for a home as well as completion of workshops preparing individuals for the responsibilities of owning and caring for a home. The organization brings together qualified applicants and volunteers from across the community to build the houses it provides.

“A simple decent place to live can mean a lot to a young mother in setting

her up for success in life,” Reed said. Because she received assistance with living expenses from her husband’s parents when she was attending college, she can identify with the positive influence a helping hand can provide.

“I have seen families come in with a defeated attitude,” Reed said, “but there are many people working with Habitat to draw them into relationships. By the time most homeowners get to their home dedication, they are smiling and their heads are held high.”

A native of Alton, Illinois, Reed began college at Purdue University with the intention of being a veterinarian but decided after a year that that was not for her. Returning home, she taught figure skating in the St. Louis area and completed courses at a community college before moving to Evansville and enrolling at the University of Southern Indiana.

Finding her niche

A course with Dr. Howard Gabennesch, professor emeritus of sociology, solidified her choice of a major. "I just fell in love with the faculty in the sociology department," she said. "It was the subject matter and how they taught that captured my attention. Dr. Gabennesch's expectations were high, and he taught us to think critically."

Dr. Stephen Zehr and Dr. Ronda Priest were other faculty members in sociology that influenced her.

After graduating, Reed served for a year as an AmeriCorps worker with Habitat in Henderson, Kentucky. She then became an affiliate support manager for Habitat for Humanity International, serving affiliates in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky.

Bringing an entrepreneurial attitude

Because Reed's husband, father, and grandfather have all been builders, being around construction comes naturally to her. "My father was always talking about big ideas and relating those ideas to building houses," she said. Reed brings that same entrepreneurial attitude to her job at Habitat. Listening to other people's dreams and aspirations and understanding how they can come to life is a big part of her leadership.

Six months after Reed assumed the post in Evansville, the chapter began an initiative for families who lost their homes in the tornado that hit Evansville in November 2005. With unprecedented support from the community, Habitat built 55 homes in the New Haven subdivision for tornado victims.

After that project, the chapter began work in the Glenwood neighborhood. The Glenwood Community Development Initiative is a comprehensive project. Habitat has assembled a number of community partners working to improve and stabilize the neighborhood. In addition to housing and infrastructure, priority areas include business

and commerce, clean and green, education, health and well being, and safety. The new Shadewood Place subdivision in the neighborhood includes 19 Habitat homes and four market-rate houses. In addition, Habitat is working on scattered housing in the Glenwood community and has provided a weatherization program that served 75 homes in 2011. The weatherization program assists people who already have a home but need help in improving it.

"Our mission is to make sure that everyone has a decent place to live," Reed said.

Relying on research

A statistics course in the sociology curriculum at USI has influenced Reed's approach to her job at Habitat. "I have had a keen interest in measuring and collecting data on what we are trying to do," she said. "Within the Habitat world, we have relied a lot on anecdotal information and stories. That was good evidence, but it really drove me to ask about measurement. I know we can do solid research on the social world."

Reed has turned to USI for help with research because of the respect she developed for faculty when she was a student. She also has become aware through Habitat board members and others in the Habitat community of the University's Center for Applied Research (CAR), which connects businesses and organizations with University resources that can assist them.

Before the work began in Glenwood, Reed engaged the Department of Sociology at USI to conduct focus-group sessions and a resident survey. "We wanted to know the needs and strengths of the neighborhood," Reed said. "I think that our willingness to be responsive to community needs and holistic in approach has contributed to our success."

Completing impact study

In 2008, a multidisciplinary group of USI faculty completed an impact study for Habitat for Humanity.

The researchers, working through USI's Center for Applied Research, included Dr. Iris Phillips and Dr. Marie Opatrny of the Department of Social Work; Dr. Stephanie Bennett of the Department of Physical Education, Dr. Ronda Priest of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Mohammed Khayum of the College of Business. Among other findings, the study determined that neighbors of Habitat homes were overwhelmingly positive about the Habitat for Humanity organization with 85 percent stating positive aspects of the organization.

"That study got people's attention," Reed said. "It gave us good data to make the case that Habitat is well liked by the neighborhoods where we are building. There was a misconception that we weren't well received."

The University will be involved again as Habitat begins a project related to the Jacobsville neighborhood. Reed said Dr. Ronda Priest is organizing an asset inventory. The study will measure the perceived needs and strengths of the neighborhood. Researchers will gather information from residents and major employers in the area.

"By the end of 2012 or early 2013, we'll have a strategic plan for what the residents want to happen in their neighborhood," Reed said.

Embracing the vision

A four-year member and former president of the USI chapter of Habitat serves on the board of the Evansville chapter. Julie Mehringer Cline '08, marketing and advertising graduate, completed an internship with Habitat while she was a student.

"Lori is a fantastic leader and mentor," said Cline, a marketing representative for WOW! Internet, Cable, and Phone. "She sees the big picture and knows how to direct people to reach those goals. If you look at what Habitat for Humanity of Evansville has accomplished since she has been the executive director, you will see that her vision and leadership have played a big part."

Marilyn Rogers M'97

Project-based science lessons help students achieve



Marilyn Rogers M'97, North Posey High School Science Department chair, works with Travis Reese and John Cook on a lab assignment.

Marilyn Rogers, head of the science department at North Posey High School in Posey County, Indiana, is not surprised when former students tell her their science project was one of the more important things they did in high school.

Preparing for jobs

After all, Rogers believes in a project-based science curriculum. The high school offers the Project Lead the Way curriculum in engineering and the biomedical sciences, fields with employment opportunities in Posey County.

Rogers teaches physics and three courses in biomedical sciences at the high school that enrolls approximately 500 students. Physics courses have grown in popularity to enroll about 50 students. Rogers' students in a course on biomedical innovations are working this semester on projects for the annual Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair which will be held March 8-9 at the University of Southern Indiana. Scientists from Bristol Myers-Squibb in Posey County have reviewed their experiment designs and offered comments. Students

sponsored by Rogers brought home 16 awards from the science fair in 2010 and 14 in 2011.

She believes that fair participation is good preparation for a career. "Employers expect you to complete a project, work with other people, and be able to present that project," she said. "The science fair fits right in with that. Teaching these skills is just as important as teaching the science information."

High-achieving schools

Rogers is one of 16 USI alumni teaching at North Posey High School. The four schools (two elementary, one middle school, and the senior high school) in the Metropolitan School District of North Posey received an "A" recently on the state's annual school assessments. Only 16 districts in the state reached that level of achievement.

Rogers is quick to point out that the achievement is for the corporation. She said all schools in the district benefit from excellent parent support. The high school faculty also gains from the excellent work of the faculty in the

lower grades. "We aren't successful," she said, "if the grade schools aren't doing what they need to do."

Switching careers

Rogers completed an undergraduate degree in food science in 1976 at Purdue University and worked in the food industry several years. She stayed home with her children during their younger years and decided, when she wanted to return to work, that teaching would enable her to make a difference. She completed a teaching certificate at USI in 1991 and earned a Master of Science in Education in 1997.

Methods courses in science teaching were particularly valuable to her. "Science is different from teaching other subjects," she said. "Knowing how to organize and manage the labs can make your life a lot easier. The USI program included some very practical classes that taught the business of teaching."

USI graduates teaching at North Posey High School

Paul Rynkiewich '81

Michael Kuhn '82

Debra Whitfield '86 M'91

Patrick Rose '96 M'03

Marilyn Rogers M'97

Amanda Reynolds '98
(counselor)

Jenifer Neidig M'99

Shannon Schickel '03

Brandon Barrett '05

Christopher Barker '06

Sherrie Plouchard M'06

Sean Nance '07

Leah Stormont '07

Erin Koester M'08

Amy Moore '08

Natalie Barnard '10

Peers get new teammates on track

Empowering, sensitive, academically savvy — peer coaches help fellow student athletes achieve success in all phases of college life

The road traveled by any college freshman is bumpy, but for a student athlete the road has additional sharp curves and jagged pot holes thrown in for good measure.

New student athletes face the same problems as most first-year students on their own for the first time. Plus, they have the rigors of fitting into a new team, learning a new system from a new coach, practice, home games, and road games.

So how are student athletes getting through the first year and maintaining equilibrium? Peer coaches.

Offered by the University Division, the Peer Coach Program for student athletes launched in 2010-2011 and quickly evolved into a thriving and successful program. It welcomes all student athletes, but has a specific focus on freshmen and upperclassmen who may be experiencing collegiate challenges or difficulties.

The peer coaches are student athletes who have been selected by coaches and faculty to serve as mentors. They are positive role models, both athletically and academically, and are trained tutors for the general student population as well as for student athletes.

“The Peer Coach Program is designed to help athletes with the overall transition to college,” said Dr. Darrin Sorrells, the program’s director and a learning assistance specialist in Academic Skills.

“Essentially, the program is made up of model student athletes. The peer coaches have to be nominated based on the qualities they possess such as good character, poise, and confidence,” continued Sorrells. “They also have to be good social role models.”



USI’s athletic peer coaches are Ellena Stumpf, left, women’s tennis; Nolan Harvath, men’s soccer; Brad Wannemuehler, baseball; and Trey Fosburgh, men’s soccer.

“You get to know the new student athletes on a personal basis.”

—Brad Wannemuehler

Sorrells developed the program after noticing a number of student athletes coming into Academic Skills to log study hours. He wanted to give those students a better study environment, structure, and guidance.

The philosophy behind the program is peers working with peers for a positive result. “One of the best ways to learn is from a peer,” said Sorrells. “If a student athlete can see this outstanding individual, who is performing both athletically and academically, and take advantage of this opportunity, the result will be a positive.”

During the first year of the Peer Coach Program, the grade-point average for student athletes rose to a solid 3.1. Qualifying for Academic All-GLVC honors were 108 student athletes. That designation requires a 3.3 GPA.

Junior men’s soccer player Nolan Harvath, an exercise science major from

Fairmont, West Virginia, has been a peer coach since the beginning of the program.

“I saw it as a chance to give back to my team and help fellow student athletes who are struggling,” he said.

Harvath has found that helping fellow students may be as simple as speaking with them specifically about what causes them to struggle. Problem areas range from note taking to comprehension to ability to focus. Others strive to adjust socially. “I try to be a friend, so it is easier for them to ask for help,” he said.

Knowing that repetition helps retention, Harvath has had success with quizzing students about subject matter and helping them create a checklist to study before tests.

Coming to USI as an international student brings its own sets of challenges. Junior women’s tennis player Ellena Stumpf, also in her second year as a

peer coach, came to USI three years ago from Attendorf, Germany.

“The language differences can be intimidating,” said Stumpf, an economics major. “I had to learn to understand my professors better due to the differences in the type of English I learned before coming to the United States.”

Stumpf enjoys being a mentor for students who are still trying to figure out what the college experience is all about.

“A couple of the students coming to me need help with organizing,” she said. “If you come in as a freshman and you’re directly involved with practices, it can be difficult to find time for everything.”

Now that the Peer Coach Program is in its second year, some student athletes who were mentored last year have become coaches themselves. Sophomore baseball player Brad Wannemuehler, an accounting and professional services

major from Evansville, was assisted by Harvath last year and is now a peer coach for student athletes from the Evansville area.

“Since it was beneficial to me as a freshman, it was a great opportunity to give back,” Wannemuehler said. “This program is about everything, not just athletics. The best part is being able to work with my teammates and the other student athletes. You get to know the new student athletes on a personal basis.

“I like working with the student athletes from Evansville because being local gives me a unique perspective. I can honestly say I’ve been there.”

In addition to Harvath, Stumpf, and Wannemuehler, peer coaches include junior Susan Ellsperman (women’s soccer); junior Juan Quiroz (men’s tennis), junior Trey Fosburgh (men’s soccer), junior Emily Meyer (volleyball), and junior B.J. Willis (baseball).

Men’s cross country places seventh nationally after winning GLVC title

Running in blowing snow with temperatures in the mid-20s, the No. 11 men’s cross country team ran to a seventh-place finish out of 24 teams at the NCAA II National Championships in November. The national meet was held in Spokane, Washington.

Junior Michael Jordan finished the 10k course in 31 minutes, 47.80 seconds to lead the Screaming Eagles. Jordan finished 21st in the 187-competitor field to earn All-America honors for the first time in his career

Seniors Dustin Emerick and Brendan Devine, both two-time All-Americans, finished 55th and 67th, respectively.

The seventh-place finish for the Eagles marks the third straight top-10 finish for USI at the national meet and the fourth in the last five years. The Eagles were 10th in 2010 and sixth in 2009.

USI continued its dominance of the Great Lakes Valley Conference in October by sweeping the top three places (Devine, Jordan, and freshman Tyler Pence) and winning its seventh-straight conference title on its home course. The Eagles have won eight of the last nine conference titles and a league-best 19 crowns in the 33-year history of the GLVC Championships.



Junior Michael Jordan earned All-America honors in November by finishing 21st out of 187 runners at the NCAA II Championships in Spokane, Washington. His effort helped the Screaming Eagles finish seventh overall.

Alumni Council 2011-2012

Officers

Jina L. Campbell '01 M'03
President

Mark A. Chandler '01
President Elect

Kyle S. Winingar '01
Secretary

Caron J. Leader M'96
Treasurer

Kevin L. Hammett '90
Immediate Past President

Ronald D. Romain '73
Alumni Trustee

Tarrie Kendall Crist '94
Indianapolis Chapter

Brian E. Pauley '00
Louisville Chapter

Jean M. Blanton '01

Ann M. East '91 M'96

Neil J. Fortwendel '05

Mandi D. Fulton '06 M'10

Charlene F. Kaufman '09

Tina M. Kern '86

Douglas A. Knight '72

Rebecca S. Korba '95

Andy J. Lemon '05

Lauren C. Leshar '04 M'05

Kacheyta K. W. McClellan '10

Bradley D. Morton '92

Cindy L. Ohl '80

Benjamin J. Schmitt '02

Jennifer L. Titzer '00 '08

Eileen M. Weber '98

University Staff

Nancy L. Johnson '83 M'95
*Director of Alumni and
Volunteer Services*

Sherri A. Miller
*Assistant Director of Alumni
and Volunteer Services*

Deb C. Schmuck
Senior Administrative Assistant

812/464-1924

www.alumni.usi.edu

2012

Alumni



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 6

Alumni Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m.
USI UC East 2207

March 22

USI Eagle Hour, 5-7 p.m.
Turoni's Pizzeria, Main Street, Evansville

April 14

USI Day at the Zoo, Mesker Park Zoo

April 15

Spruce Up, 1-4 p.m., USI Eicher Barn

April 27

USI Graduate Commencement, USI Campus
Alumni Graduate Reception, UC East

April 28

USI Commencement Exercises, USI Campus
Alumni Graduation Receptions, UC East

June 3

Alumni Picnic, 4-6 p.m., UC East/USI Quad

June 6-18

Italian Lakes and Greek Islands
USI Alumni Association Trip

June 23

USI Day at Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky

August 10

Indianapolis USI Scholarship Golf Scramble,
Noon, Eagle Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis

September 14

Alumni Golf Scramble, 11:30 a.m.
Helfrich Hills Golf Course

September 22-23 Parents and Families Weekend

All alumni are invited to attend these events.

1970s

Charlie Beck '73, social science, has joined Haynie Travel as a travel consultant in Evansville.

Robert Rheinlander '75, political science, has joined the law offices of Steven K. Deig LLC as a senior associate in Evansville.

1980s

Abdulmuhsen Askar '81, business administration, is a manager at SABIC in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Diana Barker '82, communications, is an attorney in Houston, Texas.

Rene Kelly '82, accounting, is a treasury analyst at NASCAR in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Wayne Trockman '82, management, judge of Vanderburgh Superior Court, has been appointed to Old National Bank's Evansville regional board of directors.

Scott Culiver '83, finance, is manager of business and clinical applications at Ascension Health Information Services in Evansville.

Matthew Myers '83, communications, is a member of the faculty at The Film School at Scottsdale Community College in Phoenix, Arizona.

Michael Pursell '83, business administration, is manager of application portfolio and software development at Liberty Mutual Insurance in Indianapolis, Indiana.

David VanHorn '83, psychology, is an associate administrator at Green Hills Area Education Agency in Des Moines, Iowa.

Randall Haaff '84, finance, is a financial advisor at Raymond James & Associates in Evansville.

John Devine '85, biology, has been promoted to vice president of non-clinical services at Bioanalytical Systems, Inc. in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Michael Nalin '85, communications, is a senior territory manager at Abbott Laboratories in Evansville.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Donna Mesker finds many avenues of service

Psychology graduate Donna Mesker '86 says helping others is "just a way of life" for her. As the treatment mall director at the Evansville State Hospital, Mesker not only helps people in her profession, but is an avid volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, her church where she is involved with mission trips, and the University of Southern Indiana.

"One of the most valuable lessons I learned from my parents was to give back," she said. "I didn't always have the treasure to give to the University; as a new college graduate, funds were low. What I could offer was my talent and time, which is many times more valuable than the money."

90 different activities

During the annual Volunteer USI Recognition dinner, Mesker was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award for 2011. The Volunteer Recognition Committee selected Mesker for her exceptional dedication to the University. She was a volunteer for the USI Annual Fund Phonathon as a student and has continued to be involved with the University since graduating in 1986.

Her volunteer record lists more than 90 different activities at USI. Mesker served as president of the USI Alumni Association, as an Alumni Council member, a USI Foundation Board member, and a member of the USI Varsity Club Board of Directors since 2004, serving as chair in 2006–2007.

Her leadership as chair of the Varsity Club's Outback Luncheon and her assistance with numerous Varsity Club and Athletic events has raised thousands of dollars to fund scholarships for student athletes.

Always smiling

"Donna is a volunteer that helps with any and every event or task," said Mandi Fulton, coordinator of Athletics Outreach and Events at USI. "Whether it's taking tickets at a baseball game, driving vans for regionals, or climbing on top of the Varsity Club Fall Festival booth to clean the grease out of the fan... Donna is there to help with a huge smile on her face."

As part of the recognition, Mesker's name will be placed on the permanent plaque displayed outside Carter Hall.



USI President Linda L. M. Bennett, left, thanks Donna Mesker for her volunteer commitment to the University.

Sheila Hauck named Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Dr. Sheila Hauck DNP'11, the nursing administrator who led the initiative to achieve Magnet® recognition at St. Mary's Hospital in Evansville, is the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award presented by the University of Southern Indiana Nursing Alumni Society.



"I have known Sheila for more than 20 years," said Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions. "I have been impressed with her excellence as a student, as a clinician, and as a nurse leader. She epitomizes the excellence of nurses who graduate from the USI nursing program."

In 1997, Hauck was a member of USI's first graduating class in the master's-level nursing program when she completed a post-master's certificate in the family nurse practitioner track. In 2011, she was among the first graduates of the Doctor of Nursing Practice

(DNP) program. The alumna award was presented to her at the annual dinner of the USI Nursing Alumni Society.

Hauck is executive director of professional practice, oncology, and palliative care at St. Mary's, which was recognized in January 2011 with Magnet status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The designation recognizes excellence in nursing. Only six percent of hospitals nationwide have achieved this status.

Relying on research

During the process that led to Magnet recognition, Hauck directed a team at St. Mary's to implement a care-delivery model called Relationship-Based Care, which has resulted in patient satisfaction scores in the 99th percentile since 2007. In the model, the acronym CARING stands for Connect with the patient, Ask the patient, Respect the patient, Interact with the patient, Nurture the patient, and Go the extra mile. Hauck is coauthor of the article "Implementing Relationship-Based Care" in the June 2011 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Administration*.

For her capstone project in the DNP program, Hauck implemented evidence-based nursing practice at St. Mary's.

Oncology nursing

Hauck's clinical nursing career has been in the field of oncology nursing. She has been a leader in providing programs and services for cancer patients and their families. In the early '80s, she assisted with founding Evansville's first hospice, Ohio Valley Hospice. She opened the region's first Cancer Resource Center at St. Mary's in 2000 and the hospital's palliative care program in 2005. In addition, she has established breast-screening programs, presented educational programs on cancer topics, and founded a support group for cancer patients and families.

Hauck was inspired to become a nurse when she worked one summer as a respiratory therapist at a hospital in Indianapolis. She was "wowed" by the knowledge of the nurses and the way they provided care.

Jean Keasling Vieck '85, accounting, is a business manager for Caterpillar Foundation in Peoria, Illinois.

Vic Chamness '87, science teaching, '90, Master of Science in Education, has been named the first director for the new Vincennes University Gibson County Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics in Fort Branch, Indiana.

Kimberly Harper '87, health services, has joined the Indiana Center for Nursing as the executive director in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sheryl Olivey '87, finance, is a business manager at Saint Vincent's Center for Children & Families in Evansville.

Steve Dealph '88, marketing, is manager of organization development at Warner Bros. Entertainment in Los Angeles, California.

Stephanie Naylor Higgins '89, accounting/management, has joined USI as an administrative assistant in Travel Services.

1990s

Timothy Bryan '90, accounting, '07, Master of Science in Accountancy, has joined USI's College of Business as an accounting instructor.

Kevin Hammett '90, accounting, has been appointed president and chief executive officer for Regency Commercial Associates LLC in Evansville.

Geoffrey Gentil '92, business, has taken the position of commercial lender at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Tim Hayden '92, art, has taken the position of advertising director for the *Evansville Courier & Press/Gleaner*.

Michele Doerflein Schellenberg '92, English, is a marketing manager at United Companies in Evansville.

Angie Catt Brawdy '93, accounting, '99, Master of Business Administration, has taken the position of manager, compensation administration at Springleaf Financial Services in Evansville.



*Amy Beard, B.A. '09
Senior-year legal internship with
Berry Plastics Corporation*

Get REAL

REAL Experience

Completing an internship, such as Amy Beard did with Berry Plastics in Evansville, is just one of the opportunities students have at the University of Southern Indiana. Amy, who's since gone on to law school, credits her USI experience with helping her find and prepare for her real career interests. "The USI-Berry internship program is truly a win-win," says Ed Stratton, Berry's executive vice president of Human Resources. "Students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, while exploring what Berry has to offer. At the same time, we gain valuable perspectives and have an advanced opportunity to consider the students for future full-time employment."



University of Southern Indiana

www.usi.edu/RealUSI



Hans Schneider receives Fulbright grant for research in Ukraine

Early years in Southwest Indiana spawn interest in architecture

Hans Schneider '01 grew up in Earle, Indiana, in the house his great-grandfather built. It is situated next to the gas station that is across the street from the widely known Hornet's Nest restaurant in northern Vanderburgh County.

"It is the same house that my grandma grew up in and where my father spent a good portion of his childhood," Schneider said. "It is also one of the reasons that I enjoy old architecture."

Today, Schneider, who graduated from USI with a major in civil engineering technology, pursues that interest in architecture with a Fulbright grant for research in the Ukraine. His goal is to develop a regional plan for preserving eight historically significant wooden churches and other historic sites. A doctoral student in urban and regional science at Texas A&M, he will base his dissertation on his work during the 10-month fellowship program.

Schneider arrived in the Ukraine in September. He shares an office at Lviv Polytechnic National University with a professor in the Architecture Department who was key in nominating the churches to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2010.

World Heritage sites

Schneider learned of the churches while reading journals to complete an assignment for the doctoral program.

"One of the articles I read was a debate about the existence of several of the wooden churches in Ukraine that were delisted from the Ukrainian register of historic monuments during Soviet times," he said. "The Soviets often destroyed churches. They also converted them into museums or just locked them up so no one could use them."

Schneider became interested in helping to save the churches and submitted a proposal that was accepted by the Fulbright program. Contacts at the university in Lviv offered him an affiliation for the duration of his fellowship.

Recently, Schneider visited the town of Zhovkva, where he and a graduate student from Lviv Polytechnic had a private tour of a church on the World Heritage list. They also went to the town's tourism and preservation department, located in a 16th century castle.

"We were handed over all the documents on the church and were given a room in the castle to review them," Schneider said. "Working in a castle built in 1505 is probably one of the highlights in my life."

Guest lectures

In addition to completing his research, Schneider delivers guest lectures to university students concerning the construction and design of buildings in the United States, historic buildings in the United States, and life in America in general. He is working to improve his skills in the Ukrainian language, although he says his English and German are quite useful.

"My father taught me German at home and also encouraged me to live in Germany for a year after I graduated from high school," Schneider said. His year abroad was funded by the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Scholarship he received as a senior at North High School in Evansville. Hans' father, James Schneider, died when Hans was a freshman at USI.

Valuable USI experiences

I came to USI because it was close to home and for a quality education at an affordable price," Schneider said. "My parents and I discussed other universities, but they discouraged me from running up large student loans for which I am greatly thankful."



St. Dmytro's Church in Matkiv is one of eight Ukrainian churches that Hans Schneider will study.

Schneider said his education at USI provided valuable experiences.

“The greatest thing that USI taught me was how to develop professional relationships with the professors and the other students,” he said. “Due to the small class sizes, I often saw many of the same professors and students throughout my four years. Learning how to develop relationships is one of the most important qualities that anyone needs in today’s business environment, and USI provided a strong foundation for my social skills. The second major thing that USI did for me was to teach me to be disciplined in my studies and endeavors. The professors I had, especially in the engineering technology department, were strict but fair. They expected and required a high level of commitment and participation.”

Schneider earned a master’s degree in construction management from Texas A&M in 2002 and plans to complete the doctorate this year. He previously worked as a civil engineer for Foster-Wheeler in Owensville, Indiana, and as a project engineer/site manager for MRV Engineers and Constructors in Austin, Texas. Schneider joined Bartlett Cocke General Contractors in Austin as project manager in 2005 and is on leave for the time of his fellowship.

USI previously offered engineering technology as a major. The engineering major became available in fall 2002.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the Fulbright Program is the nation’s flagship program for international educational exchange.

Melinda George ’93, accounting, was promoted to corporate compliance officer for Deaconess Health Systems in Evansville.

Amy Cornelius Miller ’93, communications, is a program technician at the USDA Farm Service Agency in Washington, Indiana.

Christopher Burkhart ’94, political science/social science teaching, was promoted to director-global sourcing for Masterbrand Cabinets in Jasper, Indiana.

Jeff Sickman ’94, accounting, ’00, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to controller and business office assistant director at USI.

Tina Deal Spears ’94, business administration, has taken the position of Treasury Management specialist at Banterra Bank in Evansville.

Jody Delp ’95, general science, is a clinical simulations coordinator at USI.

Rebecca Korba ’95, political science/Spanish, a paralegal at Fine & Hatfield in Evansville, was awarded the Evansville Bar Association’s Outstanding Paralegal Award.

Meredith West Buchanan ’96, sociology, has joined Bethesda Lutheran Communities as director/area manager in Evansville.

Caron Leader ’96, Master of Social Work, has joined the USI Social Work Department as an adjunct faculty member. She is partner/psychotherapist for aha! Architects of Human Awareness in Evansville.

Ruth Metzger ’96, nursing, is a grant writer and coordinator of interpersonal education in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at USI.

Tricia Phillips Patton ’96, nursing, is the manager of surgery care at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Cheryl Wathen ’96, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to chief financial officer for the Deaconess Health System in Evansville.

Shannon Brewer ’97, accounting, has been promoted to vice president in the accounting and auditing department at Harding, Shymanski & Company in Evansville.

Joseph Vidmar ’97, business management, ’04, Master of Science in Industrial Management, was named general manager at Alcoa Architectural Products North America in Eastman, Georgia.

Jason Kellams ’98, business administration, has joined ARC Industries as vice president of operations in Evansville.

Jason Ludwig ’98, communications, is the director of web development at Gray Loon Marketing Group in Evansville.

Jeff Sponn ’98, business administration, ’04, Master of Business Administration, was promoted to manager of accounts payable/senior accountant in the USI Business Office.

Christina Gehring ’99, nursing, ’02, Master of Science in Nursing, is a family nurse practitioner at Echo Family Practice in Evansville.

Lori Phillips ’99, Master of Science in Nursing, ’11, Doctor of Nursing Practice, has joined Gibson General Hospital as vice president and chief nursing officer in Princeton, Indiana.

Theresa Pompey ’99, post baccalaureate certificate of accountancy, ’03, Master of Science in Accountancy, has taken the position of certified public accountant at Karen L. Schenk & Associates LLC in Evansville.

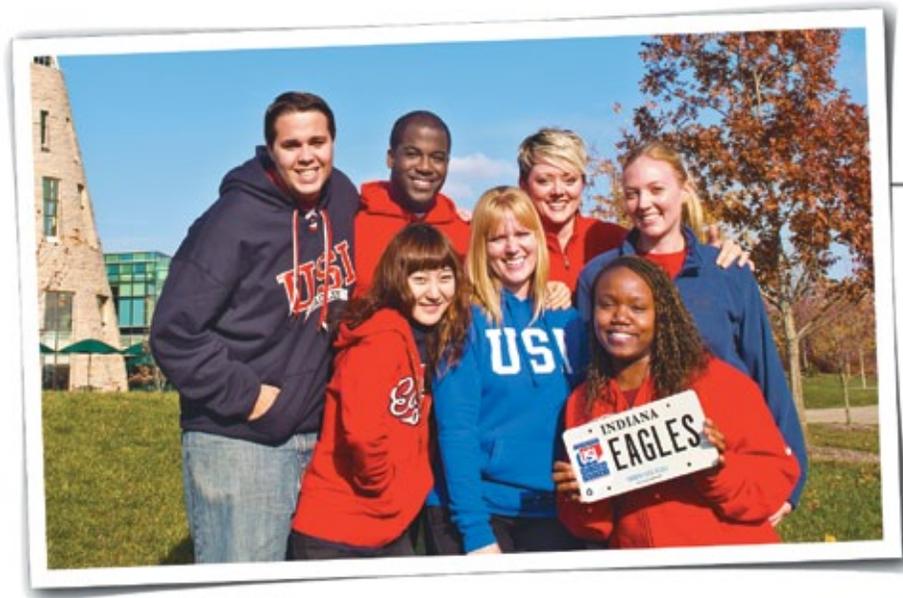
Jan Wiles ’99, communications, has been appointed assistant dean of Student Services at Frontier Community College in Fairfield, Illinois.

2000s

Alvin Basham ’00, business administration, trust officer at German American Bank in Evansville, received the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers.

Vickie Buse ’00, psychology, has been promoted to assistant manager, assembly at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana Inc., in Princeton, Indiana.

Paul Esche ’00, accounting, has been promoted to vice president in the accounting and auditing department at Harding, Shymanski & Company in Evansville.



Eagle Pride

When you purchase a USI collegiate plate for your vehicle, you show pride in the University and provide scholarships for deserving USI students.

Order or renew your plate online at alumni.usi.edu, by mail, or at your local Indiana license branch.

Claudia Rowley '00, nursing, '05, Master of Science in Nursing, has been named nurse manager of the Saint Mary's Warrick Hospital's Medical Surgical Unit and Respiratory and Emergency departments in Boonville, Indiana.

Syd Whitlock '00, business administration, is president and chief executive officer at The Scott County State Bank in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jina Hawkins Campbell '01, accounting, '03, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to assistant controller at USI.

Jill Spahn Johnson '01, accounting, has joined Energy Systems Group as a general accountant in Newburgh, Indiana.

Alex Rogier '01, industrial supervision, is a quality control engineering specialist at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Inc., in Princeton, Indiana.

Wendy Wade Taylor '01, computer information systems, has joined Creative Artists Agency as a senior systems engineer in IT Operations in Los Angeles, California.

Erin Bane '02, marketing, was promoted to assistant vice president, branch relationship banker and manager at First Federal Bank in Evansville.

Amy McCarty '02, elementary education, has been named University of Illinois Extension coordinator for the White County 4-H program in Grayville, Illinois.

Andy Miles '02, business administration, has joined First Federal Bank as a branch relationship banker in Newburgh, Indiana.

Greg Orr '02, geology, has joined Astbury Environmental Engineering, Inc. as a staff geologist in Evansville.

Benjamin Schmitt '02, business administration, is a loaned executive from Old National Bank to the Economic Development Commission in Evansville.

Misty Massey '03, psychology, '10, post baccalaureate certificate in accountancy, has joined Brown, Smith & Settle LLC as a staff accountant in Evansville.

Christina Paul Mayes '03, English, was promoted to technical training supervisor at Vectren Power Supply in Evansville.

Karen Ugo Oldham '03, radio and television, has taken the position of special events coordinator for Easter Seals of Southwestern Indiana in Evansville.

Shaun Angel '04, business administration, is co-owner of Flex 151, a fitness faculty in Newburgh, Indiana.

Katie Hollman Martin '04, sociology, '07, Master of Social Work, is a therapist at Youth Care Center in Evansville.

Michael Ready '04, English, is a financial advisor at LHDretirement in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Michelle Chappell '05, computer science, has taken the position of information technology instructor at Henderson Community College in Henderson, Kentucky.

Karen Haak '05, Master of Science in Nursing, has been appointed chief nursing officer at Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana.

Carrie Holley '05, accounting and professional services/finance, has joined Heritage Federal Credit Union as director of internal auditing in Newburgh, Indiana.

Erik Hughes '05, business administration, owns and operates Erik Hughes Insurance Agency in Evansville.

Nicholas Miller '05, economics, is a field training supervisor for Ireland Home Based Services LLC in Evansville.

Halvor Aakhus '06, mathematics, is a visiting instructor of English writing at University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Kevin Kirk '06, public relations and advertising, has joined First Federal Savings Bank as assistant vice president, corporate trainer/auditor in Evansville.

Jennifer Mills '06, business, has taken a position in the lending services support operations department at Heritage Federal Credit Union in Evansville.

Melinda Poole '06, elementary education, has been named director of Studio Bee Community Youth Center in Boonville, Indiana.

Sara Robb Rhoades '06, art, '11, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, has joined New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art as a senior gallery associate in New Harmony, Indiana.

Jenna Aldrich Sibert '06, business administration/management, is vice president of business management at Pioneer Oil Company in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Rachel Hite Thienes '06, marketing, has joined Brown & Brown Insurance as a personal lines producer in Evansville.

Johnna Benton Denning '07, social work, director of the Posey County Community Foundation in Mount Vernon, Indiana, was one of 22 women accepted into the Richard G. Luger Excellence in Public Service Series.

Scott Henderson '07, sociology, is a special assets officer at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Annual reunion builds bonds among men's tennis alumni

Camaraderie is one of the draws that keeps men's tennis players from the past coming back to campus. The 12th annual Men's Tennis Alumni Reunion attracted former student athletes from California to Florida in the fall. The participants represented teams spanning the years from 1973 to 2011.

Tony Bacon '96, '01, organizes the event. "Not all the alumni from various years of the program knew each other until attending their first reunion weekend," Bacon said. "But, tennis, by nature of being a life-long activity, is a sport that promotes ongoing connections. When you add what the USI experience has to offer, many players want to remain associated with that unique experience."

Scholarship honors Jack Marr

The alumni group established the Jack Marr Men's Tennis Alumni Scholarship and continues to fund it annually. Marr was the first USI men's tennis coach, leading the Eagles to a 155-123-1 record over 21 years. He died in 2009.

Reunion participant Bob Akin was a member of the first tennis team in 1973. "In those days, everybody kind of knew everyone else," Akin said. "Anybody who could play tennis was welcome to the team. There were no tennis scholarships, no transportation, and no uniforms."

Akin is the father of two USI Presidential scholars. Lauren Akin, a senior, is following in her father's footsteps with majors in chemistry and math. She holds the Bristol-Myers Squibb Presidential Scholarship. Freshman Margie Akin will major in occupational therapy. She is the recipient of the Southern Indiana Higher Education Endowed Presidential Scholarship. Bob Akin teaches algebra at Thompkins Middle School in Evansville.

The tennis reunion offers something for all participants.

"Whether it's catching up with former teammates and coaches, hitting around with each other or competing against the current varsity in the Varsity-Alumni Challenge, eating a court-side meal with family and friends, or experiencing the continual on-campus growth, everyone takes away something from the weekend," Bacon said. "And, often, it's a few aching and sore muscles the following week."



Former players at the reunion were (front row, from left) Jason Coomer ('96-'00) of St. Louis, Missouri; Jeremy Richie ('97-'01) of Evansville; Tony Bacon ('91-'94) of Mt. Vernon, Indiana; Rick Braun ('85) of Jasper, Indiana; and Bob Akin ('73-'74) of Evansville; and (back row, from left) Bob Titzer ('81-'84) of Bonsall, California; USI Head Coach Chris Crawford ('99-'02) of Jeffersonville, Indiana; Ryan McDaniel ('04-'07) of Bargersville, Indiana; Ethan Davis ('98-'02) of Plainfield, Indiana; Ricardo Angulo ('87-'90) of Atlanta, Georgia; Rick Vach ('87-'89) of Jacksonville, Florida; Evan Luttrell ('01-'05) of Westfield, Indiana; and Andrew Bostrom ('07-'11) of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Troy Hirsch '07, nursing, was appointed a senior risk analyst for Saint Mary's Health System in Evansville.

Adam Knepp '07, accounting, is a senior international financial auditor at Abbott Laboratories in Abbott Park, Illinois.

Niki Dechant Riat '07, marketing, is a marketing manager with Anchor Industries, Inc., in Evansville.

Jacob Williams '07, finance, '10, Master of Business Administration, has accepted a position in the Institutional Research Office at Ivy Tech's main campus in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Michael Carter '08, finance, was appointed assistant vice president, credit analyst at First Federal Bank in Evansville.

Lana Labhart '08, nursing, '11, Master of Science in Nursing, has been appointed director of 4 West/Intensive Care Unit at Saint Mary's Hospital in Evansville.

Amy Oglesby '08, accounting and professional services, is a staff accountant at Harding, Shymanski & Company, PSC in Evansville.

Brian Ankenbrand '09, post-baccalaureate certificate of accountancy, is a certified public accountant at London Witte Group LLC in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Geena Rollins Denning '09, accounting and professional services, has joined Sanders Accounting as an accountant in Evansville.

Carol Potter '09, special education, is a special education teacher at Carmi-White County High School in Carmi, Illinois.

Heather Richey '09, public relations and advertising, is a press secretary for the House of Representatives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Angela Stevens '09, studio art, is a retail sales consultant for Southern Wine & Spirits in Evansville.

2010s

Joshua Calhoun '10, political science, is a community development specialist at the Department of Metropolitan Development in Evansville.

Elizabeth Gramenspacher '10, German/teaching, is a teacher of German and English at the Signature School in Evansville.

Benjamin Halbig '10, engineering, has joined Three I Design as an engineer in Evansville.

Ashley Hancock '10, accounting and professional services, '11, finance, has taken the position of staff accountant at Harding, Shymanski & Company in Evansville.

Sara Holzmeyer '10, nursing, has been promoted to manager of the orthopedic unit at Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville.

Sarah Howard '10, art, has taken the position of senior administrative associate in the Government Relations Office at USI.

Paul Hutchens '10, marketing, has joined the Minneapolis Swarm lacrosse team as an account executive in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Daniel King '10, nursing, is a registered nurse at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nicole Murello '10, accounting and professional service, has joined Dauby O'Connor & Zaleski, LLC as an accountant in Carmel, Indiana.

Laura Wagner Thompson '10, marketing, has been promoted to marketing assistant/sales associate at Tracy Zeller Jewelry in Evansville.

Abby Williams '10, kinesiology, is an assistant in the office of Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay.

Matt Bates '11, finance, has joined Merrill Lynch Wealth Management as a financial advisor in Evansville.

Nick Duncheon '11, finance, has taken the position of financial representative at Northwestern Financial Network in Evansville.

Lindsey Oakes '11, marketing, joined Northwestern Mutual as director of marketing and client services in Evansville.

Alexandria Stout '11, health services, has taken the position of health educator at WebMD Health Services in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Anthony Wade '11, marketing, has taken the position of development and marketing associate for Keep America Beautiful in Evansville.

USI Athletic Hall of Fame inducts seven

Six individuals and one team are the newest inductees to the USI Athletic Hall of Fame.

The 2012 class includes the following:

- Dan Labhart (men's basketball/baseball, 1976–1980)
- Edgar Linares (men's tennis, 1998–2001)
- Andrew Majxner (men's tennis, 1997–2001)
- Stephanie Minor Richie (women's soccer, 1997–2000)
- Trisha Poling Johnson (softball, 1997–2000)
- Jeff Schulz (baseball, 1982–1983)
- 1997 women's basketball team

"The class of 2012 continues to show the strong athletic history established at USI," said USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall. "Each member of this class made significant impacts on his/her respective team and served as distinguished student athletes."

The induction ceremony was held in February during Homecoming Week.



SPRUCE UP

Sunday, April 15 • 1–4 p.m.
Eicher Barn • USI campus

Alumni, students, employees, and members of the community will come together for a day of service to keep USI beautiful.

- Refreshments
- Free t-shirts
- Lots of fun working together

Ready to volunteer?

Call Volunteer USI at 812/464-1924
or email volunteerusi@usi.edu.



Marriages

Amanda Montgomery '03, health services, and Lance Davidson, June 11, 2011

Katherine Braun '08, biology, and Jonathan Andrews, June 25, 2011

Allison Czubik '08, mathematics teaching, and Adam Stenger, June 11, 2011

Michael Weber '10, industrial supervision, and **Kearstyn Ritter '10**, elementary education, November 5, 2011

Nancy Ziliak '10, business administration, and Derek Gordon, September 3, 2011

Births and adoptions

Cindi Clayton Schnitker '99, psychology, and **Tyson Schnitker '08**, Master of Business Administration, welcomed Grayson Ray, September 12, 2011

Martha Fulkerson O'Brien '00, journalism and computer publishing, and Kevin welcomed Mallory Marie, January 14, 2011

Katrina Gramelspacher '01, psychology/public relations and advertising, and Chance Longo welcomed James Joseph, July 27, 2011

Jason Gravens '02, communications, and Andrea welcomed Mason William, April 7, 2011

Libby Hargrave Butcher '03, elementary education, '10, Master of Science in Education, and Derrick welcomed Brandt Owen, August 29, 2011

Britney Gentry Orth '03, journalism and computer publishing/sociology, and **Christopher Orth '06**, business administration, welcomed Tyler Zackrey and Natalie Claire, June 9, 2011

Lisa Harris Riley '03, nursing, and Nathan welcomed Easton Allen, June 25, 2011

Jeremy Mann '04, biology, and **Rebecca Kiesel Mann '04**, biology, welcomed Henry Eugene, September 14, 2011

Nicholas Merkley '04, chemistry, and Haley welcomed Kara Elizabeth, August 22, 2011

Rae Ann Conklin Burden '05, finance, and **Phillip Burden '06**, elementary education, welcomed Leah Jade May, May 26, 2011

Kimberly Stapp Tetrick '05, accounting, and Matthew welcomed Claire Elaine, December 20, 2010

Mallory Gasser Wendholt '07, elementary education, and **Brent Wendholt '09**, civil engineering, welcomed Brynlee Rae, August 25, 2011

Melissa Wheeler Stroessner '08, management, and **Glenn Stroessner '06**, business administration, welcomed Glenn Harrison, September 15, 2011

Matthew Burns '09, Master of Business Administration, and **Tonya Tennis Burns '06**, science teaching, welcomed Addison, December 9, 2010

Joshua Dodd '09, art, and Megan welcomed Ryker Presley, October 3, 2011

Laryssa Schmitt Shigley '11, dental assisting, and Daniel welcomed Wyatt Lee, July 7, 2011

In Memoriam

Robert Bippus '74, accounting, of Somerset, Massachusetts, died October 26, 2011. He served in the Navy and was stationed in Europe during the Vietnam War.

Ronald Williams '75, biophysics, of Henderson, Kentucky, died August 4, 2011.

James Bartley '77, communications/sociology, of Evansville, died December 18, 2011. He was an avid tennis player and photographer.

Michael Simmons '79, biology, of Saint Petersburg, Indiana, died October 1, 2011.

Karen Kozar Wentzel '90, nursing, of Oakland City, Indiana, died December 2, 2011. She worked for several years at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville. Wentzel moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where she worked at the Mayo Clinic.

Earmon Ussery '90, accounting, of San Antonio, Texas, died December 3, 2011. He worked at Toyota Motor Manufacturing for 10 years.

Billy Danks, Jr. '93, social work, of Evansville, died August 18, 2011. He was a social worker for The Community Action Program in Evansville.

Jeffrey Meriwether '95, general science, of Evansville, died December 5, 2011.

Kristine Critser Manley '96, history, of Chrisney, Indiana, died August 3, 2011. Genealogy was both her hobby and her vocation. She served at the Spencer County Public Library directing the family history room and copublished a series of volumes of genealogical records covering Spencer, Perry, and Warrick counties in Indiana. Manley was named Genealogist of the Year by the Spencer County Historical Society in 2007.

Jennifer Davis Riley '98, health services, of Princeton, Indiana, died November 13, 2011. Riley founded the Flip Flop Embroidery Shop.



Stay connected

Like the University of Southern Indiana Alumni Facebook page to stay connected to USI and your former classmates.

Michael Farquharson '00, business education, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died November 17, 2011. He was born in Jamaica, West Indies. Farquharson worked at Bristol-Myers Squibb for 16 years. He then taught at Reitz High School.

Jane Stone Raben '06, occupational therapy assistant, of Haubstadt, Indiana, died September 29, 2011. She worked at Bristol-Myers Squibb and as an occupational therapy assistant for Aegis Therapy. Raben was a member of the Advisory Board for occupational therapy at USI.

Rachel Beall '10, Master of Science in Nursing, of Emmett, Kansas, died December 18, 2011. She graduated *summa cum laude* from USI. Beall worked as a nurse practitioner at Community Health Care of Onaga.

Faculty/staff In Memoriam

Larry F. Gries, instructor in English, died December 9, 2011. He joined USI in 2000.

New scholarship recognizes Nancy Johnson's leadership

The USI Alumni Association has established a scholarship to honor the leadership of Nancy L. Johnson '83 M'95, who retires in June as director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. Johnson was associated with the University for 28 years.

The Nancy Briggs Johnson Alumni Scholarship will be awarded to a nontraditional student (25 years of age or older) who needs financial assistance. Generous alumni, friends, and colleagues are funding the scholarship with gifts to the USI Foundation.



Nancy Johnson presents USI pins to new graduates.

We want to hear from you!

Do you have professional news about yourself to share with fellow graduates? Have you moved? Do you have a suggestion for a story? Let us know! We value your comments via mail at Alumni and Volunteer Services Office, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712, phone 812/464-1924, or email alumni@usi.edu.

Vintage bathtub is a distinctive symbol

Fixture celebrates University gathering spot then and now



TUB

Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity brothers and other students gather with President David L. Rice, center with tie, around a clawfoot bathtub celebrating the opening of a temporary union building (TUB) in 1971. The same tub was used as a fixture to welcome visitors touring the expanded University Center East when it opened in 2011. TKE member Michael Pugh snapped this photo.



10001-02050
V11-101361

University of Southern Indiana 8600 University Boulevard
Evansville, Indiana 47712



Celebrating
25 Years
2012 Season

God of Carnage

by Yasmina Reza

June 15–24

The Retreat from Moscow

by William Nicholson

July 6–15

Pete 'N' Keely

By James Hindman

Original music by Patrick Brady

Lyrics by Mark Waldrop

July 20 – August 5

Richard Price
The 39 Steps
2011 Season
photo by LaVerne Jones



Producing Artistic Director – Elliot Wasserman

Managing /Marketing Director – Angela Torres

www.newharmonytheatre.com 877-NHT-SHOW

Produced by the University of Southern Indiana