



Magazine

Trail Treasure

New trail links
campus to community



**World is the
classroom**

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**Commencement
comes home**

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Returning home

There's a lot going on at USI!

When I took this position in January, it was the first time I'd spent any considerable amount of time on campus since I graduated in 1998. However, I was no stranger to the exciting changes that have taken place over the last 15 years. I've always taken the opportunity to keep up with my alma mater and check in from time to time.

Over the years, I watched as buildings popped up, programs grew, new majors were added, and the campus population continued to explode. I watched as USI established itself as a well-respected state University and made its mark on the local community. But there was even more going on behind the scenes. The University's accomplishments are far too many to name here.

In this issue you will find stories of growth, stories of innovation, stories of community involvement, and stories of international engagement. In so many ways, USI is making a positive impact on the community, the region, and the world through its students, faculty, programs, and alumni. If you're reading this magazine, you're surely a part of this.

Our campus has grown to encompass a world-wide community, and our alumni reach to the farthest corners of the globe. USI is a place of real education, real experience, and real opportunity, and the results are evident.

It's exciting to be back at USI. I look forward to bringing you more news, features, and announcements, and carrying on the great work of Betty Vawter, who edited *USI Magazine* from 1997 until her retirement in 2012.

This is your magazine. If there are ways it can be better, more compelling, or more informative, I hope I'll hear from you. It's good to be home.



John Farless '98

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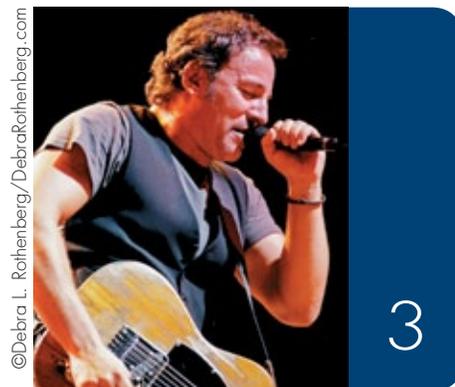
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The Boss is back:
Glory Days Symposium



Johnson is new face of USI alumni



On the Cover

Holly Hudson '04 takes an afternoon stroll on the USI-Burdette Trail with her son Brockton, 2, and two dogs, Marla and Sassy. The new trail is an important link between campus and the local community. **See page 15.**

USI Magazine

Online exclusives

- USI Trails
- Commencement 2012
- Global Engagement photos and blogs
- and more online content



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



Making Summer Matter

*"So what are you doing for your summer vacation?
You have three months off, right?"*

That's what I hear every year after spring commencement ceremonies. The rhythm of the traditional academic year leads to a conclusion that the pace slows significantly over the summer. In some ways, it does slow a bit. Last summer, we welcomed more than 5,000 students to summer classes, but that is fewer than the 10,820 who appeared for classes in fall 2011.

In reality, work continues over the summer months on a variety of projects focused on USI's educational mission.

- We have made progress on the goals of the strategic plan and this summer is dedicated to developing a communication plan on measures of progress thus far.
- We have faculty, student, and administrative teams visiting Malta, Germany, Scotland, and Ghana, where they are developing internships, encouraging academic program collaboration, and exploring future partnerships.
- The Faculty Senate approved a new Core Curriculum at the end of spring semester and work will begin now on implementation.
- We will break ground during the summer for the new Teaching Theatre on campus, and the new Applied Engineering Center will be nearing completion by fall.
- The Loft dining facility in the University Center will be renovated and expanded and ready to serve students returning to campus in August.

As we continue to grow and develop, the traditional academic year will increasingly become year-round. Technology offers the opportunity to break out of the traditional calendar, and the result will be more opportunity and innovative programming. Working on these projects now is what makes the summer a productive and fun time.

Come to campus for a visit this summer and see for yourself the activity and changes!

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Mark Bernhard, associate provost for Outreach and Engagement at USI has put together the third “Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium” focused on academic research and thought based on the life and work of the legendary rock n’ roll singer. The event will be held September 14-16, 2012, at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

The symposium was first held in 2005 and again in 2009. It typically draws between 200 and 300 participants. “The way I would describe it, is an educational conference appealing to both academics and non-academics,” says Bernhard, who came up with the idea more than 10 years ago, and has been the organizer and driving force behind all three of the symposiums. “It’s been a labor of love for me. I’ve been to 61 Springsteen concerts and counting.”

Submissions and presenters cover topics such as Springsteen and politics and Springsteen in literature. So far, more than 120 proposals have been received for this year’s conference, including submissions from across the United States, and from England, Germany, Sweden, and Canada.

In addition to the academic presentations, keynote speakers will present on “pop culture” aspects of Springsteen’s legacy. Pre- and post-conference tours will explore Asbury Park, Freehold, Belmar, and other areas associated with Springsteen’s rise to fame. Music also is important to the event, with performances held throughout at the legendary Stone Pony venue in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Bernhard previously oversaw the event while working at Penn State and Virginia Tech universities. After taking his current position with USI in August, involving the University was a natural fit. Bernhard and USI will handle everything from content and logistics, to registration and other e-commerce needs. USI’s Marketing and Communications area also has been instrumental in developing the web site and printed marketing materials.



“As USI looks to expand its role and influence beyond Evansville and the Tri-State, we need to be looking at different kinds of initiatives,” said Bernhard. “This conference will attract international media attention. It will be good to have the University’s name out there associated with an event like this. We’re also looking at ways to enhance partnerships with other institutions of higher learning. This is just one example of what we can do.”

Registration for the symposium opened in early June. More information can be found at www.usi.edu/glorydays.

Bernhard co-authors book on “The Boss”

Bernhard has co-edited a new book of essays, *Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream* (Ashgate 2012). He collaborated on the work with Kenneth Womack, associate dean for Academic Affairs and Jerry Zolten, associate professor of communications arts and sciences, both at Penn State University.

The book of academic essays focuses on the many ways in which Springsteen continues to leave an impact by challenging thought through his lyrics and music.

Kuban is Distinguished Professor



Kuban

Dr. Paul Kuban has presented at technology showcases throughout the region and served on a team of intellectual property experts to refine a process for Crane Naval Surface

Warfare Center. That work is now a best practice within the Department of Defense Office of Research and Technology. Last year, he was granted a patent for an innovation improving technology for wired and wireless networks.

These were just a few of the accomplishments that allowed the associate professor of engineering at USI to

receive the 2012 Distinguished Professor Award. His colleagues selected him for his outstanding achievements in scholarship, teaching, and service.

“Dr. Kuban is an excellent teacher and researcher who motivates students to the highest level of performance,” said Dr. Steven Williams, associate professor of sociology and interim chair of USI’s faculty senate, during the award presentation at Spring Commencement. “He’s known among his colleagues and his students as someone who listens and someone who inspires, and for his student-centered approach to learning.”

Dr. Kuban’s patent was the first issued to a USI faculty member for work done in conjunction with the USI Center for Applied Research in partnership with the Indiana University Research and Technology Corporation. Prior to joining USI in 1996, he received two addi-

tional patents related to audio processing in cellular telephones. “His work serves as a model for how the Engineering Department and the College of Business work together effectively,” said a colleague. (See *USI Magazine*, October 2011 issue.)

Dr. Kuban advises students and supervises design projects. He is the faculty sponsor for the student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and is the USI Eagles wrestling team advisor.

As recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award, he received a monetary grant and will select a student to receive a scholarship in his name next year. He and his wife Kim have two children, a son Sam who is attending USI, and a daughter Anna, who attends Reitz High School.

Collaboration means new opportunities for students

Three new minors being introduced in fall 2012 will benefit USI students across colleges and disciplines.

“It’s exciting,” said Abbas Foroughi, chair of the Department of Management and Information Sciences and professor of computer information systems. “The bottom line is that, with no additional resources, very little cost to the University, and existing faculty, we were able to create alterna-

tives for students that give them a chance to expand their horizons. The new minors also are in line with the strategic plans of the University.”

More information about the new minors can be found on the College of Business and College of Liberal Arts web sites.

Web Development for Enterprise Minor

The Web Development for Enterprise Minor, offered by the College of Business, allows students in any major to take an interdisciplinary approach to web design and development, explore the latest technological advances in hardware and software, and apply those skills to their major subject area.

Human Resource Management Minor

The Minor in Human Resource Management, offered by the College of Business, helps students from any major to develop and implement skills related to HR strategy; recruitment, selection, and staffing; training and development; performance management; compensation; employee and labor relations; and compliance with legal regulations.

Minor in Entrepreneurship for English Majors

In partnership with the College of Business, the English Department now offers a minor in entrepreneurship for non-business majors. The 18-hour minor combines English courses in investigative, digital, professional, technical, and grant writing with business courses in idea creation, feasibility study, and business planning. It emphasizes critical thinking, communication, and entrepreneurial business skills.

Eaglenomics™ soars in popularity

As college debt becomes an issue in the 2012 presidential election, a financial literacy program developed by USI's Office of Student Financial Assistance is making national headlines.

The main objective of Eaglenomics™, USI's financial literacy program, is to educate students and provide them with the tools for successful money management. The Office of Financial Assistance recently trademarked the Eaglenomics name.

Financial literacy benefits students, the University, and society-at-large, according to Mary Jo Harper, director of Student Financial Assistance. "It's now a must for higher education institutions to facilitate the efforts to promote financial literacy," she said.

USI benefits from student financial literacy through lower default rates, reduction in students' monetary issues, fewer crisis visits to the financial aid office, and increased retention.

Students benefit through reduced financial, emotional, and physical stress, better academic performance, and a sense of empowerment in money matters.

Harper was recently interviewed by Fox Business about Eaglenomics and stories have appeared in a variety of local media outlets. An Eaglenomics slideshow can be found at www.usi.edu/eaglenomics.

Trustees appointed by governor

Governor Mitch Daniels has named a new trustee and reappointed two trustees to the Board of Trustees at USI. The new trustee is Kenneth L. Sendelweck of Jasper, Indiana, and the returning trustees are Ira Boots and Ron Romain, both of Evansville.

Sendelweck is a 36-year veteran of corporate finance, treasury, and accounting roles with German American Bancorp, Inc. and Kimball International, Inc., both located in Jasper. He is now a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. A 1976 graduate of the University of Southern Indiana, he is a certified public accountant and a certified treasury

professional. Sendelweck serves on a number of regional boards for economic development, government, healthcare, and education. He is a member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors Advisory Council and the College of Business Board of Advisors. He received the USI



Distinguished Alumni Award in 1997.

Boots was reappointed to serve a four-year term. He retired as president and CEO of Berry Plastics in 2010 after 30 years with the company.

Romain was reappointed to serve a four-year term. He is the CEO of United Companies and a former chairman of the Board of Directors of the University of Southern Indiana Foundation. He is a 1973 USI graduate and is the alumni representative on the board. He received the USI Distinguished Alumni Award in 1994.

President's Medal



Phillip H. Behrens IV, a graduate of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, completed his college career at USI with a record of achievement in the classroom and significant contributions to student life. His hard work and dedication earned him the President's Medal, the highest honor presented to a graduate in the Class of 2012. He graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in biology. A 2008 graduate

of Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, he plans to pursue medical school, and has aspirations of becoming a United States congressman. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip H. Behrens III.

Nursing tops charts

The Nurse Practitioner Program in the College of Nursing and Health Professions received a perfect score on student pass rates for its acute care and family nurse certification exams. The results were recently announced by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The student pass rate on the national certification examination for acute care nurse practitioners was 100 percent. The national average was 93 percent. The student pass rate for the family nurse practitioners was 100 percent. The national average was 89 percent. The American Nurses Credentialing Center report is one of several tools used by the College to evaluate its programs.

"We're very proud of our pass rates," said Dr. Mayola Rowser, associate professor and director of the Graduate Nursing Program. "Much credit is due to our faculty who are committed to providing evidenced-based healthcare and to teaching our students to do the same."

A beautiful noise from USI



Thomas Drury, instructor of music in the Department of Performing Arts, teaches a course in USI's interactive keyboard lab.

When Genevieve Bootz realized that USI didn't have a music department, she felt like she could help. "USI needs to have a music department," she said. "I understood how much music can influence a person's life and education. It's such a vital part of a university. It's an open door into other programs."

In 2010, Bootz made a \$100,000 gift to the USI Foundation to help the University initiate plans to make music an academic offering. A new keyboard lab was completed in 2011, and the College of Liberal Arts is now offering classes toward a minor in music projected to be implemented in fall 2012. The keyboard lab was developed using USI funds. However, the University was able to create the lab knowing that Bootz's gift was available to provide for music instruments and other future expenses.

Creating the space

The keyboard lab features 17 Yamaha piano keyboards—each weighted to feel, and sound, like a real piano. Workstations include computers net-

worked to the instructor's computer. "We're able to teach in a virtual world," said Daniel Craig, associate professor of music.

Instruments can be broadcast into the room individually, grouped as ensembles, or listened to individually using earphones. Students also can conduct research and interact with their keyboards through the computers. Instructors, in turn, can view students' work from their screens.

Completed in August, the new keyboard lab was a labor of love for Craig, who designed the space over a two-year period. With the help of two student volunteers, he constructed and outfitted the lab with the help of a software and hardware liaison from Fort Wayne, Indiana. "We saved a lot of resources by providing our own labor," he said.

The lab is a hybrid concept—most labs have keyboards only and students move to a separate work station to use a computer. "We wanted to create a different situation where we could integrate the computers," said Craig.

"It's an exciting time to see all this work together and flow together to make a beautiful classroom."

Looking forward

The University currently offers class piano at the beginner level, and music theory, each for two semesters. Craig plans to expand both courses to four semesters as the program grows. USI also offers an aural skills class that helps musicians internalize music before attempting to play it. Introduction to Music has been taught at USI for years.

"What we've done is add a key set of classes that become the core of the new music minor," says Craig. "I'm pleased with the outcome so far." He adds that the lab is the first step toward offering a full program in the future.

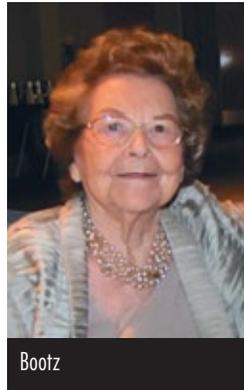
Genevieve Bootz – Building a legacy

Genevieve Bootz is a generous friend of USI, and has been for many years. Her legacy of community service and philanthropy, both to USI and the

local community, goes back decades. She's seen USI rise from a vision to a reality, and is elated by what the University has become and what it offers the region.

She is a key player in the community as well. She adopted the Fulton Square unit of the Evansville Boys and Girls Club and was instrumental in helping the organization build programs. She is a long-time supporter of the Evansville Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), where she helps fund the Young Women of Promise Scholarship Program and assisted with shelter renovation. She served as president of the Vanderburgh County PTA Council and encouraged the development of a metropolitan school district—now the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. Other involvements include New Harmony Theatre, Easter Seals, the League of Women Voters, and Evansville ARC.

Bootz credits her generosity to knowing USI's first president Dr. David Rice and his wife Betty. "Those are two



Bootz

people who never seek the limelight and have done so much for Evansville," she said. "I learned an awful lot from my friendship with them. They knew how to make a

thought carry through and work like no other people I've known. They're people of great vision and great accomplishment; they're models for all of us."

When Bootz retired from a career with Deaconess Hospital, she became friends and garden partners with Betty, who owned and operated a landscaping company. The two women would pick up David from meetings. "I got a good education from the backseat of that car," Bootz said. "I heard all of David's philosophies about why we needed a public institution for higher education

in Evansville. Over the years I heard a lot about the needs of the University. I just happened to be able to be a part of USI through that friendship."

Honored for community leadership

Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, president of USI, recently nominated Genevieve Bootz for a Leadership Evansville Award. She received the award on March 15 at The Centre in Evansville during the Celebration of Leadership. "I was just floored," said Bootz. "It seems to me there's a role for all of us, and I, more or less, do what I can. I'm willing to assist and follow great causes."

A Phenomenal Woman

Bootz was recently named one of USI's 10 Phenomenal Women. Held at USI during Women's History Month, Phenomenal Women awards honor and celebrate women from all walks of life who have made contributions to diversity in the USI and Evansville communities.

Meet Levi, class of 2034.

Your gift today helps educate current and future USI students like Levi.

Levi, and thousands of his classmates, will benefit from your gift through scholarships, academic conferences, study abroad, and research opportunities, just to name a few of the components that form the USI experience.

Contact the USI Foundation to establish your legacy and ensure the excellence continues. Through planned gifts, annual gifts, and every gift, you directly impact the Levis of tomorrow.



USI Foundation
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Levi is the son of
Andrea '05 and
Eric '12 Gentry



From left, global engagement interns Catherine Carver, Jordan Whitledge, Chelsea Heibel, and Brittney Van Laeken

A world of opportunity

This summer, the world has become a classroom for students participating in an expanded global engagement initiative at USI. More than 40 participants are living and learning in countries around the globe, including Scotland, India, Ghana, Japan, and others. Resources made available by the University are helping to promote and integrate a global experience in their academic curriculum. Many of the students studying abroad are receiving scholarships and fully-funded internships for global engagement opportunities.

Heidi Gregori-Gahan, director of International Programs and Services, says one of the goals of global engagement is to expand the parameters of the study abroad program in terms of students' focus. They come back to campus, energized by their experiences, and talk about their travel and study with the rest of the University community. "They can help us understand more

about the issues and challenges affecting people in regions of the world that we don't know much about—and why it is important that we understand those issues and challenges," adds Gregori-Gahan.

Through the global engagement initiative, students go beyond the traditional study abroad program, adding experiences of service learning and research on healthcare, education, and human rights. They travel to parts of the world that students don't typically have the opportunity to visit. "We want them to consider studying in areas that are considered nontraditional locations," says Gregori-Gahan. "If you look at where American students typically study, the vast majority study in western Europe. We're encouraging students to look at places like Ghana, Japan, and India.

"We're trying to attract a more diverse group of students, which is where being able to provide financial assistance

has been a wonderful opportunity."

Some are first generation students who come from diverse backgrounds. Others had never traveled far from home prior to this. "We're trying to make it possible for students from all walks of life, and all majors, to consider some kind of study abroad experience, and that's been wonderful."

Participants will present at a global engagement forum in November during National/International Week. The event will include sessions where students talk about their travel, work, and research. Gregori-Gahan says this provides a great way to track and measure the experience of students, which is part of the University's overall strategic plan.

"This is an intentional effort that goes beyond the traditional experience," she says. "They're really getting to understand global issues and culture in a more in-depth way."

Carver recording history in New Lanark

A world of opportunity



Carver

Catherine Carver, a USI history major with a minor in anthropology, is spending six weeks in New Lanark, Scotland, on a fully-funded Global Engagement Internship. A native of Deltona, Florida, she traveled to the UNESCO World Heritage site in Scotland from May 10 through June 22.

While there, she helped develop a public search room to support access to New Lanark's collection of photographs, maps, drawings, and documents. The work will connect the New Lanark collection to the collections housed at USI's Rice Library and in New Harmony, Indiana.

New Lanark is a restored 18th century cotton mill village in southern Scotland. Less than an hour from Edinburgh and Glasgow, it welcomes thousands of visitors each year and is connected to USI's Historic New Harmony operation through the life and work of New Lanark Resident Robert Owen, who came to Indiana and was one of the founders of a communal living experiment in New Harmony.

While in New Lanark, Carver wrote a paper beginning with Robert Owen's initial goals, and including background information about the conditions at New Lanark before he became manager of the mill and a leader of social and education reform. She's also studying how Owen's ideals have endured over time, including a discussion about the Co-Operative Alliance movement, and how that concept is still alive and well today.

At USI, Carver works for Academic Skills as a supplemental instruction leader and is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, Student Support Services, and USI's Honors Program. Last spring, she received the Donald Pitzer History Scholarship. She plans to pursue a master's degree in history or archeology.

"This work is very applicable to my career goals," she says. "Plus, it's always great to be able to travel abroad." During her stay, she took several side trips to



Catherine Carver poses in front of the Tower of London. She was able to visit several museums and historical sites in England and Scotland during her six-week internship to New Lanark, Scotland.

Glasgow University and London, including the British Museum and the Tower of London.

USI faculty mentor Kristalyn Shefelveland, assistant professor of history, accompanied Carver to Scotland for 10 days, and worked with her over the course of the internship to maintain a record of the experience and complete a final project.

The internship includes audience research, on-site and digital interpretation, and development of educational material. USI plans to use the experience as a launching point for an ongoing partnership with New Lanark. "USI will fully and permanently fund a student to work at New Lanark, Scotland, next summer and every summer thereafter to keep a permanent link to our history in Scotland," said Mark Rozewski, vice president for Finance and Administration.

Heibel gains real-world experience in Ghana



Heibel

Biochemistry major Chelsea Heibel, a junior from Fort Wayne, Indiana, spent eight weeks in Ghana from May 10 to July 8, on a fully-funded internship with the World Endeavors program.

With a pre-med emphasis and plans to pursue a career in medicine, Heibel found the internship appealing because it allowed her to customize her experience—matching her goals and interests with the needs of

the local community in Ghana. “I want to go into medicine, and I can see myself working overseas as a doctor in an underserved area,” she says. “I’ve shadowed doctors here, but it’s exciting to be exposed to the rural landscape and learn the structure of their healthcare system and how doctors interact. It’s great to be exposed to a different culture. I can’t believe what a great opportunity this is.”

She spent four weeks in the city of Kumasi living with a host family in the city’s suburbs and working in the maternity wing of Mount Sinai Hospital. She has a CNA and the focus of her work there is working with pregnant women and young mothers. Faculty mentor, Dr. Kevin Valadares, spent 16 days in Ghana with Heibel in June.

“The first week went well, although hours at the hospital are very long and hard work,” said Heibel in an early blog posting from Ghana. “Since all of the staff and patients speak primarily Twi, it was initially difficult to understand what was going on. But now they know me, and I know them, and I have been able to learn a lot. I’ve even watched a few surgeries and set an IV!”

For an additional four weeks, she stayed in rural areas of Ghana, addressing public health issues for underserved communities and understaffed hospitals.

This was her first trip outside the country other than a brief trip to Canada. World Endeavors volunteer programs are traditionally known for their cultural immersion. Volunteers live in the communities they serve, learn the local language, meet the people, experience customs and traditions, and eat the local food.



Chelsea Heibel with schoolchildren at Esaase Christian School and Orphanage near the city of Kumasi in Ghana. After a day’s work, she and other volunteers often spend time with the children, playing cards, using the computer, or learning about each other’s language and culture.

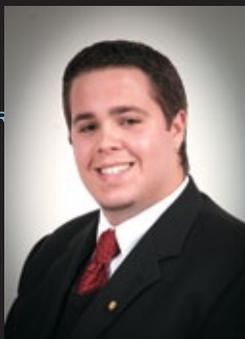
“I do not know where to start, nor do I have time to write about everything I have seen and experienced this first week,” said Heibel in her blog.

“We stay at the Esaase School and Orphanage in the small village of Esaase, very close to downtown Kumasi.

My first two weeks I am stationed at the Males Ward, so I make my way there and help the morning nurses clean and set up for the day. I stay in that ward until somewhere between 12:30 and 2 p.m., when I take my lunch. After lunch, I head back to the Males Ward where I help administer medicine, do patient records, or take blood pressure and temperature of the eight to 10 patients in the ward. Richard, the head nurse at the hospital, usually calls for me between 2:30 and 4 p.m. to accompany him and Dr. Essien on rounds. There are a total of four wards in the hospital: Males, Females, Children, and Maternity. I follow Dr. Essien as he talks to each of his patients and explains their condition and treatment to the nurses and me.

In the evenings, we eat together, sometimes with Mr. Boateng, and the children are usually swimming in the pool out front or crowding around us. It is a joy to be loved by so many kids!”

Whitledge finds opportunity in India



Whitledge

Jordan Whitledge, a senior business administration, economics, and political science major and 2011-12 Student Government Association president, is spending a six-week fully-funded internship with World Endeavors in Jaipur, the capital and largest city of India's Rajasthan region from July 6 through August 18.

Dr. Leslie Nunn, chair and professor of business law in the College of Business, is Whitledge's faculty mentor and accompanied him to India for the first week of the program.

"I'm coming to the end of my college career, and I always wanted to go abroad, but finances have been a

problem," Whitledge said. "I haven't had the money to study abroad. I saw this opportunity and decided to apply. I'm very grateful that I got it."

After graduation, he plans to pursue a joint degree program and earn Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctor degrees. "I eventually want to hold public office because it is the highest calling an individual, in a democracy, can pursue. I believe deeply in community service, and I see public service as an extension of that.

"I'm really excited about this opportunity, and I'm looking forward to growing both personally and professionally and bringing my experiences back to USI," he said.

Whitledge is a member of the Pre-Law Society, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He also has served as a student orientation leader.



Molly Spurlock, center, and friends from Kansai Gaidai University in Japan, celebrate spring near Osaka Castle by participating in Hanami, a centuries-old Japanese tradition of having a picnic beneath cherry trees. Spurlock spent the spring 2012 semester studying in Japan through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). She received a Global Engagement scholarship to support her research on the impact of the tsunami and nuclear fallout on Japanese culture, and the Japanese government's response to that crisis.



Molly Konkle, an international studies major, relaxes at a hostel during a trip to Iguazu Falls, Argentina, now named the seventh World Wonder. The international hostel included students from France, Holland, and Germany. Konkle, a junior, is studying at the University of Salvador in Argentina through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). Her global engagement research has focused on poverty alleviation, including community development programs and other resources for poor women in the country.



Nine students with Spanish majors or minors received global engagement scholarships to study in the Dominican Republic with Dr. Manuel Apodaca-Valez, assistant professor of Spanish in the Modern and Classical Languages Department at USI. The group spent more than two weeks in the country for credit toward a course on "Afro-Latin American Language and Culture." Some students are combining the study with majors in English, education, international studies, or health professions.

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Internship takes Van Laeken to remote areas of India



Van Laeken

Brittney Van Laeken, a nursing major at the University of Southern Indiana, spent her summer in India. She coordinated her four-week fully-funded internship through Cross-Cultural Solutions, an international volunteer organization—one of the oldest working in the India region. In preparation for her trip, from May 25 to June 24, she researched the area and its diverse population.

Her experience took her to the far reaches of Northern India; to the city of Dharamsala in the Himalayas, where she worked with the local community. Since 1959, the city has been an enclave for the Dalai Lama and the exiled Tibetan government. The city is separated into two distinct areas with many rural pockets and villages within walking distance.

Faculty mentor Dr. Marie Opatrny, associate professor of social work, spent 10 days in India overseeing Van Laeken's work and helping design her research project. "I'm excited to be working with her," said Van Laeken. "My heart is really in doing nonprofit work. I'm interested in social change. I chose nursing as a major because I felt like it would open more doors for me, but at the same time I could still do what I was interested in."

At 32, and a single mother, Van Laeken is a nontraditional student. She began her education at USI in 1998, as a fine arts major. Family and life circumstances didn't allow her to finish her degree. She transferred to Indiana University and later the University of Milwaukee in Wisconsin, where she continued work toward a fine arts degree. She later spent several semesters at Ivy Tech after moving back to the Evansville area. She has been enrolled in USI's Nursing Program for two years and plans to graduate in 2014.

"This is a really big deal for me because typically study abroad programs are not completely covered," she says. "To be given this opportunity is the equivalent of winning the lottery. As a single parent, I could never afford something like this on my own. I've always wanted to travel internationally."



Children congregate in front of a rural school near Dharamsala, in northern India. Global engagement intern Brittney Van Laeken regularly travels to the schools in the mountainous region to give medical assessments to children, including babies and toddlers.

Van Laeken focused her work on public health and health education during her time in India, particularly in the area of women's issues and assistance for populations of a lower socio-economic status. She researched the weaknesses and strengths of the local culture and its healthcare, as well as issues related to over-population. Her work included a focus on adults with alcohol and substance abuse problems, which are common in the Tibetan community.

"I chose India partly because even though they've become a very technologically advanced country, they still have a lot of issues with poverty and with diseases that have been eradicated elsewhere, like tuberculosis, malaria, and even polio in some areas," she said.

"Ultimately I'd love to do international work. I believe that healthcare is a human right. My goal is to work with a nonprofit organization, whether it's providing public health to local communities here in the United States or working internationally."

Students transformed by Ghana experience

Twenty students from majors across the University participated in a cultural immersion course that took them to Ghana for nine days in May. The three-credit course counted toward their core courses. Prior to leaving, students took a five-week course to learn about the culture and history of Ghana. They prepared presentations before departing and planned to complete papers after their return.

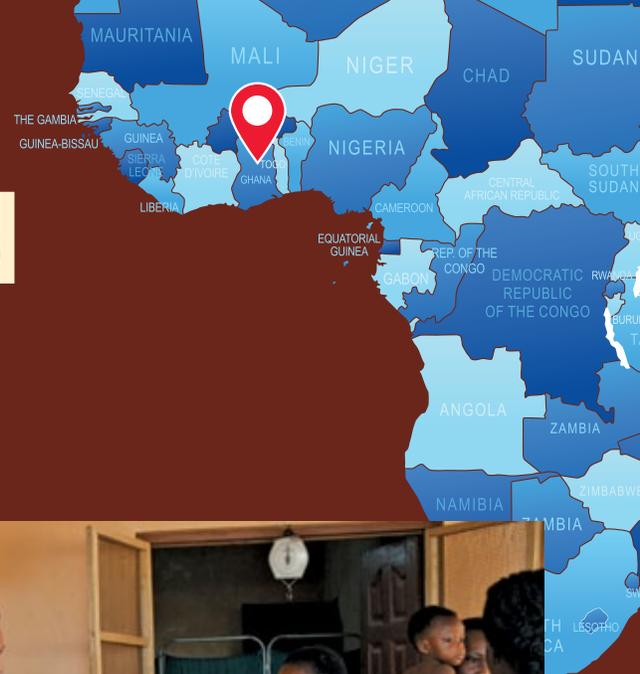
"I believe this trip was transformative for the majority, if not all, of the students who participated," said Dr. Ronald Rochon, provost and professor of education at USI. "They learned a lot, they saw a lot, they experienced a lot." In addition to Rochon, faculty members Dr. Joseph Uduehi and Heidi Gregori-Gahan accompanied the students to Ghana.

The trip gave students access to unique service learning opportunities. Half of the students went to outdoor clinics to work with women and infants. They weighed infants, and provided immunizations and gave consultations. The rest of the students went to local schools, where they tutored English and provided mathematics and U.S. history instruction.

All of the students visited historical sites throughout Ghana including the city of Kumasi, Kakum National Forest, museums, botanical gardens, and Africa's Gold Coast, where they learned about the historical impact of the region and how it pertains to Ghana's independence. They also learned about the history of the country, early slave trade, and other factors related to the country's history.

"They got to ask important questions about their role in the world and their relationship with Africa," said Rochon. "They were able to explore the impact of a nation that's so newly independent. They were able to experience a very diverse set of experiences."

Rochon said he would like to see the University offer the cultural immersion course again. "I'd like to see this become part of our University culture. I'm quite confident we can make that happen."



Erika Schmitt, a USI nursing major, assists with polio vaccines at a clinic in Amomorley, Ghana. The clinic offers immunizations every month for children in the surrounding villages.



Susan Ellsperman, a biology major in the pre-medical program, stops to talk with a young girl at a craft village near the city of Kumasi in the Ashanti region of Ghana.



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

Exploring culture in India

Four students had the opportunity to travel and conduct research in India this summer during a four-week period from May 27 to June 27 with the Society for Development Studies (SDS). Students included Kidan Asgedom of Indianapolis, Kireeti Ghanta of Fort Branch, Indiana, Colleen McGovern of Evansville, and Leah Voges of Santa Claus, Indiana.

Asgedom, a radio/TV and French major with a journalism minor, said, "I'm interested in learning about different cultures. I like the fact that I'll be working closely with the locals. I'm hoping to get involved with the Peace Corps, so this is a great way to get experience doing volunteer work."

"India's culture and history have always intrigued me," said McGovern, an elementary education major with a minor in language arts. "As a future educator, I look forward to bringing my experiences back into the classroom to enrich my students' lives and broaden their horizons. I can't quite believe this has happened and feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity. As a future teacher, my hope is that I can bring these experiences and life lessons back into the classroom to enrich my students' lives, and the community as a whole."

SDS first trained the students in New Delhi in a United Nations award-winning community-empowerment model. The students then visited and engaged with a community in Alwar to experience how the model was implemented and, under the guidance of SDS faculty, helped design approaches to enhance community empowerment. They also visited Agra and Jaipur while in India.

Ghanta is studying political science. He said the internship presents "an exciting opportunity to see a country changing very quickly and at the same holding on to what makes India and Indians a very old, yet special civilization and society."

"I have had limited abilities to see the world and experience different cultures," said Voges, who is studying dental hygiene. "My eagerness to see the world will not only change my life forever, but hopefully make a difference in others as well."

The Society for Development Studies is a non-government organization based in New Delhi, but is part of an



USI students Kidan Asgedom, Kireeti Ghanta, Colleen McGovern, and Leah Voges in front of the Taj Mahal, in Agra, India.



Colleen McGovern greets a young girl during a visit to the Om Prakash pottery shop near Alwar, India.

international United Nations network. SDS faculty members have worked with students from many universities including Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and USI on applications of its community-empowerment model.

Last summer, three USI students spent two weeks in India working with SDS's community-empowerment model through interviews and interactions with families in Alwar. Plans for the second trip were initiated when Dr. Vinay D. Lall, director general of the SDS, visited USI in January.



New trail is a treasure

USI's new walking and biking trail flows like a ribbon across the hills and natural landscape between the University campus and Burdette Park in southern Indiana. The USI-Burdette Park Trail, a three-mile paved greenway, is a point of pride for the University and serves as a connector between the campus and the local community.

USI contributed much of the land through which the trail winds. Three grants totaling nearly \$2.1 million were secured through transportation enhancement dollars from the Indiana Department of Transportation. The funds were set aside for trail projects that take users from one location to another, without motorized vehicles. "It provides a safe route for bicyclists, walkers, and runners," says Steve Craig, general manager of Burdette Park, who was instrumental in securing the funds. "The best thing is these aren't local tax dollars. That's great for USI, and great for Evansville and the county."

The trail is just one of several new greenway initiatives under way around the city of Evansville and Vanderburgh County in recent years. The Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage which runs

"In less than two minutes I'm surrounded by woods; I feel as though I've left everything behind and entered a different place. I don't have to worry about traffic, cars, or drivers on cell phones and, when I get back on campus, I often have a different perspective of things."

— Dave Enzler, USI director of Recreation Fitness and Wellness

along Evansville's riverfront attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. A section between downtown Evansville and the city's north side was recently completed. "I think we easily could have a network in Evansville and Vanderburgh County that has the critical mass to attract people far and wide to use it," says Mark Rozewski, vice president for finance and administration at USI. "We have the visual amenities,

we have the tourist amenities, and we've got the hotel infrastructure. It could be another tourist draw easily in this setting."

Sections of the USI-Burdette Trail have been completed for more than a year and the final stage was completed in November. A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for later this year.

Building campus community

The trail does more than link USI with the outside community—it builds a sense of community on campus. It falls squarely into the University's strategic plan goal of "preserving and nurturing campus community, including building connections across campus and supporting health and well-being and quality of life for those on campus."

With easy access points from multiple locations around campus, using the trail is convenient for students, faculty, and other employees. At any given time, the trail is filled with bikers, joggers, walkers, rollerbladers, and other users.

"The best thing for me is that I can leave the building and be on the path right away," says Enzler.

Continued p.16





Physical Activities Center (PAC)

Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center (RFWC)



Continued from p.15

“When I was training for my half marathon, I used the USI-Burdette Trail as a safe place to run—free from the hazards that would have come with running on the road,” says Lauren Hoover, a junior nursing major from Newburgh, Indiana. “After class, my roommate and I would often run the trail as a way to unwind after a long day spent indoors.”

Several trail features are conducive to more than just exercise. The trail is dotted with trailside benches and a sitting area with tables and benches was included at a trail intersection just south of campus. An overlook provides a view of one of the lakes on campus, where students and others can often be seen fishing along the banks.

The paved trail offers easy access to a network of single-track trails, including the cross country trails and the University’s disc golf course. It also provides a link between campus and USI’s Broadway Recreational Complex, which includes softball fields and other multi-purpose athletic fields.

“I’m able to ride my bike from home to USI on the trail,” says Peter Whiting, serials technical services librarian and assistant librarian at USI. “I enjoy the ride. As I journey along the park trail, I see forest and farm land. Every time I ride I see all kinds of birds, an occasional rabbit, or even a stray cat. Best of all, I see other folks enjoying the trail!”



Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)



Juvenile Fowler’s Toad (*Bufo fowleri*)



Broadway Avenue



Broad-headed Skink (*Eumeces laticeps*)



Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)



A resource for the community

"I try to use the trail a few times a month, but I would love to use it even more," says Holly Hudson '04 as she tags along behind her son Brockton and two Labs Marla and Sassy. "USI's trail is a wonderful asset to our local community." A graduate of USI's Dental Hygiene Program, Holly and her husband Casey, and their two sons, Brockton and Braidyn, live on the west side of Evansville. They recently discovered the trail, just a few miles from their home. "The clean, safe, and challenging environment is a big draw for our family," Holly says. "What a great place for anyone, of any age."

Several enhancements like birdhouses, natural benches and tree, flower, and bush plantings have been made possible through projects by local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and a Shirley James Memorial was recently established to honor the late west side resident and longtime trail advocate.

Members of the local community can regularly be found walking and biking the trail. The trail, along with the new University Parkway, also connect bike riders from as far away as Evansville's north side to a series of designated bike routes along the river bottoms of Union Township.

"What a treasure!" says Sherrienne Standley, vice president emerita for Advancement at USI. "The trail is flat and easy in places and hilly and challenging in others. There's something for walkers, runners, and cyclists of all ages!"

An ongoing partnership

"USI and Burdette are a natural fit," says Steve Craig, general manager of Burdette Park. "Our beautiful park and the beautiful University campus are two west-side institutions that needed to be connected. The trail gives you an incredible look at southern Indiana's natural wooded areas."

Burdette Park has seen a recent increase in use, according to Craig. He attributes at least a portion of that increase to the USI-Burdette Trail.

Burdette Park, a 134-acre county-owned park attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year and offers a large public pool with water slides; miniature golf; batting cages; tennis, basketball and volleyball courts; softball fields; picnic areas; shelter houses; and rental chalets. The park also offers camping facilities, a BMX track, and the Discovery Lodge, a facility for hosting large gatherings, business meetings, award banquets, weddings, and other activities.

Craig says the park and USI have a long-standing relationship that dates back to both the park's and University's early days. Over the years, USI students have not only visited the park, but also spent summers working there. Craig recalls spending his own youth working at the park.

Burdette Park sponsors a day camp program, and events held at the Discovery Lodge benefit from the use of the trail. Many who camp at the park use the trail for hiking or biking. Bicycle clubs meet at the park for their outings, and individual cyclists use the park trailhead frequently.

"It's a partnership that was just meant to be," says Craig.

A National Recreation Trail

In 2008, well before its completion, the USI-Burdette Park Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne. The announcement included 24 trails in 16 states that were designated as National Recreation Trails, adding more than 1,100 miles of trails to the National Trails System. Each of the new trails received a certificate of designation and



trail markers and joined a network of more than 1,000 trails encompassing more than 12,000 miles.

"One of my priorities is to reconnect American families to nature," said Kempthorne. "The National Trails System, including these additions, provides an excellent link to the outdoors, particularly for children. National Recreation Trails exemplify partnerships and are providing a path to fitness and stewardship for Americans of all ages."

Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

American Discovery Trail

The USI-Burdette Park Trail is part of the American Discovery Trail (ADT) that meanders across the country from east to west and passes through Indiana. The ADT offers a diverse, interesting, and challenging route for hikers, bikers, and other trail users.

Points of interest along the Indiana section of the American Discovery Trail include the Hoosier National Forest, Lincoln State Park, Falls of the Ohio State Park, Scales Lake County Park, Wyandotte Caves, Angel Mounds State Historic Site, the Pigeon Creek Greenway, and Hovey Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area.

The USI campus and Burdette Park now offer a new wayside for travelers along the historic trail.



Commencement Comes Home



Mortarboards, tassels, tears of joy, and whoops of celebration were seen and heard across the University grounds, when USI Spring Commencement returned to campus for the first time since 1991.

A ceremony for graduate students kicked things off on Friday, April 27. Undergraduates participated in four ceremonies the following day; including College of Business and Division of Outreach and Engagement; College of Liberal Arts; Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education; and College of Nursing and Health Professions.

“With spring Commencement now on campus, more families experienced a memorable connection to the University at the time of great achievement for our graduates,” said President Linda L. M. Bennett.

More than 950 of the 1,400 eligible students participated in Commencement, including 16 *summa cum laude* graduates, 100 *magna cum laude* graduates, 128 *cum laude* graduates, and 51 University Honors Scholars. Participation was up by almost 10 percent over spring 2011.

Find streaming video, photos, full commencement addresses, and more at www.usi.edu/commencement.





President Emeritus H. Ray Hoops, right, and Mrs. Linda Hoops received honorary degrees during the 2012 Commencement. Each was awarded the honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Dr. Hoops, the second president of USI, served as president from 1994 to 2009 and as chancellor from 2009 to 2011. Linda Hoops was recognized for work in hospitality education. Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, assists with the doctoral hoods.



“Our work in life, if at all possible, is to make the world a slightly better place when we leave it than we found it. Our work in life is molded by our mission, vision, and values. To simply state: To give love; To learn; To help the growth of people closest to us, and make amends with those we have wronged.”

— Dr. Sheila Hauck, M'97 D'11
Commencement speaker, graduate students

“You must take full ownership of your life and the choices you make. The minute you walk out that door this morning, you are fully responsible for your life—where you go, what you do, and how you act.”

— Valerie A. McKinney, M'05
Commencement speaker, College of Business and Division of Outreach and Engagement

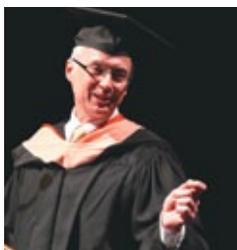
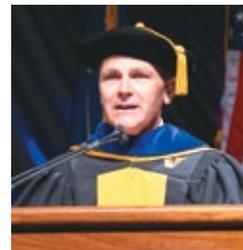


“Be generous, and define generosity broadly. Give your time, your unexpected small gestures of encouragement, your applause, your smiles. Become known for being generous of spirit.”

— Joycelyn Winnecke, '82
Commencement speaker, College of Liberal Arts

“We need talented scientists and educators who can engage members of society in an understandable and meaningful dialogue about the issues that confront our species, our planet, and our ideals. You can and should be part of this dialogue.”

— Dr. Joey Barnett, '81
Commencement speaker, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education



“Choose to make a difference in someone’s life by giving back! Do you want a job or a profession? You can chase the money, move from one job to another, and most likely never be truly happy. Or, you can have a profession that you ‘wouldn’t change for a second.’ It’s your choice. One person can make a difference. I hope you choose to be that person.”

— J. Wayne Meriwether, M'08
Commencement speaker, College of Nursing and Health Professions

Eagles complete incredible run to conference crown

Men's basketball wins GLVC Tourney

The men's basketball team won the Great Lakes Valley Conference crown, capping off the 2012 season with their third conference tournament championship in seven years.

The Eagles entered the GLVC Tournament losing their last two games of the season and forcing a preliminary game to earn a spot in the quarterfinals. USI hosted a first round game with a scrappy Maryville University team that tested them at home. However, the Eagles were able to pull off a 68-51 win.

The tournament heated up as the 13th-ranked Eagles traveled to Springfield, Illinois, for the quarterfinals. They squeaked by the 20th-ranked University of Indianapolis Greyhounds with a 78-60 win. Then came top-seeded and number one-ranked Bellarmine University. USI led by seven at halftime, and defeated

the Knights by a narrow margin of 71-68. The win marked the second time the Eagles knocked off the top-ranked



The USI men's basketball team celebrates after winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference crown in March.

team in the country in a three-week period.

The championship game against Northern Kentucky University would go down as one of the classics in the history of USI basketball. The 10th-ranked

Norse jumped out to an 11-point lead in the opening minutes and held onto a 10-point lead at halftime. The Eagles, in the second half, tied the game on a 12-2 run. They clinched a victory with a string of free throws in the closing minutes.

Isaac McClure was named the GLVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, scoring a game-high 20 points in the championship and averaging 17.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game in the previous four contests. The Eagles also saw outstanding play from Brandon Hogg, Lawrence Thomas, and Austin Davis, who all posted double digits during the tournament.

USI finished its season 24-7 after appearing in the NCAA Division II Tournament for the 23rd time. The Screaming Eagles were the GLVC champions in 2005 and in 2007.

Hoops star inducted into GLVC Hall of Fame

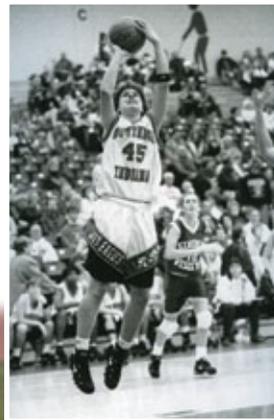


was one of five athletes inducted at the Enterprise Rent-a-Car/GLVC Spring Awards Banquet.

USI women's hoops star Eileen Weber '98 stepped into the annals of sports history May 22, when she was inducted into the Great Lakes Valley Conference Hall of Fame. She

Weber was inducted into the USI Hall of Fame in 2009, and helped lead the Screaming Eagles to a 100-16 overall mark during her four-year career. She remains the only USI women's basketball player to play on four NCAA Division II tournament teams.

She earned GLVC Player of the Year accolades in 1998 and capped her career off as a second-team Kodak/WBCA



All-American. She was the USI women's basketball team's only four-time All-GLVC honoree.

Weber finished her career ranked second all-time at USI in points scored (1,847) and rebounds (842). She was the 1995 GLVC Newcomer of the Year, a member of USI's 1997 NCAA II Tournament finalist squad, and the 1998 recipient of the Richard F. Scharf Paragon Award that honors the GLVC's best in academic excellence, athletic ability, achievement, character, and leadership.

Top Screaming Eagles



Athletic director Jon Mark Hall, center, poses with USI top athletes, from left, Danielle LaGrange, Susan Ellsperman, Dustin Emerick, and Brendan Devine.

Senior Dustin Emerick (men's cross country/track and field) and senior Danielle LaGrange (volleyball) were recognized as the top student athletes for 2011-12.

The Old National Bank/USI Male Student Athlete of the Year, Emerick is a four-time All-American after earning All-America honors on the track the last two years. He is a 12-time All-Great

Lakes Valley Conference honoree in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track, and is a seven-time All-Region performer in cross country and outdoor track. Emerick was named the Midwest Region Athlete of the Year for the second straight season in May and captured three

GLVC titles on the track in 2012.

The Old National Bank/USI Female Student Athlete of the Year for the second straight year, LaGrange earned second-team All-America honors, first-team All-Region honors, and was the GLVC Player of the Year in 2011. She led her team to the NCAA Division II Tournament for the second straight year and was the AVCA

National Player of the Week during the regular season.

Eagle Pride

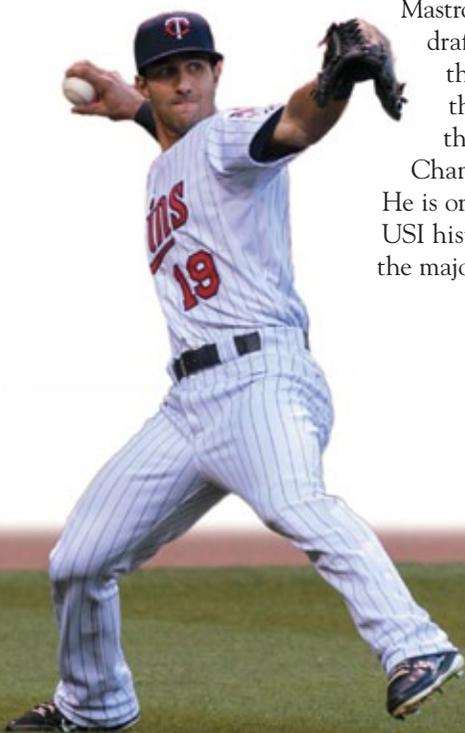
Senior Brendan Devine (men's cross country/track and field), and junior Susan Ellsperman (women's soccer) were named the male and female recipients of the Old National Bank/USI Screaming Eagles Pride Award. The award winners are voted on each year by the Athletic Department staff.

Honored for student support

Dr. Laci Rogers, instructor in the College of Business, was presented the Dr. Jane Davis-Brezette Award. The award is presented to a USI faculty member who has contributed to the success of USI athletics by mentoring student athletes and helping them achieve their goals in the classroom and beyond.

Making the Show

Former USI All-American and NCAA Division II Midwest Region Player of the Year Darin Mastroianni was called up to the Minnesota Twins on May 10 and got his first major league hit and RBI on May 11 against the Toronto Blue Jays.



Mastroianni, who was originally drafted by the Blue Jays, led the Screaming Eagles to their first appearance in the NCAA Division II Championship Series in 2007. He is only the third player in USI history to be called up to the majors.

Strikeout scores a Big Win



History was made on April 21 when the USI softball team hosted the University of Wisconsin-Parkside for the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association (NFCA) Strikeout Cancer initiative. Head Coach Sue Kunkle, right, became the first coach in any USI sport to reach 300 career wins when the Screaming Eagles rallied for a 5-4 victory in the second game of the GLVC doubleheader. The Strikeout Cancer program unites the NFCA and the American Cancer Society to help raise funds and awareness to fight cancer.

Alumni Council 2012-2013

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Deb C. Schmuck

Senior Administrative Assistant

2012

Alumni



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 26

USI Eagle Hour, 5-7 p.m., Traditions Lounge, University Center East

August 10

Indianapolis Chapter Golf Scramble, Noon, Eagle Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis, IN

September 11

Alumni Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m., UC2206

September 14

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

September 18

USI Founder's Day Celebration, location TBD

October TBD

Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Gathering, 7 p.m., location TBD

October 16

Nursing Alumni Society Annual Dinner, 5:30 p.m., USI Carter Hall

October 25

USI Eagle Hour, 5-7 p.m., location TBD

October 27-28

Parents & Families Weekend

November 4

USI Day with the Colts, 1 p.m., Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis

November 13

Alumni Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m., UC2206

All alumni are invited to attend these events.

1980s

Mike Head '80, finance, president and chief executive officer of First Federal Savings Bank in Evansville, has been appointed a member of Indiana Bankers Association board of directors.

Nancy Briggs '81, accounting, has taken the position of vice president/employee benefits officer at First Financial Bank in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Michael Elpers '81, electrical engineering technology, was promoted to discipline and technical lead for the controls and automation design division at Professional Consultants, Inc., in Evansville.

John Key '82, finance, has assumed the presidency of Commonwealth Bank & Trust Company in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mark Gerst '83, business administration, has been appointed senior vice president of Hilliard Lyons in Evansville.

1990s

Brian Cherry '91, political science, was appointed assistant provost for Graduate Education and Research at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan.

Heather Orth '91, nursing, has been appointed director of accountable care for Deaconess Clinic in Evansville.

Angela Sanders Wannemuehler '91, elementary education, '98, Master in Education, is assistant director of special education at Posey County Special Services in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

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

Elizabeth Grimm Beck '95, biophysics/geology, has been promoted to manager of federal government affairs for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Heather Tripp Morse '95, communications, is a director of administrative services at Ferrell Hospital in Eldorado, Illinois.

Out of Africa

Kidwell returns from three years with Peace Corps

Audrey Kidwell '08, of Franklin, Indiana, recently completed three years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. The 26-year-old political science and international studies graduate served in Nakaba and Nobene, Burkina Faso, as a community health Peace Corps volunteer. Her work involved teaching children about basic hygiene such as washing hands, working with mothers to address malnutrition, and organizing a weekly girl's camp and summer soccer tournament.

"During my initial two-year service, I lived on the hospital grounds, where I taught health education to school-aged children," Kidwell explained. "I had great success with my girls group too. They were really motivated, and when I moved to a new location my third year, the girls continued meetings on their own and were recognized by the village community as an official organization. Everywhere, I felt a sense of community that made me really love West Africa," she said.

Kidwell credits her time at USI with preparing and further inspiring her for international service. "During my freshman year at USI, I lived in an international living learning community (LLC), with both American and international students, and I joined the International Club," she noted. "These early experiences got me excited to learn about new cultures." She later added international studies as a major and studied French in Canada through USI's study abroad program.

Kidwell knows that through Peace Corps she has made a difference. "I can't say I changed a whole community, but knowing I helped even one person is worth it."

After taking some time to re-adjust to life back in the United States, she intends to pursue a master's degree in education.





Relationships top goal for new alumni director

A campaign under way to illustrate USI growth emphasizes its nearly 32,000 member alumni base. “32,000 alumni is a dynamic number,” said Janet Johnson M’05, the new director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. “It gives a reference to how USI is evolving into a global grid of graduates.”

As Janet congratulated graduates during the 2012 Commencement ceremony, she gave each one a pin signifying USI alumni membership. “The energy and enthusiasm of the new graduates and their families is catching,” Janet said. “I never grow tired of the ceremony, and it was a wonderful feeling to know that I was able to personally greet those who participated.”

In response, graduates showered her with hugs, smiles, and many thank yous. It’s all part of the new role Janet

assumed when she was named the director, upon the retirement of Nancy Johnson ’83, M’95 who served for 28 years in that post.

New face; same last name

With both directors having the identical last name, some transition moments were comical. “I was constantly being confused with Nancy,” Janet said. “The day of Nancy’s retirement reception, I was returning to my office and someone congratulated me on my retirement, thinking I was Nancy.

“We’ve been listed in close proximity on the University’s email list, so Nancy and I are used to forwarding emails to each other that were meant for the other. We’ve managed the Johnson name confusion before the job succession.”

Coming from Career Services

Before she became the director of Alumni and Volunteer Services, Janet was the USI assistant director of the Office of Career Services and Placement. The job skills in each position often parallel. Good communication and relationship building are key to helping students meet career goals and develop and implement effective job search strategies. She uses those same skills when communicating with alumni.

Janet completed the Master of Public Administration degree at USI. Her diploma hangs on a wall in her office. The frame, a farewell gift from the staff in the Office of Career Services and Placement, is vivid red and blue to compliment the parchment. “The staff told me they knew I’d want to hang my degree in the new office,” she said. “It is symbolic of my time as a



USI Family

Janet Johnson, center in white, poses with her family in front of the University Center on campus. From left are Brittney Johnson '08, daughter-in-law; Matthew Johnson '09, son; Ginger Johnson, daughter-in-law; Aaron Johnson, son; Eli McFadin, grandson; Karl Johnson, husband; Addaleigh McFadin, granddaughter; Mary Johnson '12, daughter; Blake McFadin, grandson; Matthew McFadin, son-in-law; Andrea McFadin, daughter; and Emily McFadin, granddaughter.

student investing in my growth and gaining a broader view of the world.” Janet and her husband Karl are residents of Posey County and three family members are USI graduates, daughter Mary '12, son Matthew '09, and daughter-in-law Brittney '08.

Family values

Family values are important to Janet. She thinks of USI as a community of family and friends working together and striving to collaborate and build partnerships. Her dreams are to build stronger relationships with alumni, increase alumni numbers, and partner with alumni in a variety of ways to make a difference in southwest Indiana, throughout Indiana, and across the country and the world.

Volunteers make it happen

Volunteer Services is another arm of the office and just one year ago vol-

unteers recorded one million hours of service to USI. “Volunteers like being on campus and experiencing the friendliness of students, faculty, and staff,” she said.

Volunteers help with Spruce Up, the yearly spring campus cleaning; take tickets at athletic events and theatre events, tutor in Academic Skills, assist with clerical duties during large mailings or other projects, and help in regional communities when called upon.

Seeking alumni input

The year 2015 is on Janet’s radar. That’s the year USI will celebrate its 50th anniversary. “Alumni will play a role in planning ways to observe this important time in our history,” she said. “I’m asking alumni to send in ideas of ways to mark this moment in time. I’m eager to find out ways alumni want to remember USI history.”

“When meeting with alumni, I like

to alter the John F. Kennedy ‘Ask not what your country’ quote and say, ‘Ask not what your University can do for you, ask what you can do for USI.’ Alumni can support the University’s growth in enrollment, academic programs, facilities, and overall reputation. I ask them to remember what was so special about USI during their college career, and ask them to emulate that spirit as they tell their USI story.”

Celebrating USI’s 50th anniversary

Send us your ideas for best ways alumni can celebrate the 50th anniversary of USI in 2015. Think of social media, web, and events you’d support. Email jjohnson@usi.edu or call 812/464-1924.

At home in the classroom

Chad Hartmann '95 receives Peabody Award

Veteran mathematics teacher Chad Hartmann has a passion for his vocation and a passion for math. The Helfrich Park STEM Academy teacher is all energy as he moves from one student to the next during an early-morning tutoring session in the school's cafeteria. The volunteer time he spends helping students each morning is a testament to the drive and passion that earned him the Peabody Outstanding Leader in Education Award in January.

The award was one of only 36 earned by educators in Indiana and Southern Illinois this year and came as a complete surprise to a modest Hartmann. He was nominated by the school's principal, Tim McIntosh, and presented with the award at a surprise assembly. "The recognition for me and the school was just outstanding," he says.

Hartmann began his career as a student teacher at Helfrich Park. He has been a teacher there for all of his 16-year

career and in the same classroom for 15 of those years. From his classroom, to morning and after-school tutoring, to just about any time, he is accessible to his students. "The kids have my home phone number," he says. "A lot of kids will call me at home and get help with homework. Sometimes having that access to a teacher is half the battle."

He credits USI with preparing him for his career. A high school valedictorian and USI Presidential Scholarship recipient, he earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1995, and a master's degree in 2000. "I can't speak highly enough about USI," he says. He also taught night classes and summer courses as an adjunct instructor at USI for 10 years. When his own family expanded, he gave up that role to spend more time at home.

Now Hartmann sees his own students forming early bonds with USI through a partnership between his school and the University. Helfrich Park regularly brings teams of students to the USI campus for science field trips. "It's a unique experience for our kids," he says.

The collaboration is ongoing and by the time a student reaches eighth grade, they may have visited the USI campus as many as six to eight times. "It's nice for the kids to see a college campus, interact with students there, and maybe even meet a college professor."

A native of Boonville, Hartmann always wanted to keep his roots close to home. "USI kept me here on the West Side," says Hartmann. "One of the great things about USI is that a lot of times people find work here in the area. That's what happened for me. I would love to retire here. I've had other opportunities, but I just can't imagine doing anything other than this."



Stephanie Wuchner Buchanan '97, business administration/German, is carrier relations manager for Education Networks of America in Evansville.

Mindy Martin Perkins '97, psychology, '01, Master in Social Work, is the owner and clinical social worker at Soul Serenity Counseling LLC in Evansville.

Joseph Vidmar '97, business administration, '04, Master in Industrial Management, was named general manager at Alcoa Architectural Products North America in Eastman, Georgia.

John Farless '98, communications, has taken the position of senior writer at USI in News and Information Services.

Krista Perkins Decker '98, business administration, has been promoted to vice president of development at Youth Resources of Southwestern Indiana in Evansville.

Jake Fulcher '99, political science, was chosen for inclusion in the Indiana Super Lawyers 2012.

Christina Knackmus Gehring '99, nursing, '02, Master in Nursing, has joined St. Mary's West Side Connection as a nurse practitioner in Evansville.

Elexica Finch McAlister '99, communications, a recruiting administrator for Energy Systems Group in Newburgh, Indiana has achieved certification as a Professional in Human Resources.

Nikki Barton McLaughlin '99, business administration, has taken the position of referral manager for Medco Center of Henderson in Henderson, Kentucky.

2000s

Keith Barnett '00, civil engineering technology, is president and chief executive officer at Information Technology Architects in Evansville.

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

Brian Gibbons '00, psychology, has taken the position of risk management analyst with the Indiana Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Meghann Mace Jeffries '00, communications, '09, Master in Social Work, has joined Southwestern Healthcare Systems in Evansville as a coordinator of addiction services.

Lori Barth Powell '00, social work, is a regional foster care specialist for the Indiana Department of Child Services in Evansville.

Jean Cunningham Blanton '01, political science/public relations and advertising, an attorney at Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders, LLP in Evansville, was recognized as a "Rising Star" among Indiana attorneys and chosen for inclusion in the Indiana Super Lawyers for 2012. It is the fourth year in a row that she has been recognized.

Deena Glasco Bodine '01, psychology, '04, Master of Social Work, has taken the position of outpatient therapist for Southwestern Healthcare Systems in Evansville.

Aaron Beatty '02, electrical engineering technology, was promoted to assistant director of electrical power systems at Professional Consultants, Inc., in Evansville.

Jennifer Gamache '02, biology, '05, nursing, '09, Master in Nursing, has taken the position of acute nurse care practitioner at Urological Associates in Evansville.

Brock Haas '02, accounting, '05, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to director of financial planning at Peabody Energy Corporation - Midwest and Colorado Operating Regions in Evansville.

Adam Long '02, political science, is an attorney with Long & Mathies Law Firm PC in Boonville, Indiana. He is the current president of the Warrick County Bar Association.

Andy Miles '02, business administration, has been promoted to assistant vice president, branch relationship banker, branch manager for First Federal Bank in Newburgh, Indiana.

Cheryl Richey '02, post-baccalaureate certificate in accountancy, a certified public accountant, has been named director of financial services at St. Mary's Warrick Hospital in Boonville, Indiana.

Natalie Febuary Andrews '03, accounting, was promoted to manager at BKD, LLC in Evansville.

Jim Back '03, public relations and advertising, an Edward Jones advisor in Evansville, has received the firm's Field Trainer Award for his efforts in voluntarily training new financial advisors.

Jonathan Bothel '03, mathematics, is a combat systems officer currently stationed at the Naval Shipyard Avondale in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Chris Claybrooks '03, electrical engineering technology, has been promoted to operation manager, Southwest Division for Vectren Energy Delivery in Evansville.

Jennifer Galloway '03, accounting, has joined the Tennessee Valley Authority as a business financial analyst in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Stephanie Gerhardt '03, elementary education, has joined FC Tucker Realtors as an agent in Newburgh, Indiana.

Emily Belcher Hurless '03, public relations and advertising, has been promoted to senior coordinator of marketing and internal communications by the St. Mary's Health System in Evansville.

Christina Mayes '03, English, has completed studies in Instructional Systems Technology (with emphasis on workplace learning and performance improvement) and earned a Master of Science in Education from Indiana University on December 17, 2011. She is a technical training supervisor at Vectren Power Supply in Evansville.

Holly Horne Smith '03, marketing, has been promoted to senior account executive at Ten Adams in Evansville.

Eric Browning '04, nursing, is a registered nurse at Interventional Pain Specialist of Bowling Green in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Marc Schiele '04, marketing, was sworn in as a new firefighter at Evansville Fire Department.

Mark Ambrose '05, accounting and professional services, has joined HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville as controller.

Curt Begle '05, Master of Business Administration, is president of Berry Plastics' Rigid Closed Top Division in Evansville.

Lucas Chamberlain '05, marketing, is a financial advisor/college unit director for Northwestern Mutual in Evansville.

Sid Dill '05, accounting and professional services/finance, was promoted to manager at BKD, LLC in Evansville.

Kyle Dodd '05, marketing, has been promoted to senior vice president, manager commercial lending at First Federal Savings Bank in Evansville.

Mark Gleim '05, finance, '07, Master of Business Administration, has joined The University of Toledo as an assistant professor of marketing in Toledo, Ohio.

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

Michael Halling '05, sociology, has been named the disability resource center coordinator for Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Ageing in Evansville.

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

Kara Fitzgerald McCandless '05, German, has joined Lender Processing Service as a customer service/escrow consultant in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ardon Smith '05, accounting and professional services, has been promoted to manager of external reporting and accounting research for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Brian Marvell '06, nursing, has been promoted to director of the intensive care unit at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

Erin Smith '06, management, was appointed director of games at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari in Santa Claus, Indiana.

Leslie Kerney Whitney '06, accounting and professional services, has taken the position of manager of home center channel finance at MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc., in Jasper, Indiana.

Nick Capps-Henke '07, social work, '08, Master of Social Work, has taken the position of park ranger with the National Park Service in Whiskeytown National Park Area in California.

Mallory Minor '07, marketing, has joined AXIOM as an assistant media buyer supporting the execution and management of company's media accounts in Evansville.

Meghan McReynolds '07, art, a jewelry designer for Brinker's Jewelers, has completed studies with the Gemological Institute of America and is now a GIA graduate gemologist and an accredited jewelry professional.

Kara Marcum Sergesketter '07, exercise science, has joined ERA First Advantage Realty in Evansville as a sales associate.

Adam Brock '08, management, was sworn in as a new firefighter at Evansville Fire Department.

Andrea Capps-Henke '08, history, has taken the position of interpretive specialist at Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California.

Caleb Hughes '08, finance, is a financial advisor at Old National Investments in Evansville.

Brittaney Oeth Johnson '08, marketing, has taken the position of administrative director at the Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana, Posey County Office in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Matthew Nichols '08, business administration, is an account manager at Nichols Electric Supply in Evansville.

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

Kristina Pelly '08, political science, is the owner of a Wine and Canvas franchise in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Curtis Brown '09, marketing, was sworn in as a new firefighter at Evansville Fire Department.

Geena Rollins Denning '09, accounting and professional service, has joined Sanders Accounting as a provider of tax and accounting services to small businesses and individuals in Evansville.

2010s

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

Sarah Harlan '10, radio and television, has been named the publications and events coordinator in the Development Office at USI.

Kelly Monroe '10, journalism, has taken the position of sports reporter for the Vincennes Sun-Commercial in Vincennes, Indiana.

Ali Raben '10, marketing, has joined Hager Associates as a marketing assistant in Evansville.

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

Amanda Richardson Bishop '11, health services, management, has been promoted to corporate human resources specialist at United Companies in Evansville.

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

Jessica Harper '11, nursing, is a registered nurse at Deaconess Heart Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana.

Kenneth Schnautz '11, engineering, has joined Matrix Design Group, LLC in Newburgh, Indiana.

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

Marriages

Jeffrey Doyle '94, social science education, and Sally Andis, September 10, 2011

William Nadeau '96, art, and Rachel Rawlinson '94, communications, September 17, 2011

Nancy Dauby '99, elementary education, '07, Master of Public Administration, and Heath Meyer, April 14, 2012

Laryn Adams '04, biology, and Wade White, March 26, 2011

Erika Qualls '04, history, and Nick Barnett, April 21, 2012

Amanda Diehl '05, business administration, and Joseph Borgia, October 8, 2011

Julie Mehringer '08, marketing/public relations and advertising, and **Dustin Cline '08**, public relations and advertising, July 16, 2011

Jennifer Simpson '09, business administration, and Stephen Aliotta, May 9, 2011

Brittani Johnson '10, marketing, and **Travis Cohee '10**, business administration, October 8, 2011

Kiersten Deig '10, accounting and professional services, and **Scott Roberts '09**, accounting and professional services/finance, June 25, 2011

Emily Weinzapfel '10, health services, and Riley Moore, July 16, 2011

Births and Adoptions

Chace Striby Henn '99, health services, and Luke welcomed Emerson Caroline, April 9, 2012

Brian Pauley '00, chemistry/mathematics, and Tracie welcomed Aiden Micah, April 16, 2012

Jamie Roberts Bourne '01, business administration, and **Erik Bourne '01**, computer information systems, welcomed Abbey Nikole, October 18, 2011

Tiffany Brink Rittichier '01, elementary education, and John welcomed Calvin Alexander, April 10, 2012

Lisa Taylor Butcher '03, elementary education, and Andy welcomed Brayden Riley, December 30, 2011

Hillerie Welch Kandul '04, public relations and advertising, and John welcomed Hudson Eli, November 11, 2011

Cindy Gebhard Mulzer '04, nursing, and Brett welcomed Molly Nicole, October 29, 2011

Luke Smith '05, finance, and Jennifer welcomed Carson Denver, January 4, 2012

Rober Vermillion III '05, business administration, and Mallory welcomed Daynica Lynne, December 9, 2011

Erin Pollard Warnken '05, occupational therapy, '06, Master in Occupational Therapy, and John welcomed Harper Ruth, December 8, 2011

Johnson credits USI for fellowship



Jamie L. Johnson '09, a former USI student trustee and chemistry graduate, was awarded the John Edwards Fellowship at Indiana University, where she attends medical school.

The John H. Edwards Trust Fund provides income for four to five fellowships of approximately \$20,000 each for graduate students at IU. The Fellowship is one of the University's most prestigious academic awards. The Fellowship is awarded on the basis of good citizenship, character, scholastic ability, and intellectual capacity.

"I feel very indebted to the donor who made this Fellowship possible as well as to my family and my teachers who have pushed me to be successful in academics while at the same time encouraging me to pursue my interests outside of medicine," said Johnson.

"My first real experiences in volunteering and leadership positions were at USI"

"I can't emphasize enough the extent to which my experiences at USI prepared me for my studies in medical school and to be eligible for the John Edwards Fellowship. During the first two years of medical school, there were many instances in my basic science classes in which I felt an advantage having such a strong science background, thanks to my chemistry and biology professors."

In addition to academic achievements, the John Edwards Fellowship is awarded to candidates based on their contributions to the community. "My first real experiences in volunteering and leadership positions were at USI," said Johnson. "My experiences influenced my desire to stay involved in volunteer and leadership opportunities."

While at USI, Johnson was the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including the President's Medal, National Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, USI All-Campus Student Achievement Award, and the Vice President for Student Affairs Top Student Leaders Award. At IU, she has been the recipient of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Society, Indiana University School of Medicine EB Rinker Medical Scholarship, and the Indiana University School of Medicine Dean's Council four-year scholarship. She served as a USI trustee from 2007 to 2009.

Johnson plans to pursue a residency program in dermatology with the end goal of a fellowship in pediatric dermatology.

Alumnus brings jobs to Evansville

After working for PricewaterhouseCoopers and then Mead Johnson, Kyle Fields '06 recently accepted an offer to serve as Indiana general manager and open an Evansville office for SS&C Technologies, a global investment and financial services provider. The Evansville office is SS&C's 27th worldwide location.

In early 2011, the company settled into downtown's Innovation Pointe, a business incubator where USI is the educational partner. Currently SS&C has 32 employees, 17 of whom, including Kyle, are USI grads. The company has plans to grow to 500 employees by 2014.

"Having USI and other high-quality colleges and universities in the region was a significant factor in deciding to open the Evansville office," Fields said. "We believe we can recruit and retain world-class talent, and we have a good relationship with the city and the state. These factors amongst others made Evansville a very attractive location and fit for us."

An Evansville native, Fields found his calling in accounting, graduating with a degree in accounting and professional services. "USI's accounting program was robust and job placements were high," he says. "The University's Career Services staff helped place me in internships, both local and in Indianapolis with PricewaterhouseCoopers, where I later went on to work. Overall, the University and the College of Business were a great experience and gave me a strong foundation for my career."



Kyle Fields was named to the 2011 Courier & Press group of "20 Under 40," young leaders and achievers in the region, which included eight USI graduates and one current graduate student.

James Logsdon, Jr. '06, public relations and advertising, and Heather welcomed Liam James, January 16, 2012

Peace Farless '08, sociology, and Brooklyn welcomed Patience Clara Aili, February 20, 2012

Jennifer Bretz '09, visual art, welcomed Lula June, December 12, 2011

In Memoriam

Robert Altstadt '73, marketing, of Evansville, died February 9, 2012. He was a self-employed contractor and owner of Altstadt Construction.

Donald Cargill '73, art, of Evansville, died April 2, 2012. He was a gifted artist, animal lover, sports enthusiast, and a collector.

Larry Woodward '73, elementary education, of Evansville, died May 15, 2012. He was retired from the Bank of Evansville.

Jerry Igleheart '75, history, of Pasadena, Texas, died January 23, 2012. He was a professor at San Jacinto College for 13 years.

Robert Ransom '75, psychology, of Evansville, died February 19, 2012. He enjoyed hiking at Audubon Park, especially in the spring and fall.

Daniel Riordan '76, psychology, of Evansville, died February 5, 2012. He was an Army veteran, a member of the VFW, and a member of Germania Maennerchor in Evansville.

Gary Jackson '78, communication, of Newburgh, Indiana, died February 26, 2012. He worked in management for 35 year. Gary was a musician at heart and lived his life through music and words.

Clyde Grace '79, management, of Evansville, died February 21, 2012. He was employed at Whirlpool in Evansville. Clyde was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the US Army.

Debra Hodges '80, business administration, of Evansville, died December 26, 2011. She was employed for 18 years as safety manager for Action Temporary Service, Inc., in Evansville.

John Bieker '83, political science, of Jasper, Indiana, died April 23, 2012.

Debra Hoff '90, nursing, of Newburgh, Indiana, died February 21, 2012. She was a nurse at Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville.

Karen Williams '93, accounting/business administration, of Ridgway, Illinois, died May 8, 2012.

Sandra Gray Kitchell '94, occupational therapy, of Indianapolis, Indiana, died May 12, 2012. She was an occupational therapist.

Toni Hart '95, health services, of Evansville, died February 15, 2012. She was an instructor at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

Ronald Helmer '98, business, of Evansville, died February 4, 2012. He worked in sales.

David Marion '01, social science teaching, of Evansville, died February 6, 2012.

John Swaney '03, psychology, '06, Master of Social Work, of Tell City, Indiana, died March 28, 2012. He was an accomplished musician.

John Poyner '05, business administration, of Hanover, Indiana, died March 2, 2012. He was a manager at Sherwin Williams in Evansville.

Megan Zachary '05, elementary education, of Charlotte, North Carolina, died January 21, 2012. She was a teacher at Mecklenburg Community School and the Sylvan Learning Center.

Carly Mangas '08, English, of Union City, Indiana, died April 14, 2012. She had been a substitute teacher at Richmond High School and enjoyed working in the Life Skills classroom.

Chandler takes top alumni role

Mark Chandler of Evansville has been named chair of USI's Alumni Council. He will serve a one-year term overseeing the management of the USI Alumni Association. The chair also serves as vice chair for alumni on the USI Foundation Board of Directors and represents alumni at public events.

Chandler is assistant vice president, trust administrator with Old National Trust Company. He previously held positions with Old National including senior internal auditor and assistant banking center manager. He holds the professional designations of certified internal auditor, certified fiduciary and investment risk specialist, and certified financial services auditor.

Chandler is a 2001 graduate of the USI, where he majored in business administration. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Kappa Psi fraternities.

He serves as a director of the USI Foundation, volunteers with USI's College of Business, and is treasurer of Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association. He also is active in St. Benedict Cathedral Church.

He and his wife Renee have two children, Andrew, 5, and Mallory, 1.



Chandler

Brandon Whobrey '09 earns Navy recruiting honor

Navy Counselor Petty Officer First Class Brandon Whobrey '09 was awarded the Navy's prestigious Enlisted Recruiter of the Year Award. The award recognizes accomplished and successful Navy recruiters across the country.

"The decision I made to join the Navy has undoubtedly been the most impactful and life-changing decision I've ever made," said Whobrey. The Navy helped him complete a degree in marketing from USI.



Whobrey

As a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity at USI, Whobrey participated in fundraising events to support children with medical needs. Since joining the Navy, he continues to volunteer with organizations such as the Easter Seals, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the YMCA, and Special

Olympics. He was recently awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, recognizing military personnel who perform substantial volunteer service to the local community above and beyond duties required.

Faculty/staff In Memoriam

Patricia “Patty” Aakhus, associate professor of English, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, program director of International Studies, and wife of Michael Aakhus, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, died May 16, 2012. Aakhus taught at USI for 30 years and, in recent years, taught large sections of introductory courses in international studies, classical and world mythologies, and the history of magic. In addition, she organized and led annual, campus-wide colloquia focusing on a variety of topics. She regularly advised international studies undergraduates and helped arrange for study abroad trips. She published three novels based on epic poems she translated from Old Irish; *The Voyage of Duin’s Curragh*, *Daughter of the Boyne*, and *The Sorrows of Tara*. She was the recipient of the Scavone Award in Medieval Studies for her libretto based on her own translation of Chretien de Troyes’s Old French poem *The Knight and the Lion*. Until her death, she continued to work on a new novel and a study of iconography in Italian and Sicilian churches. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to the International Studies Travel Fund for students through the USI Foundation.

Alumni Receive Achievement Award

The Commencement ceremonies were not the only homecoming story of the weekend. Speakers at each ceremony were USI alumni who have excelled in their professional lives. They came from Chicago; Evansville, Indiana; Henderson, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and Princeton, New Jersey.

Dr. Sheila Hauck, M’97 D’11, Valerie A. McKinney, M’05, Joycelyn Winnecke, ’82, Dr. Joey Barnett, ’81, and J. Wayne Meriwether, M’08, each received the David L. Rice Alumni Achievement Award in recognition of their positive impact on the region.

The award, a crystal soaring eagle representing the University mascot, personifies the vision held by USI’s first president, Dr. David L. Rice, of the potential of graduates from the University of Southern Indiana. “We celebrate our alumni and are pleased to have alumni representatives address our graduates,” said President Linda L. M. Bennett. “They’re resounding models for our 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 (Alumni and Volunteer Services Office, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712), phone (812/464-1924), FAX (812/464-1956), or email (alumni@usi.edu).



Stay connected

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

Looking forward to the University's 50th Anniversary

The University of Southern Indiana will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015. In anticipation of that milestone, *USI Magazine* takes a look back at some of the events, people, and experiences from years past. Watch for this Revisit USI column in every issue.

Looking back on a graduation tradition

The last commencement was held on USI campus in 1991



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

The 1991 Commencement was held May 11 in the Physical Activities Center (PAC) at USI. President David L. Rice presided at the ceremony. Frank L. Stanonis, then dean of the School of Science and Engineering Technology, served as Grand Marshal. Graduates heard a Commencement address given by John J. Pruis, an educator and business executive who helped guide the University's establishment and served on USI's first Board of Trustees. Honorary degrees were awarded to Pruis; Rev. W.R. Brown, Sr., pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Evansville; and Judith A. O'Bannon, of Indianapolis, co-chair of Historic Southern Indiana Advisory Committee and president of the Indiana Main Street Council. Dr. Marlene V. Shaw, professor of biology, was named the Distinguished Professor and Brad A. Schepers, engineering, of Celestine, Indiana, received the President's Medal.

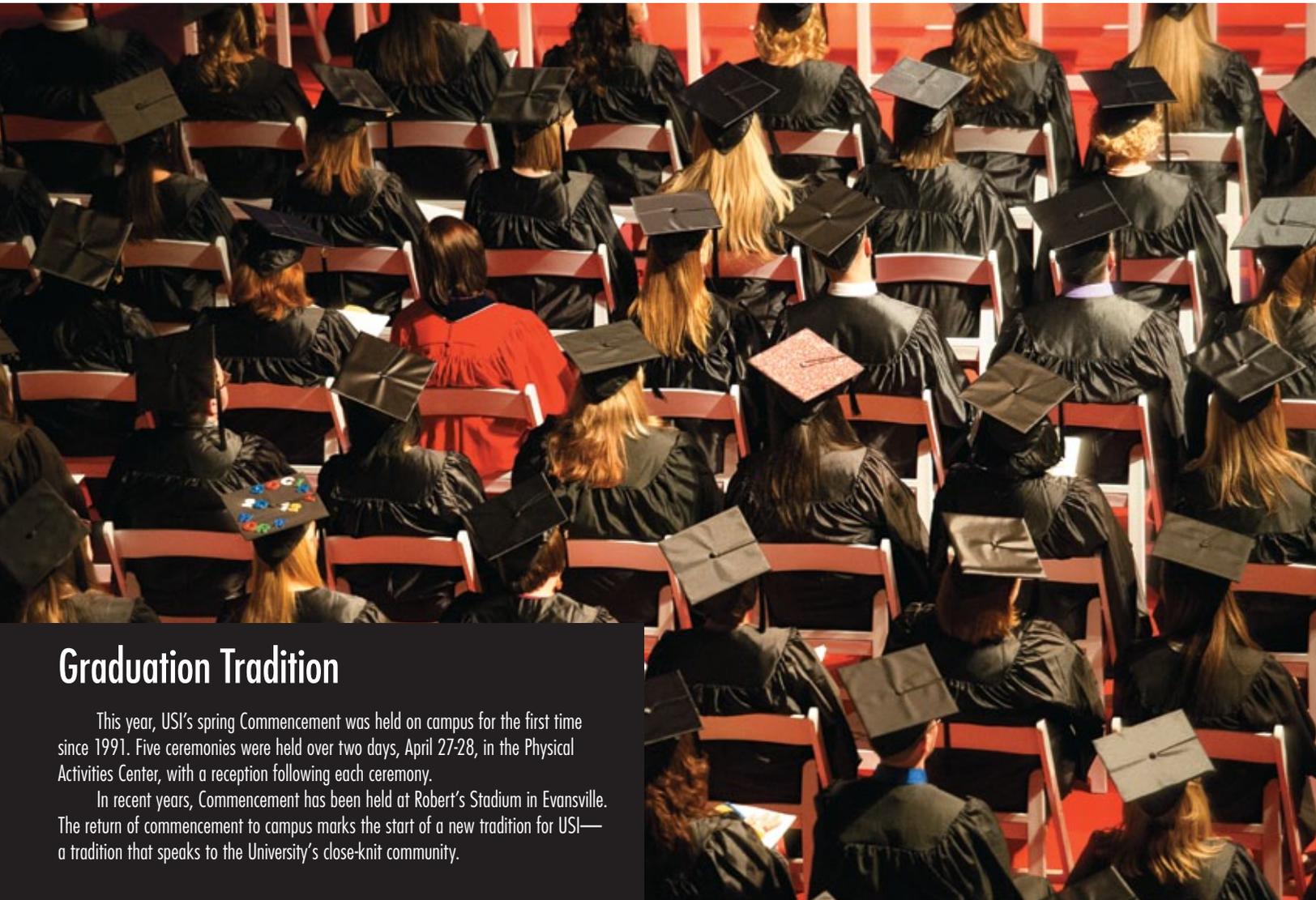


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Graduation Tradition

This year, USI's spring Commencement was held on campus for the first time since 1991. Five ceremonies were held over two days, April 27-28, in the Physical Activities Center, with a reception following each ceremony.

In recent years, Commencement has been held at Robert's Stadium in Evansville. The return of commencement to campus marks the start of a new tradition for USI—a tradition that speaks to the University's close-knit community.