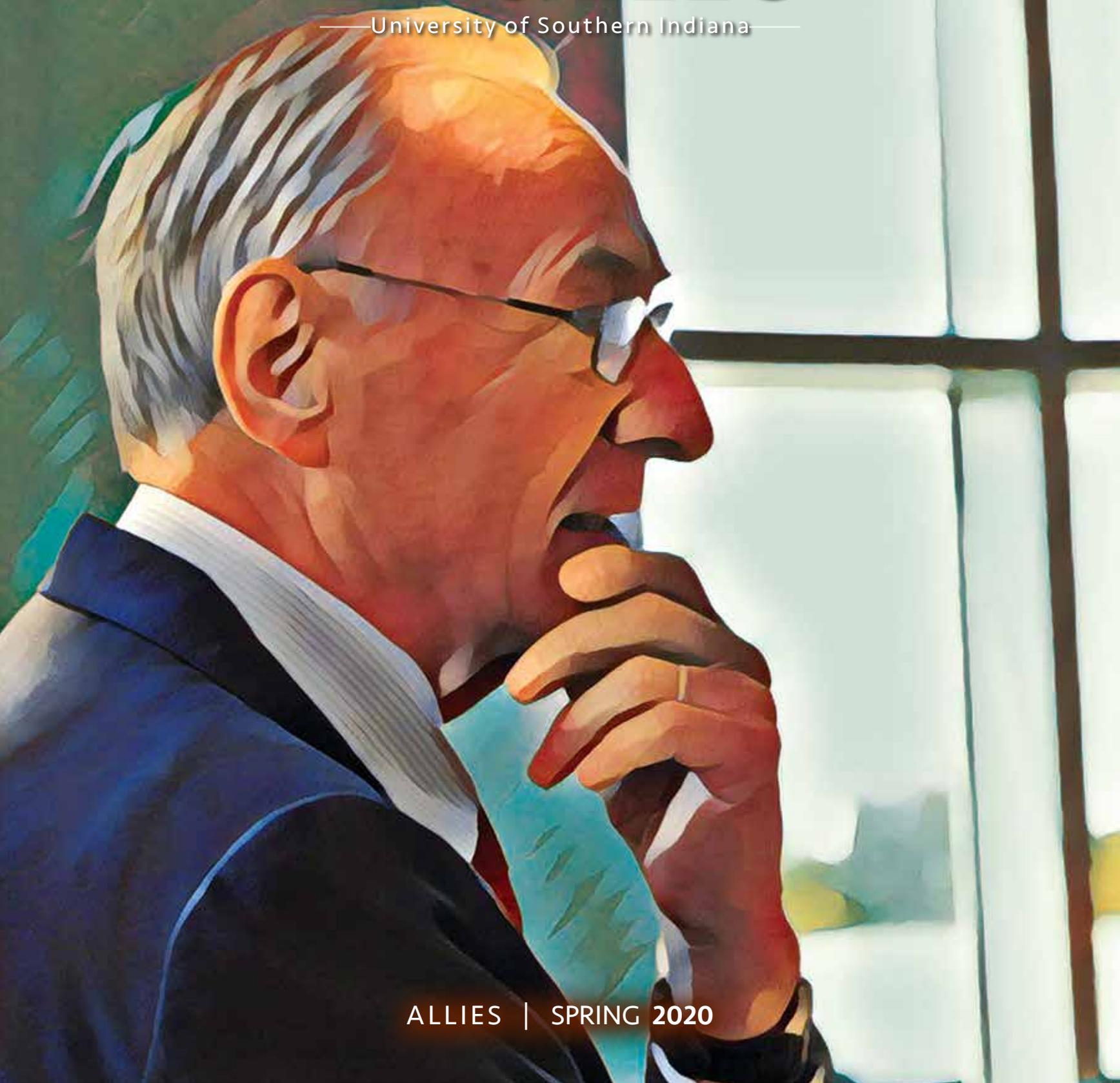
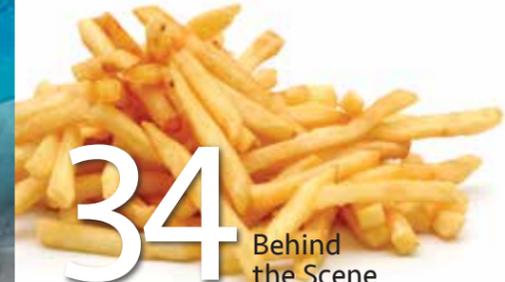


# illumine

— University of Southern Indiana —



ALLIES | SPRING 2020



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STUDENTS' PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE

That's my President.  
Colin McDuffee '20

I cried tears of joy just reading this article about our President at USI! What a wholesome and humble being.  
Micalah Booher '19

He's a really great dude. Visited me in the hospital, and... brought all of my family and friends in the waiting room food the night of my accident.  
Sarah Goffinet '16

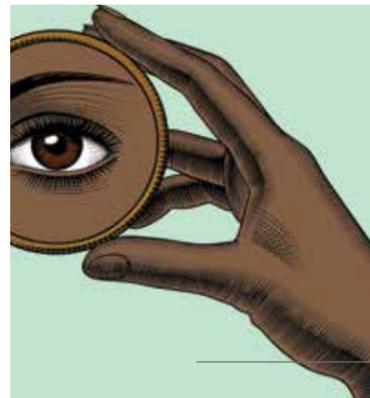
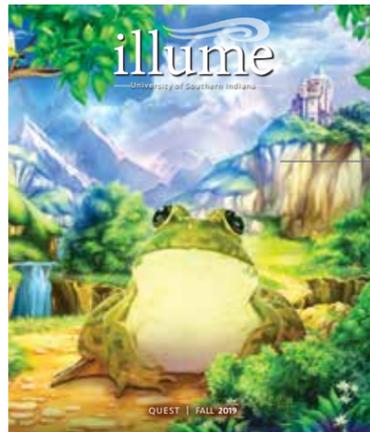
USI is so blessed to have Dr. Rochon!  
Ravin Robinson '21

Our president is not only someone who is the head of our campus and makes sure that it is running properly, he is also a friend who students know they can reach out to if needed. This is beautiful!  
Morgan Renee Clark '21

"Be a flower pot."  
Kayla Jordan '20

READERS OF ALL AGES

We got our *illumine* this weekend and it was sitting on the coffee table along with (my daughter) Charlotte's books. Sunday morning, she picks it up, snuggles into the couch and flips through every single page looking at the pictures, "reading" it. She loves books and loved the edition, even though she is only two and can't read. Obviously, it is a



great edition if it keeps an active 2-year-old still for more than five minutes.

Ryan '05 and Erin McCracken Merris  
Evansville, Indiana

BEAUTY IN HAND

The *illumine* in my hand is just beautiful. Love everything about it. Thoroughly enjoyed reading about Alice Shen, Jeanette C. Maier-Lytle and Matt Hanka. And was touched by Dr. Hughes' note to Christy Baker (her story inspired me as well). You're doing a fabulous job!!! #SoAwesome #ConnieStambushRocks #GoodRead #illumine #Quest

Shannon Hoehn '02 M'06 M'20  
Evansville, Indiana

A FEATHER IN USI'S CAP

I still remember Jeanette (Maier-Lytle) from my time at USI. She is an asset to the university!

Holly Sobota '07  
Evansville, Indiana

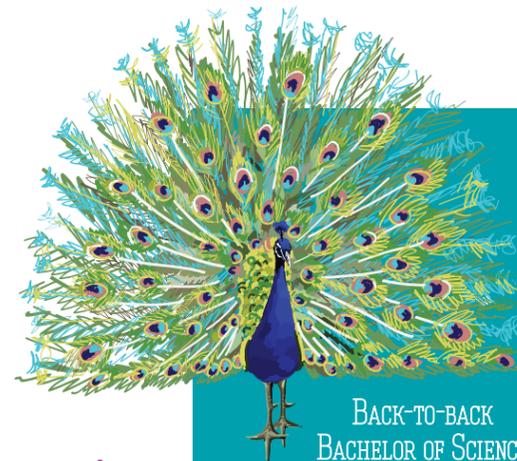
Great article and wonderful to hear Jeanette is doing great things!

Shari Monroe '87  
Evansville, Indiana

TRUTH BE TOLD

Kudos to USI for posting this. Kudos to Ms. Burleigh for writing it and making others think.

Ronnetha Darrett  
Evansville, Indiana



THINGS THAT MAKE US PREEN

BACK-TO-BACK BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSING COHORTS (DECEMBER 2018 AND MAY 2019) EARNED 100% ON THEIR NCLEX RN LICENSURE EXAM IN 2019.

ALEX STEIN '19 SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE NBA G- LEAGUE CANTON CHARGE AFTER BEING THEIR 12TH DRAFT PICK.

USI STUDENTS RAISED MORE THAN \$100,000 FOR RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN IN THE 2019 SOUTHERN INDIANA DANCE MARATHON, FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!

BETZAIRA SUAREZ RAMOS '19, RADIO AND TELEVISION AND SPANISH, WAS ONE OF TWO WOMEN TO CALL THE GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT FINALS IN THE GLVC'S FIRST-EVER SPANISH PRODUCTION!

DR. JASON FERTIG, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT, WAS QUOTED IN A "USA TODAY" ARTICLE ON "WHY QUITTING TECH AND SOCIAL MEDIA IS HARDER THAN QUITTING CIGARETTES."

USI HOSTED THE NATIONAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN IN JANUARY FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE 2015. THE EXHIBIT HONORS THE COUNTRY'S FALLEN FROM THE WAR ON TERROR.

THE "NEW YORK TIMES" SELECTED USI'S ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, ROSALIE MOFFETT'S BOOK "NERVOUS SYSTEM" AS A 2019 NOTEWORTHY READ IN AN ARTICLE TITLED "NEWS & NOTEWORTHY POETRY."

MATTHEW GRAHAM, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, WAS NAMED 2020 INDIANA POET LAUREATE.

THE UNITE CUBESAT, A SATELLITE DESIGNED, BUILT AND MAINTAINED BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, JUST MARKED ONE YEAR IN ORBIT.



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We invite readers to comment on articles and start conversations by bringing unique perspectives to relevant magazine topics. Correspondence and comments will not be limited to letters mailed to the editor, but may be from email or social media networks. Letters mailed to the editor may be published in the magazine unless the author states it is not for publication. Letters should be kept to 250 words, and may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar and relevance to USI issues. Letters to the editor should be sent to [magazine@usi.edu](mailto:magazine@usi.edu).

CORRECTION: 1973 alumna Eleanor "Ellie" Raush's last name was misspelled in the Fall 2019 In Memoriam section.

On March 17, the University of Southern Indiana made an unprecedented decision to close its campus as COVID-19 continued its rapacious spread around the world and across our nation. The decision was both an easy one to make and a challenging one to accomplish. Easy because nothing is more important than the health and wellbeing of USI's campus community—our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Challenging because the rapid shift to a virtual campus, to ensure students' learning experiences remain whole and as uninterrupted as possible, required an all-hands-on-deck approach during difficult times. I'm proud to say that our faculty and staff have risen above and beyond the challenge, and will continue to do so, as we navigate this unknown territory.

Our mission and priorities remain as true today as they were 55 years ago when this institution first opened its doors—that of an engaged learning community committed to advancing education and knowledge. COVID-19 has not and will not derail USI from its goals or visions, it has merely altered the landscape in which we achieve them.

For our students, this means all classes are online for the remainder of the semester. It is new and daunting territory for many, but it is a given that USI's world-class faculty will be by each student's side throughout this process to alleviate them of anxiety and fill them with confidence in their ability to embrace these times by adding a new level of skill to their vast knowledge.

To keep the University operating, faculty, administrators and staff continue to perform as many of their daily duties as possible remotely via virtual portals. This ability to adapt enables the institution to continue its work as seamlessly as possible until the campus reopens.

Closing the campus of an institution the size of USI requires our faculty, staff and administrators to put in long hours to create viable and imaginative solutions to shift learning and support services online in a relatively brief time span. The achievements made are nothing short of impressive and nothing less than anyone who knows our community would expect.

As *illumine* makes its way to the printer after months of production, there may be unforeseen developments not addressed in this message. We all have questions and concerns, and USI's website will be updated to keep our campus community informed of decisions and to provide new insights concerning COVID-19 and our response.

The University of Southern Indiana is a caring community and we are working to ensure our colleagues and students remain as whole as possible during these trying times. We step up to help each other. While the virus carries with it an uncertainty, one thing is certain, USI will prevail and return to normalcy as quickly as it is deemed safe for everyone to do so. In the meantime, stay safe, remain calm and caring of others, and maintain grace.

We will get through this together.

## RESPONDING TO COVID-19

### Students/Faculty

Faculty have fully shifted all their classes to an online setting for the remainder of the semester.

The University continues to house and support those students who could not move home, including international students.

### Employees

Hundreds of employees pivoted to working remotely to support faculty and students and maintain business continuity for the University.

### Commencement

Commencement is not just an event; it is a milestone. While postponed and a new date has not been set yet, the University is committed to finding a time and place for all senior students to have the opportunity to participate in a commencement ceremony.

### Refunds

Students who vacated housing due to COVID-19 will have their account credited for specified, unoccupied days. They will also be able to convert meal plans into a format that can be used until the end of the fall 2020 semester.

### Website

For current information on University decisions and messages from President Rochon, visit [USI.edu/covid-19](https://usi.edu/covid-19).

### illumine Fall 2020

The next issue will be filled with stories of our students, faculty and staffs' responses to this pandemic crisis.



Pen a Caption

Be creative, fun and succinct in writing your caption and send it to magazine@usi.edu or C. L. Stambush, editor, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712



Every picture tells a story, or is that a picture's worth 1,000 words? We don't want you to write 1,000, just a line or two, putting some words into the mouths of these Screaming Eagles.

Last Pen a Caption winner



"Which way are we supposed to drive on the roundabout again?"

Mandi Fulton

7 Signs

It's not always obvious when a person is in trouble, but with a little awareness you could be the one to save someone from suicide. Dr. B. Thomas Longwell, director of counseling at USI, offers seven things to watch for as we head into spring when—contrary to belief—suicide rates spike in April, May and June.

1. Direct statements about suicide and/or death
2. Indirect statements that could be about suicide (e.g., "I just can't deal with this anymore")
3. Appears or makes statements indicative of hopelessness or helplessness
4. A history of previous suicide attempts
5. Struggles with depression (sadness, frequent crying, withdrawal/isolation, loss of pleasure and changes in sleep) or other mental health challenges
6. Recent major loss or stressor
7. Concerning alcohol and/or drug use

If you are concerned about a friend or loved one, speak to a mental health and/or medical professional. If you do not know where to turn, dial 211 to learn about community resources in your area. In an emergency, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255), dial 911 or go directly to the Emergency Room.

Change is Afoot

The USI Alumni Association is making some changes. While all USI alumni will continue to benefit from many perks, a new alumni membership program has been created to not only provide loyal Screaming Eagles with additional savings but fund scholarships and alumni programming. Membership is open to all graduates, current students and friends.

Alumni have a choice of becoming a **Visionary** – a lifetime membership for \$500, or a **Highflyer** – an annual membership for \$50. Membership gifts will be divided equally between student scholarships and alumni programming.

The benefits for both categories are:

- 20% off apparel at the USI Campus Store
- Complementary vouchers to attend select athletic events
- An invitation to a special event with USI President Ronald S. Rochon
- The spouse, child, grandchild or sibling of any Alumni Association member is eligible to apply for one of two four-year renewable \$1,500 Legacy Scholarships awarded annually.

USI alumni are proud to support membership in the USI Alumni Association, the most recognizable way of expressing loyalty and affinity to their alma mater. As members, they support and exemplify the University's mission, vision and core values. To find out more about the Alumni Association and join, visit [USI.edu/alumnimembership](http://USI.edu/alumnimembership)



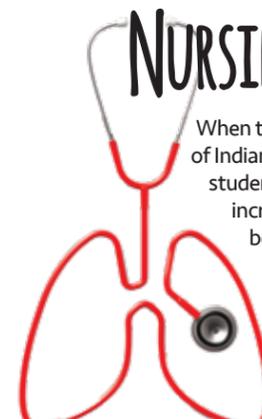
There's a never-ending barrage in cyberspace—bots and malicious actors looking to exploit users and gain access to networks for dark purposes. Call it the "new abnormal" for any internet-connected institution. At USI, around-the-clock defenses include the efforts of students like Austin Steele, in the Security Operations Center (SOC).

"The Security Operations Center serves a couple of purposes," says Dr. Kenneth Shemroske, associate professor of computer information systems in the Romain College of Business. "It supports the school's IT team in protecting our infrastructure from attacks and cyber threats. It also provides students an opportunity to gain real work experience in cybersecurity."

The SOC has been in operation for two years. During that time, it has employed about 20 students as paid cybersecurity analysts, investigating suspicious activity and mitigating threats across the network. Austin Steele '20, computer science, works between 18 and 20 hours each week. Last fall he was among the first group of students to earn the College's certificate in cybersecurity; he is pursuing a career in cyber forensics.

"My experience in the SOC helped me get an internship with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, working on a criminal case involving cyber forensics. This is definitely a growing market, with jobs popping up everywhere," says Steele. "I don't see it stopping anytime soon."

NURSING STUDENTS TARGET SMOKELESS KILLER



When the percentage of Indiana high school students vaping increased 387% between 2012 and 2018, Governor Eric Holcomb declared vaping a public health crisis. With the health of so many young

people at risk, USI's senior nursing students took on the challenge of alerting and educating southern Indiana's youth on the health risks of vaping. "When we began this service-learning project in the fall, there were less than five deaths in the country attributed to it," said Julie St. Clair, clinical assistant professor of nursing. "There were less than 400 vaping-related lung disease cases identified. Now there are 2,000-plus."

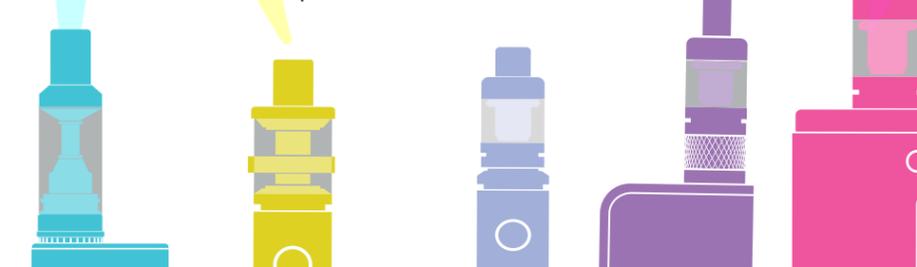
Partnering with Smoke Free Evansville Coalition on the project, 15 of St. Clair's students have gone into middle and high schools in Vanderburgh and Posey counties to make students aware of how dangerous the vaping products are. "Some kids don't understand that e-cigarettes have nicotine and vitamin e acetate [the chemical found responsible for lung illnesses]," she says.

Enticing young people to vape starts with fun product names like Sour Patch and Mario Carts that are then placed near the candy in convenience stores. It's also spawned a secondary industry of ways to hide vaping devices from parents, such as hairbrushes and water bottles designed to conceal e-cigarettes, and hoodie cords with vaping pens attached to one end while

the other end of the cord is the vaping mouthpiece. "Some kids are so addicted they wake in the middle of the night for a hit," St. Clair says, noting they also sell hits to classmates.

As the tobacco industry seeks to hook smokers and ensure sales, St. Clair and her students are fighting to save lives through education. "This outreach education allows our students the opportunity to really make an impact on future lives," she says.

The University of Southern Indiana has been a proud smoke-free campus since 2011, including the use of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.



NEW DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES:

- Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
- MBA Concentration in Project Management—online
- Instructional Communication—post-baccalaureate certificate
- Advanced Instructional Communication—post-baccalaureate certificate

Healing Touch

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) will bring their three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial and an accompanying Education Center to the University of Southern Indiana campus September 10-13. The replica, titled "The Wall That Heals," will be displayed on The Quad and open to the public 24 hours each day. "It's a huge collaboration effort with many USI and Rolling Thunder Indiana Chapter 6 teams in place to make this a success," said Joel Matherly '07, assistant director of the Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center, a division of USI's Outreach and Engagement.

"When researching a host location, many things must be considered, such as visibility, easy access, parking, facilities, and the list is specific and detailed. For many reasons, one of the first places we contacted

was the University," says Karen Maxey, The Wall project chairman for Rolling Thunder. "We took into consideration many things before we chose the University of Southern Indiana, but what completely sold us on this was the administration's acceptance and understanding of the significance of hosting such an event."

The VVMF selected USI as one of 35 sites to host "The Wall That Heals" in 2020. The exhibit honors more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and bears the name of 58,276 men and women who died in Vietnam. The traveling exhibit made its debut in 1996 and has been displayed in nearly 600 U.S. communities.



The building of USI has been a constant flow of adrenaline and I never had a dull moment.

President Emeritus Dr. David L. Rice



# THE MAN BEHIND THE BEGINNING

BY C. L. STAMBUSH

When Dr. David L. Rice moved to town to be dean of Indiana State University's Evansville (ISUE) campus in 1967, the 19th century Centennial School was only a temporary home for the University. But beyond the 100-year-old walls and windows, and the fact that the region produced the lowest number of postsecondary degrees in the state, Rice saw a bright future.

Rice's vision and knowledge of people and what they were capable of came from his experiences growing up in a family with 14 children, attending school in a one-room school house, being a soldier in the Korean War, teaching in a public grade school, and being a professor and academic researcher for both the government and Ball State University. But it was his humble personality, exemplary listening ability, collaborative instincts and mind for understanding data that propelled him to transform USI into today's academically renowned institution.

Between the institution's opening in 1965 and Rice's arrival two years later, enrollment swelled from 412 to 992, defying the naysayers' rejection of the need for public higher education in the region and confirming his belief in the University. He began recruiting faculty from area colleges; later he enticed experts and researchers from private sector industries to join the faculty, always with the understanding their innovative ideas remained their professional property.

Rice strengthened ties beyond the faculty, as he listened to and collaborated with area businesses and educational institutions to create a path for community-wide success. When national consultants labeled Evansville as a risky business choice, he founded the Labor-Management Education Forum to allow employers and unions to find common ground. His partnership with Ivy Tech Community College, to have the University accept 30-hours of credits, led the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to insist other state institutions do the same.

Education ever on his mind, Rice grew the University's programming roster from an initial seven program offerings to 54, establishing undergraduate degrees across the arts, sciences, healthcare and business, and creating master's in education, business and healthcare. Now, area residents no longer had to travel to advance their careers.

Movement, however, was in the University's future. Two years after Rice was recruited to be the dean of ISUE, a new campus was established in 1969 on 1,400 acres of rolling farmland surrounded by trees (USI's current campus). Along with his wife, Betty, he embraced students, faculty, staff and community members, often welcoming them into their home. Two years later, he assumed the role of president, and it was the beginning of something bigger. Under his quiet political prowess, housing sprang up, Indiana University's medical school took-up residency and the Physical Activities Center opened. The campus bubbled with life and learning.

Rice, known as a visionary, mediator, planner and consensus builder, knew potential when he saw it. Eighteen years after making this institution his forever-home, he lobbied for and led the University to independence in 1985.

As a young boy who once tutored younger and less-advanced students in a one-room school in Montgomery County, Indiana, he never lost his zeal for education. As a man and extraordinary leader, he propelled his dream of ensuring so many had access to quality education. But his reach went beyond the classroom and into the community, where he is credited for his impact on the economic development of Evansville and Southwest Indiana, a credit he always gave to others. Yet without him at the helm for 27 years (1967-1994), a more thriving community and vibrant University is difficult to imagine. 

## BORN

New Market, Indiana  
April 1, 1929

## EDUCATION

Bachelor's in Agriculture, Master's and Doctorate in Education, all from Purdue University

## CAREER PATH PRE-USI

Faculty member and director of research at Ball State University; vice president with the Cooperative Education Research Laboratory; research coordinator in the Bureau of Research in the U.S. Office of Education

## USI EXPANSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Science Center, Wright Administration Building, Rice Library, University Center, Technology Center, Orr Center and Physical Activities Center

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLES

- Evansville Housing Authority Board of Commissioners president
- Governor's Citizens Advisory Committee for Title Twenty of the Social Services Act chairman
- United Way of Southwestern Indiana Fund Drive chairman
- Leadership Evansville founder
- Leadership Evansville president
- WNIN Channel 9 Public Television chairman of the board
- Buffalo Trace Council Boy Scouts of America explorer chairman
- Indiana Public Broadcasting Society president



First- and second-year students in USI's Occupational Therapy (OT) Program took to heart what it means to be part of an "engaged learning community" by participating in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation's Special Olympics Unified Champions Game Day. Elementary-aged students with disabilities were given the opportunity to participate in all the activities, no matter what their conditions, through the ingenious ideas of USI's second-year OT students. They designed and built low-tech equipment such as wings for wheelchairs to assist in "flying" and modified Nerf launchers to make pitching a ball possible, instilling kids with independence.



The students who created the adaptive equipment were doing field work that week and could not attend the event, so first-year students stepped in to work with the kids. "This has been an awesome experience," said first-year OT student Kaysie Collins '23. "It's cool to be able to come out here and get to see the smiles on all their faces."



Kassie Santos '21, Tanya Cervantes '20, Jessica Carapia-Cortez '22, Lili Ayala '19



### Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Incorporated

1. Lili Ayala wanted to find her fit when she arrived at USI to study marketing, but the traditional Panhellenic sororities on campus didn't feel like "home." So she set out to create a home within her new USI home, leading to the establishment of a Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Inc. – USI Prospective Chapter.
2. When Ayala shared her vision with Kassie Santos, communications studies, the pieces began to fall into place. Working with Gina Schmitz, USI's international admissions coordinator and advisor to campus sororities, the pair recruited fellow founders and also first-generation college students, Tanya Cervantes, dental hygiene, and Jessica Carapia-Cortez, social work.
3. Service is one of the sorority's four main missions, along with academic excellence, cultural awareness and sisterhood. While establishing the chapter at USI, the quartet baked chocolate chip cookies to donate to the Evansville Rescue Mission and walked dogs for the Vanderburgh Humane Society.
4. Upholding another Gamma Phi Omega goal—academic excellence—the women hosted an event to provide fellow students, mainly freshmen, with study tips, and to let attendees know about various scholarship opportunities and resources on campus.
5. The creation of this new sorority gave rise to the women finding their voices and unleashing their *inner roar*. "I found my place of belonging," says Carapia-Cortez. "Gamma Phi Omega definitely empowered me to build up my confidence and let my voice out."
6. Establishing a home for other USI women to practice their cultural identity can mean breaking stereotypes, as they work to bring cultural awareness to the campus community. "Stereotypes don't get to define me," says Santos, "and a stereotype doesn't get to define my family."
7. While the four founders are all from Indiana, their heritage and home lives are rooted in Mexico. At USI, they balance the two cultures supremely. "We have parents who speak Spanish and only Spanish," says Santos, "but at the same time we're [at USI] and we have to adopt the different culture. We embrace the best of both worlds."
8. The sorority is Latina-oriented but not for Latinas only. The fact that they share similar but not exact heritages is a strength. "The fact that we're smaller, it just helps us build those connections," says Ayala. Connections today and tomorrow matter. "We get to leave a legacy for other young women," says Santos.

# DESKS OF... FROM THE



DR. MOHAMMED KHAYUM  
Provost  
STEVEN J. BRIDGES '89 M'95  
Vice President for Finance and Administration

In the current environment of change impacting higher education, and as the University of Southern Indiana's second strategic plan (2016-2020) comes to an end, the development of USI's third strategic plan is timely. A strategic plan serves to guide our actions by identifying the circumstances shaping our priorities, our purpose and desired future. Integral to this process are the specific ways the institution seeks to achieve its purpose and future state, and the measures that determine the effectiveness of the specified decisions and actions.

Our plan's development, led by the Strategic Planning Committee, is guided by inclusiveness, transparency, collaboration and effective communication. It engages key stakeholders and includes employees, students, alumni, community partners, friends and retirees in the process.

The foundational step in the development of any strategic plan is to identify an organization's core values. Ours, combined with history, evolution and current educational trends, help to define USI's purpose—mission—as we move forward.

USI's future, regarding what the institution seeks to accomplish through its mission, is represented by its vision. Our strategic plan's goals will represent areas of emphasis for achieving our mission and vision based on an evaluation—an environmental scan—of the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and challenges. Our objectives will be measurable outcomes tied to our goals. The strategies we develop will indicate what must be done to

achieve objectives in the context of the environmental scan. USI's action plans will specify the steps needed to implement strategies and include information about who will do what, when and how.

Our current strategic planning process builds on information about core values, historical context, mission, vision and goals from USI's 2010-2015 and 2016-2020 strategic plans. The accomplishments and insights resulting from the implementation of the previous strategic plans will be important influences in determining the objectives, strategies and action plans of USI's third plan.

The plan is all encompassing. It defines who we have been, who we are now and what we desire to be. The fabric of this plan will be of value to all the key stakeholders of the University, the past and present family of the University, the community that impacts USI and those whom USI impacts.

The Strategic Planning Committee will identify mechanisms in which to track, report and evaluate outcomes, as well as identify a process for updating and revising the strategic plan, before it is presented to the USI Board of Trustees for approval at its July 2020 meeting.

Beginning 55 years ago, with the idea of public education in southwestern Indiana, to today, there has always been a vision for USI. We are where we are today because of a dream, a vision and the execution of a plan. In those early days, it may have been discussed in terms that were different than those we use today, and maybe less formal, but the heart of what happened was strategic planning.

This third plan finds us with challenges that require vision and the execution of a plan, so we share that in the same fashion we did in the early days. The new plan finds the environment in a different place but still presenting challenges; the way we navigate those challenges will be critical in USI becoming what it should be in the future. Constant change has always been the norm, but the speed of that change is greater than ever. Our third strategic plan will lay the groundwork for continuing to be a thriving University that contributes positively in all we do.

Mohammed Khayum  
Steven J. Bridges





## Making a Big Splash on Campus

The future is looking fluid for the campus community as construction of the University's Aquatic Center shapes up. The 25-meter by 25-yard pool will be a place for students, student athletes and USI community members to exercise, play and rehab injuries. David Enzler, director of Recreation, Fitness and Wellness, says the center plans to offer water sports—volleyball, basketball, log rolling—as well as group lifeguarding, scuba-diving, swimming and aqua-aerobics classes. If that's not a USI community member's thing, they might be interested in a soak in the whirlpool, attending a pool party or watching a basketball game or a movie on one of the big screens. The center, with its two locker rooms and seating for spectators to watch swim meets, is expected to open in 2021.

## AQUATIC CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

**200** SPECTATOR SEATS

**2** WARMUP LANES

**1** SCOREBOARD

GALLONS OF WATER

**1** MEET TIMING CLOCK

**395,572**

**8** COMPETITION LANES

**1** 3-METER BOARD

**2** 1-METER DIVING BOARDS

**15** SEAT WHIRLPOOL

architectural rendering

“THIS WAS A MAN WHO HAD A *dis-ease* IN HIS SPIRIT. I DID NOT SAY DISEASE LIKE SOMETHING WE GO TO THE HOSPITAL FOR, BUT HE HAD A **DIS-EASE** IN HIS SPIRIT IN THE '50s AND '60s. IN 2020, WE *still* HAVE A DIS-EASE IN OUR *spirit*.”

APRIL RYAN | *journalist, speaking at USI's 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon*

“I AM WHAT'S CONSIDERED A *non-traditional* STUDENT. AFTER BEING IN THE WORKFORCE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, I DECIDED TO RETURN TO SCHOOL TO ADVANCE MY CAREER FROM A CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT TO A BACHELOR'S-~~PREPARED~~ REGISTERED NURSE. THERE WERE *many reasons* I WAS HESITANT ABOUT THAT *decision*: WOULD I FEEL OUT OF PLACE, BEING ALMOST A DECADE OLDER THAN MY CLASSMATES? COULD I BALANCE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL WITH MY FAMILY LIFE?”

KRISTINA DEWIG '19 | *College of Nursing and Health Professions Fall Commencement speaker*

# “OVERHEARD QUOTABLES”

“I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT *path* THEY WERE ON. I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT LED THEM IN AND OUT OF THE *military* AND *prison*, BECAUSE THE TWO DO NOT SEEM LIKE THEY GO *together*.”

DR. MELISSA STACER | *associate professor of criminal justice studies, talking about her research on veterans in prison*

“*Colorblind* INDIVIDUALS NEED A UNIVERSAL, INDEPENDENT LANGUAGE TO ENABLE THEM TO *communicate* IN AND WITH SOCIETY.”

DR. JOSEPH UDUHEI | *associate professor of art education, speaking on color blindness, affecting 1 in 10 caucasian men*

“IF YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING *involved* IN THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT, THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT. AT THIS *moment*. ON THIS DAY. ACT AS IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO *change the world*.”

DR. ANGELA DAVIS | *political activist, professor emerita at University of California, Santa Cruz, speaking on civil rights at Nelson Mandela Social Justice Day*

“A BOOK IN PROCESS IS *hypothetical*. IT IS DANGEROUS TO TALK ABOUT AN IN-PROCESS *project* BECAUSE IT COULD TAKE YEARS, AND IN THE END GO *nowhere*.”

DR. CASEY PYCIOR | *assistant professor of English, talking about the novel-writing process*

“I LOOKED AT THESE PICTURES AND THE EYES OF THESE HUMAN BEINGS THAT WE HAVE LOST IT BECAME *personal*, IT BECAME *intimate*, IT BECAME EXTREMELY *relevant* AND BROUGHT IT HOME FOR ME. THERE WERE NOTES ATTACHED TO THE PICTURES, LOVE NOTES FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, SAYING THEY WOULD NEVER BE *forgotten*,” “I MISS YOU,” “LOVE YOU.” ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAMILY, YOUR OWN SON OR DAUGHTER, YOUR NIECE OR NEPHEW, YOUR NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR, AND YOU REALLY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT FAMILIES HAVE AND CONTINUE TO *sacrifice* FOR US.”

DR. RONALD ROCHON | *USI president, speaking at Remembering the Fallen*



# A TALE OF TWO COMPANIES

by C. L. Stambush



The story behind VIV may have begun with a problem, but the solution started in the first grade where Austin Hoffman and Logan Schroering met and became friends.

Fast forward to 2015: Austin was a marketing senior in USI's Romain College of Business and Logan was noodling the idea of joining his family's plumbing business, when the two began kicking around an idea that was part of their cultural DNA. Growing up in faith families, they'd witnessed the good that came from Sunday donations, but knew there were times people couldn't come to services. The pair wanted to create a way for people to give online when they couldn't attend.

Austin teamed up with USI classmate Mark Belcher '18 (who's also a friend of Logan's), to pitch the idea of developing an online donation system at Startup Weekend Evansville 5.0 (a business incubator held at USI between 2011-2019). The idea didn't win but it was one of the few to attract angel investors.

With financial support from the business community, Austin refined his donation idea to the point where he was ready to launch it via a website, but he knew nothing about web development or coding. With seed money in hand, he contacted a local web company about creating it. A 10-page document, a schematic-riddled paper revealed the hows, whys and whats it would take to create his dream site, along with a \$135,000 price tag to build it.

Twenty-year old Austin and his idea sagged. How was he—or any entrepreneurial innovator—supposed to be able to create a company to surmount hurdles like that?

Allan Noe '91, marketing and former USI Tau Kappa Epsilon president, laughs big and dreams big. He and his wife, Kellie, have spent 22 years building a small empire of businesses based on digital payment systems through start-ups and acquisitions. Today, their company Approval Payment Solutions (APS) has 47 employees, 15,000 clients and generates \$4 billion in processing volume annually.

The climb to this pinnacle began when he was fired after three days as customer support staff for a bank, and immediately rehired to replace his boss who had just quit. "I was just kind of launched to the wolves," he recalls. "I was told, 'The good news is, you're promoted. The bad news is, it's commission based.' I nearly starved."

Sales became his life breath, and over the next 10 years he steadily refined his skills and knowledge in all things credit-card and check-processing related, advancing to higher roles as the companies he worked for were swallowed up by others. After the third corporate acquisition Allan said, "enough," and opened APS.

Partnering with banks, sales agents and merchants in all industries, the business grew from an office in Boonville, Indiana, with a sales force of three in 1998 to 100 by 2020. Over the years they'd acquired six merchant-payment-solution companies, putting APS in the top 40 in an industry of 3,800.



The \$135,000 sticker price frustrated and motivated Austin to pivot and teach himself to build websites, enlisting childhood friend Logan to join him in the endeavor. Logan had an associate's degree from a community college and some credits from USI. His life was at a crossroads; he could join the family plumbing business, or...



Members of VIV and APS teams—left to right—Noah Moss, Logan Schroering, Austin Hoffman, Allan Noe '91, Brooke Huneycutt '09; back: Jordan Huneycutt '11, Sam Leinenbach '18, Gabriella Federico, Mark Belcher '18

Their first client was Logan's family's company. "We made my uncle an awesome website," he says, "and we thought, 'we can make money doing this, right?'"

Word spread. More clients came. Logan and Austin hung out with developers and gained certifications to increase their skills and offerings. Six months in, they'd created a dozen or more sites and knew they needed to loop back to their goals and refine their process. Based on their clients' needs for online stores, they saw ecommerce as their next challenge to tackle.

When Allan entered the credit card industry 31 years ago, the marriage of the internet and ecommerce hadn't begun. The first online retail transaction wouldn't occur until 1994, possibly in Jeff Bezos' garage. As online selling became a behemoth, Allan took note of how mom-and-pop shops struggled in the wake of mega corporations setting up online stores. "They were failing because they didn't have a marketing strategy. They weren't good at social media. They weren't good at spending money for Google AdWords," Allan says. "In 2017, retail business shrank 9% while online sales grew 22%. Mom-and-pop can't keep up. They don't have

a website that's ecommerce enabled and so forth."

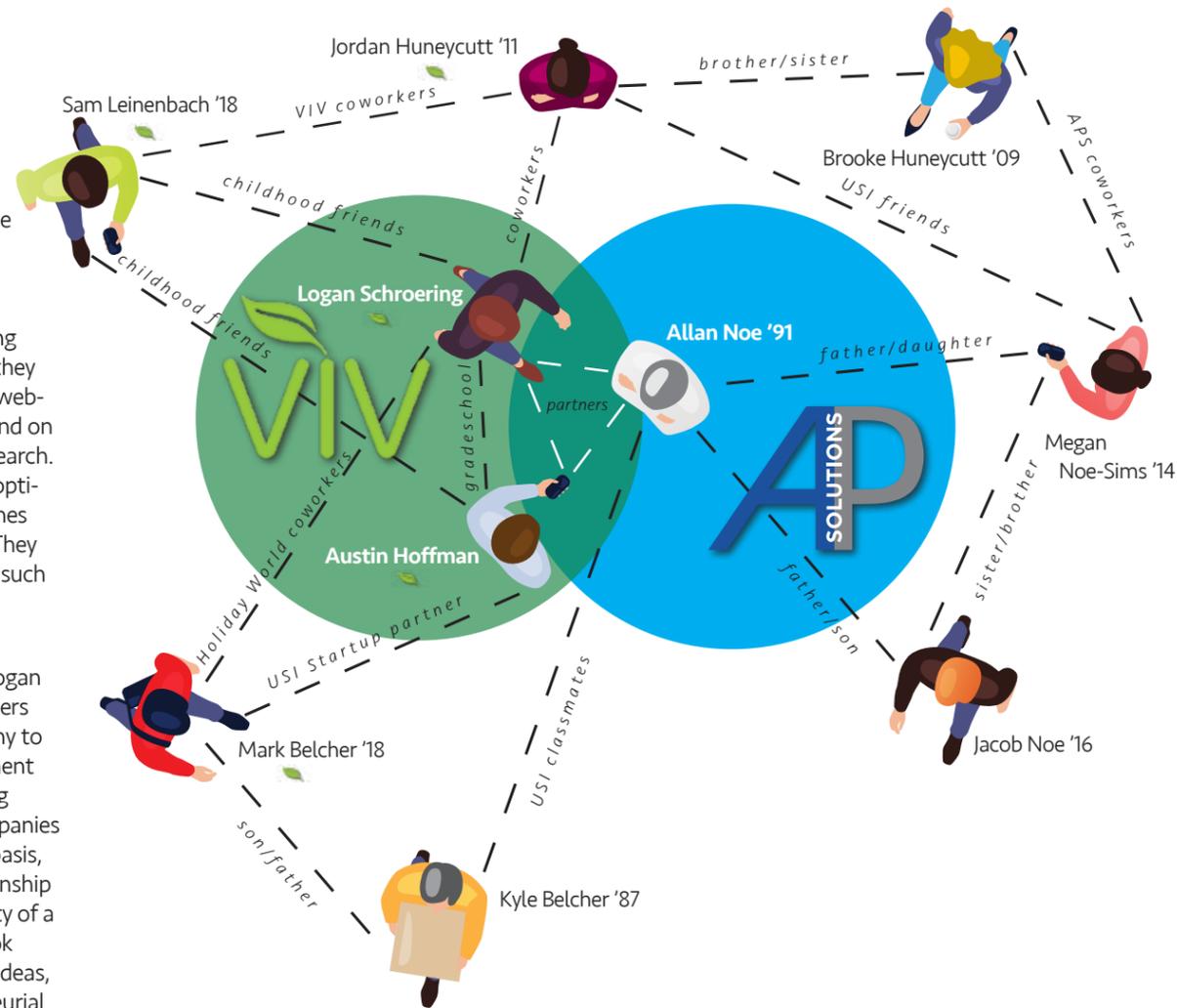
Allan realized that for APS' merchants to have a fighting chance in a field of giants, they needed a great and secure website. They needed to be found on the first page in a Google search. They needed to be mobile optimized—since 82% of searches happen on smart phones. They needed someone to create such sites.

Allan met Austin and Logan when the VIV cofounders sought a local company to provide secure online payment processing for their growing client list. Initially, the companies collaborated on a referral basis, but as their working relationship strengthened, the possibility of a permanent partnership took shape. Austin and Logan's ideas, work ethics and entrepreneurial attitudes impressed Allan.

The VIV team was young (something that worked against them when selling to new clients), bright and tech savvy. Allan was experienced in digital payments and billing, and APS's independent sales reps could pitch VIV's services—web design and social media marketing campaigns—alongside APS's payment solutions offerings. "Knowing that side of the business really helped us with our clients," says Austin.

Connections and ties are a part of both companies' legacies. Logan, Austin and Sam Leinenbach '18 (VIV web designer) grew up together in Jasper. Logan and Mark (Austin's Startup partner and VIV web designer) worked together at Holiday World for seven years. Allan (APS founder, VIV Managing Partner) and VIV designer Mark's dad (Kyle Belcher '87), were friends at USI.

Jordan Huneycutt '11 (VIV's business development executive) knew Allan's daughter, Megan Noe-Sims '14, APS's director of strategic



partnerships, at USI. Jordan was working sales for a large corporation and wanted APS as his next client when he asked Megan to put him in touch with her dad. What started as a pitch turned into a position. Today, Jordan's sister Brooke Huneycutt '09 is part of APS's lead generation team.

In addition to these relationships, both APS and VIV continue their relationships with USI to keep their companies growing by working with USI's Career Services and Internships Department. In the past five years, APS has hired more than 15 of its USI interns, and VIV has had two USI interns working for them and would like more.

"We could use more staff. More talented, super educated people who can help us advance our platform," says Austin.

The collaboration between APS and VIV allowed VIV the ability to scale quickly, growing from 15 website creations to 400-plus in a year and a half. "We make sure that none of our sites stay



stagnant," says Austin. "We're constantly updating them and our product [offerings]. We're always updating everything behind the scenes to make the website look beautiful. Last quarter, we generated almost 1.5 million views on our sites."

The partnership between APS and VIV is a win-win. "VIV allowed me to expand APS's digital footprint and offer a much sexier product," says Allan. "Because what merchants want to talk about is, 'How do I win more business?' They don't want to talk about credit card processing."

The opportunity to bundle these services is what VIV and APS say sets them apart and attracts business, but it takes more than a pretty website to keep customers coming back. "I think people like sticking with us because we're young, we're creative and we know how to move the ball. But another thing is customer service," Logan says, who manages VIV's internal operations. "Not a lot of website companies out there answer the phone. It's not a personal number. It's usually 1-800-let's-talk-to-someone-different-every-time-you-call."

As VIV's co-founder, front man and product developer, Austin is no longer a near-starving student in a dorm. Although technically still a student in need of a few credits to graduate—something Allan (who along with his children are a legacy alumni family) ribbed Austin about. Some things, however, have not changed.

VIV's evolution has led the team back to their original idea of creating ways to drive donations for nonprofits, but in a way that pushes innovation into older industries by developing product that enables municipalities to accept credit card payments for water, sewer and trash service. Customers who sign up with their civic service providers will get government alerts, road closings, school cancellations and such, as well as become part of a database through which they can make direct donations to causes of their choice.

"Alerts and donations are a part of our business, but the core focus of VIV is to drive business to local companies with custom marketing strategies and take out the corporate feel most agencies provide" says Austin. "We want to be all our clients marketing partner, not just their website guy or Facebook person."



# FULBRIGHTS SHINE LIGHT ON US! EXPERIENCE

by C. L. Stambush

Salome Apkhazishvili '20  
and Mariam Gamdlishvili '21 have a lot in

common. They are both USI Master  
of Communications candidates.

Both Georgian. Both in their mid-20s.

Both intelligent. Both ambitious.

Both accomplished. Both recipients of  
Edmund S. Muskie internships. And both  
Fulbright U.S. Student Study Award  
recipients.

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program—  
administered by the U.S. State  
Department's Bureau of Educational  
and Cultural Affairs—has provided  
international graduate educational,  
research and teaching opportunities for more  
than 380,000 people from the United States and  
other countries, operating in  
more than 140 countries  
worldwide.

## SALOME



Salome's educational history is a rich mix of communication and politics. Born in Tbilisi, Georgia (the nation's capital and largest city) she holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communication, and a master's degree in nationalism and ethnic studies. While an undergrad sophomore, she reported for a magazine before discovering radio, and received her first life-changing opportunity when offered a radio producer's position that led to an interest in television. A thoughtless joke, however, from a professor about her "not being a good fit for television" impacted her self-esteem and slowed her professional trajectory in that industry.

She received a prestigious Vaclav Havel Journalism Fellowship to be part of a team of TV journalists from around the world in Prague. There she discovered a deep interest in misinformation/fake news/media literacy issues and a desire to pursue further education in the United States through a Fulbright Fellowship at USI. "Living abroad in Prague for those six months gave me the confidence to never stop growing as a professional, as a person and as a citizen of my country (which is short on professional media literacy education)."



USI has welcomed seven Fulbright scholars in the past four years, earning graduate degrees in communications, language teaching, language and education.

While at USI, Salome and Mariam live, learn and share daily experiences alongside peers and mentors in an open, academic atmosphere where they exchange intellectual ideas that help mutual understanding.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FULBRIGHT?

#### Salome

Honor, responsibility, opportunity, motivation and strong desire to never stop being a role model. These are the keywords I relate to being a Fulbright. At the same time, deep in your heart, there is a fear that you might fail, be a disappointment for others who believe in you. Along with these feelings is a tension you carry once you are officially notified that you are among the finalists of this very competitive and prestigious program. It's not a bad tension, it's a wake-up call that rings sharply when you start thinking of running from responsibilities.

#### Mariam

It is a huge responsibility. Being a part of the community full of leaders, Nobel Peace Prize and Pulitzer Prize winners is a huge responsibility. I feel that I am accountable in two countries—the U.S. and Georgia. And I think that, since I have accepted this challenge, I must succeed. It is interesting to see how this status of being a Fulbright influences people around you. Any time I say that I am a Fulbright or wear a Fulbright shirt, people get interested and usually are admiring. But for me, it is a huge opportunity to develop and become a better version of myself by becoming a professional with world-class experience and be a "game-changer" in my home country.

### WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU FACED AT USI?

#### Salome

The biggest challenge I still cope with is the high academic requirements at USI. Even though I have another master's degree from back home, pursuing the same goal here is totally different. It is HARD work.

Being on time, doing my best even if I feel that I'm not capable of doing it have been my challenges. It's the hardest to deal with, but what I am most proud of myself for. I always beat my challenges thanks to my hardworking skills. I've never been late to class, on an assignment or final project. My 3.8 GPA is a testament.

I also want to mention the language barrier. Even though I passed TOEFL and GRE exams before coming here, my English language level was not fluent enough to perform well in academic writing and public presentations.

Besides the academic rigors, it was difficult being the only Georgian on campus and in Evansville. The transportation system is another big pain for me. I don't have a car, so access to some places is very hard. Thanks to some of my international and American friends, I don't have to spend a lot of money on Ubers every time I need groceries or a ride to the East Side. Still, poor public transportation remains at the top of my concerns as an international student.

## MARIAM



Mariam always knew a world-class education in the West was in her future. Born in Kazakhstan (part of the former Soviet Republic), she received a bachelor's degree in international relations and a master's degree in European studies. As an undergrad she interned at the United States Embassy in Georgia, Georgia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment Protection of Georgia, and the United Nations Development Program in Georgia. After graduation, she worked as a strategic communications specialist in the office of the State Minister of Georgia before transitioning into a private thinktank research position. Civil service continued to call to Mariam, and she embarked on a diplomatic career path with Georgia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one she plans to continue after leaving USI.

"I felt that as a practitioner, I lacked an academic and theoretical knowledge of the field I was working in, and the United States was the right country to explore and study in."



#### Mariam

I have not faced significant challenges at USI so far since the Center for International Programs, led by Heidi Gregori-Gahan, makes the process of adaptation very smooth and easy. Everyone is eager to explain, help and assist anytime. In general, it was not easy to adapt to a new culture and environment. I come from a collectivistic culture, and the U.S. represents an individualistic society. There were some difficulties in the beginning with simple things needed for daily life, like housing, receiving my first stipend and banking, that work differently from the place I come from. However, I was lucky enough to have another Georgian Fulbright—Salome. She helped me a lot in overcoming all the challenges and getting used to the way of the American lifestyle, rules and norms. I reached out to her immediately when the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi informed me about becoming a finalist. Since then, we have become friends.

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR CAREER PATH?

#### Salome

The average Georgian women my age (I was 26 at the time) is married and some of them are parents. Withstanding the cultural pressure to follow the same path, I chose to create a different future for myself. I was not sure I'd achieved my best graduating at both a bachelor's and master's level, or by working as a journalist for five years. I knew that staying in my home country and living a daily routine was not enough for me to feel accomplished.

I decided to leave my family and my country. I had always wanted to see it be more tolerant of everyone regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, sexual or religious orientation. Choosing this path meant giving myself the freedom to live for myself and by myself, to search and find a confidence I've always lacked.

I knew that my journalistic skills would not be enough to be competitive. I knew that earning another degree in communication would give me more opportunities in life.

#### Mariam

Since my childhood, I was interested in history, cultures and international relations. My ultimate goal has always been to be a diplomat and serve my country—Georgia. Being exposed from an early age to different nations, cultures and societies shaped my future interest in diplomacy. During my college studies, I have been mentored by prominent Georgian policymakers and diplomats, which deepened my wish to become professionally engaged in the foreign policy sphere.

Right after finishing my degree, I started a career within the government of Georgia's diplomatic services and was actively involved in the process of Georgia's integration with the European Union and North-Atlantic Treaty Organization. At that time, additionally, I got involved in the establishment

of the first strategic communications structures in Georgia. Since the field and discipline appeared to be very new, it attracted me. I decided that I had to enhance my academic and theoretical knowledge and applied for the Fulbright Program.

## WHAT HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES BEEN LIKE?

### Salome

I always say that accepting the opportunity of living thousands of miles away from home was one of the best decisions I've ever made. It was like a new life we might be given in a video game; to try again and achieve more. I accepted this game. I've failed several times. But I am a better and stronger person today—different than I was in 2018 when I arrived at USI.

I've resided here a year and a half. It's not a long time, but due to the endless challenges I've gone through every week, I am stronger. This feeling is so genuine that it's had a huge effect on my confidence. I've met many people from all over the world, which is the most beautiful gift I've been given in my life. I met those who failed me, those who disappointed me, but as they say, it just made me a stronger person. It's been an experience beyond my expectation.

### Mariam

It's been a few months of *firsts!* First fall semester, first readings, first finals, first professors, first Walmart shopping, first Starbucks, first Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc. I am grateful for the chances that I am given, and I am experiencing the best times of my life. Despite the heavy study workload, there is a lot to see and explore, and ways to develop myself. Being exposed to a new type of culture—like the U.S.'s—and living here allows me an exceptional opportunity to learn more about myself and this country.

## WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST MOMENT FOR YOU AT USI?

### Salome

Every September USI's International Programs and Services office invites the Global Ambassadors and several other international scholars to beautiful New Harmony, Indiana, for the annual leadership retreat. Last year was my first time, and it will always stay in my memory. I met so many bright and beautiful minds there. Each of them with different stories but the same aspiration: to be a change the world needs. International students always make the best family whenever they meet, but this was a unique feeling of togetherness. It gave birth to the hope that one day the world might be a better place because of us.

### Mariam

The presence of Salome and other international students makes it feel like we have a small version of the world here at USI. The Center for International Programs organized a Global Ambassador's retreat in September. It was a great event and opportunity to learn the amazing stories of students from all over the world. The existence of such bright, fascinating, motivational and strong people gives me hope for a better world. Dr. Rochon gave a magnificent inspiring speech at one of the retreat dinners. His words made me feel like a part of the community that provides and shares "knowledge for life."

## HOW DO YOU HELP EACH OTHER?

### Salome

I knew that my international life would change after Mariam's arrival to USI's campus, but there are some things I could have never imagined. Mariam, even though there is a two-year difference between us (she is younger), reminds me of my mom and grandmother who are always ready to take care of me, feed me and make sure I am okay.

She is such a mature and hardworking young woman. By staying always ahead of schedule, she's like a wake-up call for me to keep striving for my best. On top of that, she is very generous.

She may say I've given her the same amount of help. I tried to give her pragmatic advice, in terms of living on campus, studying and following the different cultural codes upon her arrival, however, she seems stronger than me when I recall myself during my first days on campus.

### Mariam

As I already mentioned, Salome and I became good friends here at USI, and I am very grateful for this. Salome helped me in the beginning with all the logistical and moving in stuff. She helped me understand the way life goes here and is always eager to explain and assist. We try to support each other in studies by sharing and discussing the issues and topics related to communications. I love cooking, and we usually have dinner together and we even created a tradition of "baking Saturday," where after class, we bake American pies and pastries.

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS WHEN YOU RETURN TO GEORGIA?

### Salome

As a Fulbright foreign student, I have a two-year home-residency requirement that means returning to Georgia upon completing graduation from USI in 2020\* to serve my country. My plan is to continue pursuing life and academic disciplines there the same way I do here.

As for career goals, I plan to meet with governmental and non-governmental organizations to offer my contributions to media-literacy fields. Considering the network I've built here and my strategic understanding of the field, hopefully, I will be a good resource for these organizations. I plan to return to my journalism career as a part-time journalist, too.

They just launched a pilot media platform and I'm very excited to join them. I've considered spending two years for the PhD preparation either in Europe or the States. I will be actively working on my podcast as well—one I launched last summer—where I share my life stories as an international student in the United States.

\* The Muskie internship allows them both to remain in the U.S. longer.

### Mariam

After the completion of my degree and Fulbright, I will be reinforced with a new knowledge and world-class experience. I plan to return to the civil service of Georgia and continue to work on development of the government communications and strategic communication structures for the next five years in the reserves of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

If I don't return to the civil service, I would continue to advocate for Georgia's EU/NATO integration and raise awareness on this topic, as well as be involved in the projects related to disinformation and Russian propaganda within civil society and international organizations. I also plan to pursue a doctoral degree in international relations sometime after graduating from USI and completing my Fulbright.

# 21 USI STUDENTS

HAVE RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 22 MAJOR AWARDS SINCE 1997 FROM INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS TO STUDY IN GERMANY, SOUTH KOREA, CHINA, HONG KONG, THAILAND, SPAIN, ARGENTINA, JAPAN, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS



## 7 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS AT USI

|                              |                 |      |                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| Tania Da Assuncao Machonisse | Mozambique      | 2015 | Communications    |
| Serge Pacome Yao Pre         | Cote d'Ivoire   | 2016 | Language Teaching |
| Thawn Za Khai                | Burma (Myanmar) | 2016 | Communications    |
| Kountiala Jean de Dieu Some  | Burkina Faso    | 2017 | Language          |
| Ibrahima Fatina Yaro         | Burkina Faso    | 2018 | Education         |
| Salome Apkhazishvili         | Georgia         | 2018 | Communications    |
| Miriam Gamdlishvili          | Georgia         | 2019 | Communications    |

# MISSION POSSIBLE

BY JOHN FARLESS '98

IT'S 9 O'CLOCK ON A WEDNESDAY MORNING AND NICHOLAS ANGERMEIER '19 AMBLES INTO USI'S APPLIED ENGINEERING CENTER, TAKES A QUICK RESTROOM BREAK AND SWAPS HIS BACKPACK FOR A PAIR OF SAFETY GLASSES BEFORE JOINING FOUR OTHER SENIORS AROUND A METAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING A TANGLE OF WIRES, TUBES AND MOVING PARTS—THIN WISPS OF SMOKE RISING FROM A COMBUSTION CHAMBER.

Like his classmates, and so many others, Angermeier doesn't think twice about access to a restroom, modern plumbing or clean running water. At least he didn't before this project. "Growing up, I didn't realize what was going on in the outside world, especially in developing countries," he says, "This project has opened my eyes to what's happening every day."

The project is a waterless toilet system designed to improve sanitation conditions and to save lives of people living in developing worlds. It's the brainchild of USI alumna Heather Deal and her company Three Bird Swan, responding to a quest put forth by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2012. It

prompted inventors to find a solution to what the United Nation's General Assembly had deemed a basic human right only a couple years earlier—access to sanitation—and launched a Reinvent the Toilet Challenge.

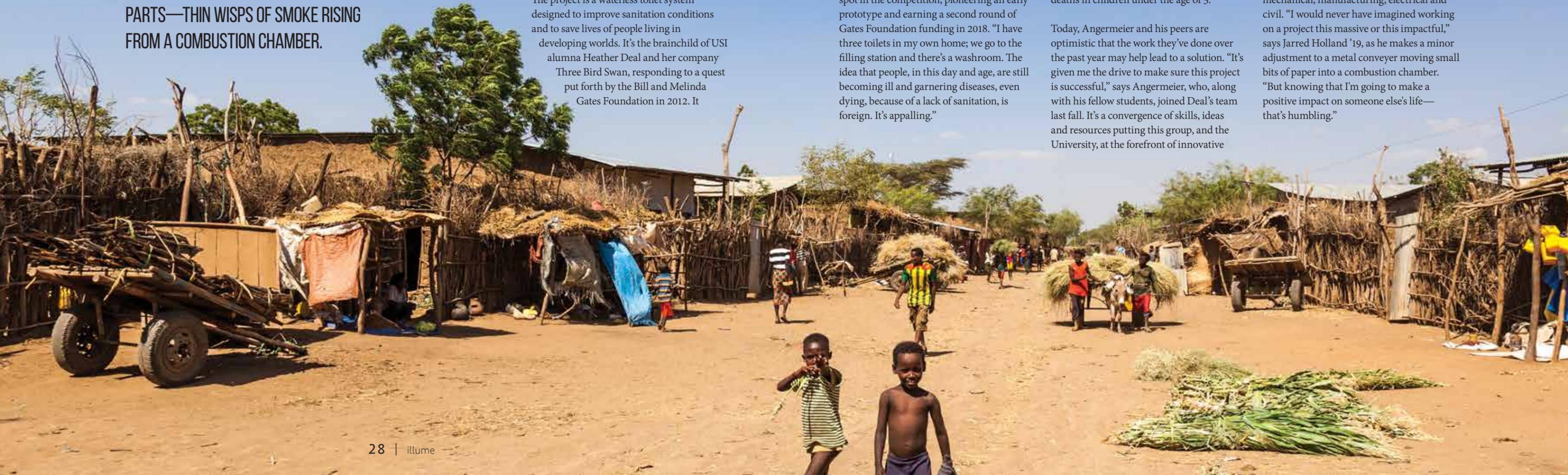
"As Americans, we don't consider what not having a toilet is like," says Deal '03, public relations. She impressed the Gates Foundation with her early ideas and landed a spot in the competition, pioneering an early prototype and earning a second round of Gates Foundation funding in 2018. "I have three toilets in my own home; we go to the filling station and there's a washroom. The idea that people, in this day and age, are still becoming ill and garnering diseases, even dying, because of a lack of sanitation, is foreign. It's appalling."

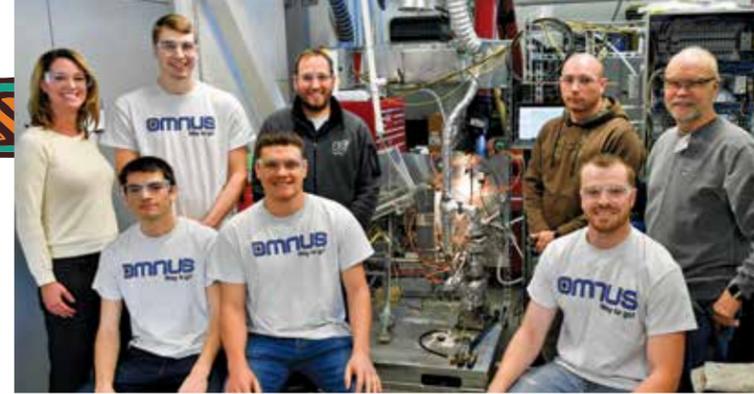
World Health Organization experts estimate that as many as two billion people worldwide don't have basic sanitation facilities such as toilets or latrines. Around 673 million still defecate in the open—in street gutters, behind bushes or into open bodies of water. As a result, around 827,000 people in low- and middle-income countries die annually from befouled water, inadequate sanitation and unhygienic practices, including 297,000 deaths in children under the age of 5.

Today, Angermeier and his peers are optimistic that the work they've done over the past year may help lead to a solution. "It's given me the drive to make sure this project is successful," says Angermeier, who, along with his fellow students, joined Deal's team last fall. It's a convergence of skills, ideas and resources putting this group, and the University, at the forefront of innovative

engineering, backed by one of the greatest philanthropists of our time.

Over the past year, Deal worked on phase two of her OMNUS (Operational Machinery Needed for Universal Sanitation) prototype, including testing and trial runs with the students. They, working alongside seasoned engineers from Three Bird Swan, represented a variety of engineering disciplines, including mechanical, manufacturing, electrical and civil. "I would never have imagined working on a project this massive or this impactful," says Jarred Holland '19, as he makes a minor adjustment to a metal conveyer moving small bits of paper into a combustion chamber. "But knowing that I'm going to make a positive impact on someone else's life—that's humbling."





“IF THIS WORKS AS EXPECTED, IT HAS THE **POTENTIAL** TO AFFECT **MILLIONS** OF PEOPLE, AND THAT’S **EXCITING** TO THINK ABOUT.”

CALEB KAUK '19

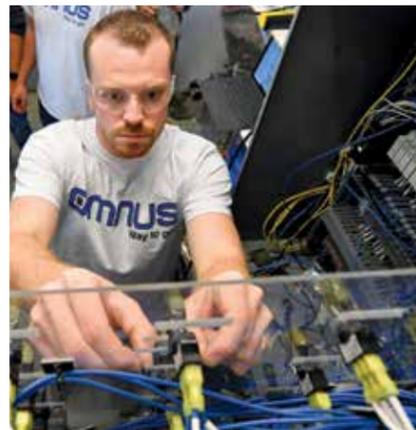
## A GOOD FIT

When Three Bird Swan secured a new round of Gates Foundation funding in 2018, Deal was living in Durham, North Carolina, where she’d completed work on the first prototype, as well as been hired as a consultant by other grant recipients. Eager to take the project to the next level, she made the move back to the Evansville area.

Deal and Dr. Paul Kuban, professor of engineering and chair of USI’s Engineering Department, began talking about a partnership with the University that eventually led to the creation of a senior engineering project overseen by Dr. Art Chlebowski, assistant professor of engineering, and Dr. Jason Hill, associate professor of engineering. “Partnering with USI just made sense,” Deal says. “I’ve worked with universities where they had too many commitments to dedicate any real time to a project like this. With USI, the transition has been seamless.”

At this stage in the Gates Foundation competition, most Reinvent the Toilet grant recipients are large universities like the University of Toronto; Duke University; and Cranfield University, in England. “To think that a small engineering consulting firm out of Newburgh, Indiana, in correlation with the University of Southern Indiana, is involved in something of this scale is incredible,” says Deal.

From the outside, USI might look like an underdog. But the University isn’t green when it comes to groundbreaking engineering feats. This is the same Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education responsible for putting a research satellite into orbit—the first public university in the state to do so. USI is also in



its second year of establishing an Engineers in Action program, working alongside Cornell University to build a life-saving bridge in eSwatini, South Africa.

“This sanitation project is one of the biggest senior design projects that’s happened at USI,” says Laron Griffith ’19 who, like his cohorts, when he signed up for the project was unaware of the magnitude of what he and the others were embarking on. “It’s

inspiring to work toward something that potentially has such a global impact,” he says.

The team expanded its expertise, bringing on board Dr. Brandon Field, associate professor of engineering, who joined Hill in delivering insight and knowledge in areas like thermodynamic and biological testing. Students and faculty held conference calls with other grant recipients around the globe, bouncing ideas and collaborating on solutions. “There are so many moving pieces with regard to this prototype,” says Deal. “You’ve got electrical, mechanical and environmental engineering all working together. It’s been such a huge benefit to have USI and this engineering team involved.”

Working together wasn’t always easy. Schedules didn’t line up, personalities were different—they had to learn to collaborate, share ideas and look outside the confines of their area of expertise—skills they look back on now as preparing them for real-world teamwork and collaboration. “It’s not about those individual roles—it’s about all five of us, working together toward a larger goal,” says Griffith. That comradeship spilled over into personal lives, as late nights on the project led to social gatherings and the group’s bond solidified.

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The OMNUS concept is a communal toilet that doesn’t rely on a wastewater system or electrical power grid to operate. Waste is repurposed as clean but non-drinkable water, with other byproducts captured as nutrient-rich fertilizer for crops. Its fuel is sourced from shredded paper fed into a combustion unit to produce heat that mixes with fecal matter, creating steam that is collected to create non-potable water. “The key is to contain all the human waste, so it doesn’t pollute the surface or ground water,” says Holland.

More than expert faculty and eager students have made the project a success so far. Perched on a hill at the edge of campus is USI’s Applied Engineering Center, a 16,000 square foot manufacturing facility containing \$3 million of high-tech equipment, some of which is found nowhere else in the country. “It’s one of the best shops I’ve ever worked in,” says Deal. “I’ve been incredibly impressed with this facility.”

“This is one of the first companies that has come into this space and used it repetitively and to its full potential,” adds Chlebowski, touting the facility’s state-of-the-art equipment and software that engineers can use to model parts and processes. “Without all the tools and technology available in this facility, it wouldn’t have been possible for us to accomplish what we’ve done,” says Caleb

Kauk ’19 as he shows off a series of parts fabricated on site through 3D printing, water jets and other high-end processes.

All five seniors graduated in December and are employed with local engineering firms, including Holland, who accepted a full-time position with Three Bird Swan and will continue to work on the project. “It’s exciting to see what they’ve learned, their capabilities—they’ve become so sure of themselves,” says Deal.

Since December, Three Bird Swan has continued to move the project forward with assistance from Chlebowski and the USI Engineering Department. In recent months the unit has been honed and the team hopes to advance the system to the next level: introducing wastewater.

Much rides on these trials as success will dictate securing a third Gates Foundation grant to fund the deployment of the unit to Durban, South Africa, a hub of real-world testing for many of the Reinvent the Toilet inventors. If successful, the unit will be shipped to the coastal city by early August, beginning a 100-day trial period before the region enters its cyclical manufacturing shutdown period, part of the nation’s energy conservation efforts. Deal, Holland and the rest of her team, will make the trip. Chlebowski will visit the site for two shorter

periods at the start and end of the 100-day trial.

Phase three funding would not only cover the Durban field testing but also initial development of a version three of OMNUS with USI again heavily involved, including the opportunity for more senior design and student research projects. Chlebowski would be named a co-principal investigator and the University a full research partner. “This would be an exciting time for the project as we’d see it move from the initial research and testing phases into development of a manufacturing plan and business proposition,” says Chlebowski.

Angermeier and the others don’t take much for granted these days—the experience they’ve gained, the connections they’ve made, the jobs they’ve landed and the impact that hard work, dedication and a little imagination can have at a global level. They now know how lucky they are to be able to do something as simple as flush a toilet. “Growing up, I always wanted to help people out or find ways to contribute to the community,” says Angermeier. “Having the chance to do this with Heather and her team has been life-changing.”

(The story of Heather Deal’s first project appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of *USI Magazine* and can be read online at [USI.edu/illumere/reflecting](http://USI.edu/illumere/reflecting).)

“NEW IDEAS AND CHANGES POP UP DAILY ON A PROJECT LIKE THIS... THE KEY TO INTEGRATION IS COMMUNICATION.”

KYLE JONES '19



My undergraduate research experience with Dr. Kenneth Walsh was formative in my scientific career. Through his mentorship I learned important laboratory skills and protocols that set me up for success in my graduate studies. I also learned how important scientific research communication is in order to better yourself as a scientist, as well as to share your work with the broader scientific community.

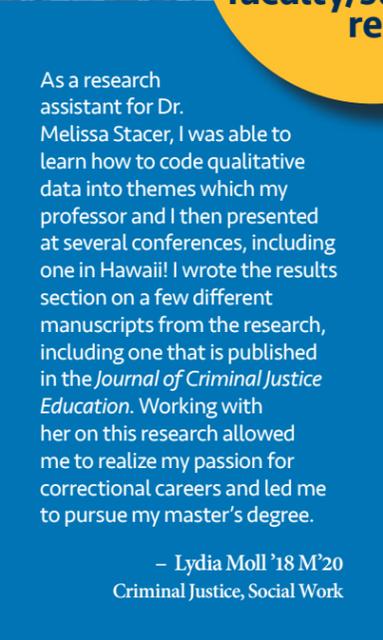
– Caleb Starr '15  
Biochemistry

**Open Dialogue**  
faculty/student research



Participating in a systematic review with Dr. Urska Dobersek and a team of other researchers, I learned how to effectively search for and code research articles that were pertinent to our study. I was able to learn the importance of knowing how to utilize certain databases, assessing scholarly articles and how to work efficiently with a team. These are skills that will set me up to be successful throughout graduate school and my life beyond college. Participating in research alongside her has opened several doors for me that may not have been opened otherwise

– Kaitlin Krout '20  
Psychology



As a research assistant for Dr. Melissa Stacer, I was able to learn how to code qualitative data into themes which my professor and I then presented at several conferences, including one in Hawaii! I wrote the results section on a few different manuscripts from the research, including one that is published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Working with her on this research allowed me to realize my passion for correctional careers and led me to pursue my master's degree.

– Lydia Moll '18 M'20  
Criminal Justice, Social Work



Doing undergraduate chemistry research with Dr. Priya Hewavitharanage at USI equipped me with hands on laboratory experience and ignited my interest and passion for chemistry. The individual, experiential learning was crucial to prepare me for graduate school. She saw potential in me that I could not see. She encouraged me to follow my curiosity and attend Virginia Tech to study for my PhD in chemistry. Now, I am a research scientist at Solvay Specialty Polymers, a global materials manufacturer, and I can truly say that my success directly stems from my undergraduate research experience and Dr. Priya's support.

– Matthew Vincent '13 PhD  
Chemistry



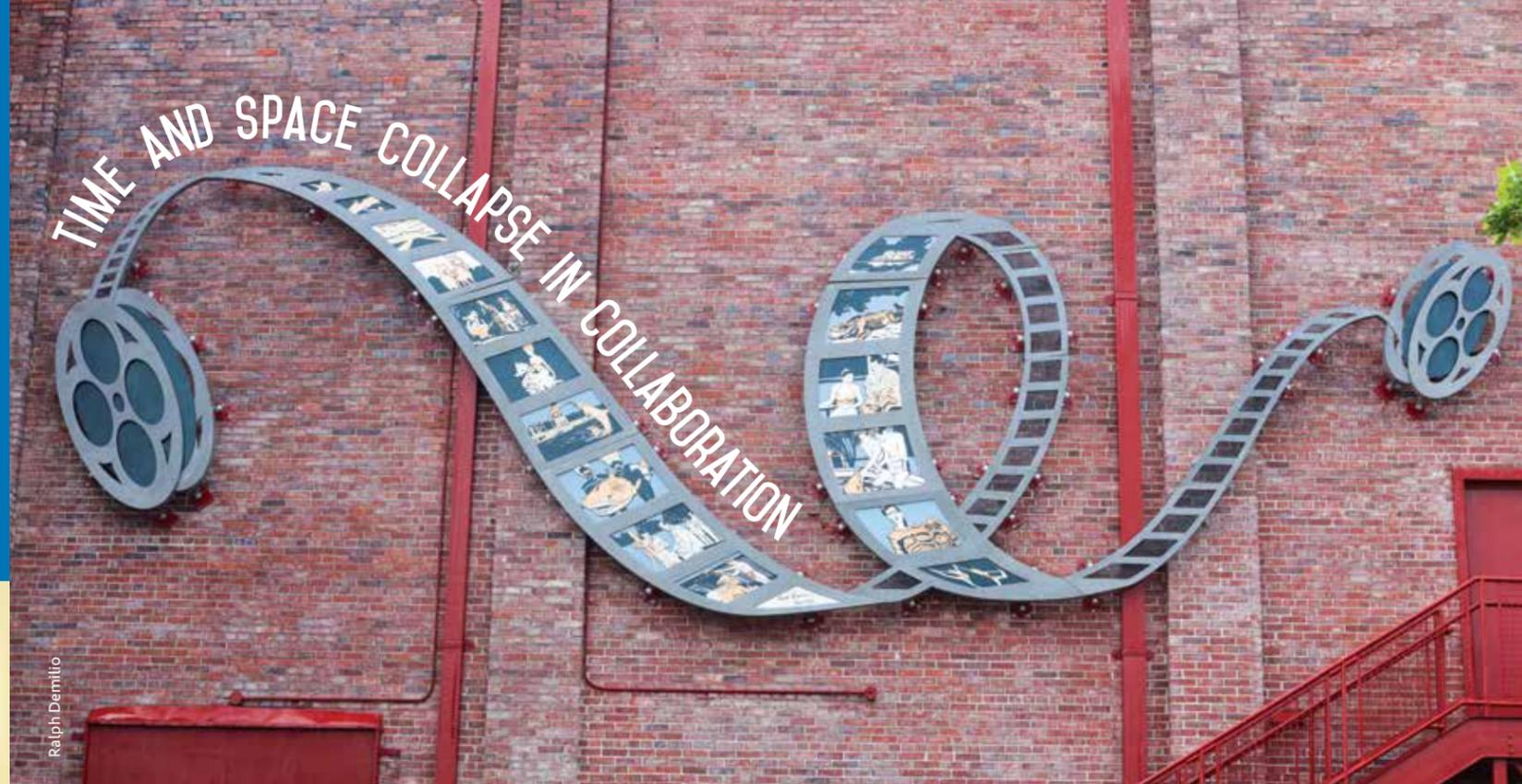
Working with Dr. Stella Ress has taught me not only how to conduct research and work with the public but the merits of doing so as well. This opportunity gave me a much deeper understanding of what goes into a research project and what the finished project can do to help one's community. I never could have fully experienced that on my own without the guidance of someone who has been through it before. That guidance allowed me to make mistakes, learn from them and correct them, all while being able to ask questions throughout the process."

– Marissa McNeely '20  
History



Working alongside Dr. Katie Ehlman, I have gained skills that have been pertinent in conducting research in quality of care. Seeing the applications of our research with dementia patients firsthand has inspired me to look into the quality of care given in all aspects of healthcare, and focus heavily on the materials pertaining to quality assurance in the master's of health administration curriculum. I have found a new passion: that every person seeking care receives the best possible.

– Jerry Brown IV M'21  
Health Administration



Ralph Demilio

BY ERIN MEYER

WHEN LAURA WALKER '05 M'17 BECAME THE HEAD OF OCALA, FLORIDA'S CULTURAL ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION, she set out to commission a large-scale public art piece to complement the city's World War II-era Marion Theater. The result—a 40-foot long ode to the Sunshine State's cinematic past now adorning the building's exterior—is more than a work of art. It's a metal and steel symbol of collaboration, featuring USI from the opening scene to the closing credits.

The artist search, which involved candidates from across the country, eventually led Walker back to her alma mater and her former sculpture instructor, David Huebner. "You want to be able to pick someone who has that skill set, who's worked in that scale, who's provided projects that meet that same level of expertise," she says of the selection process.

USI's longtime art studio supervisor had the experience, but knew he'd need help perfecting

the largest project he'd ever undertaken and tapped Ben Sutter '09, his former student, to help. A sculpture artist based in Lafayette, Indiana, he was up for the challenge and the nine-hour roundtrip commute. "It was neat to come back after 10 years and work in the studio," says Sutter. "That's where I learned a lot of things that I still use today in making sculpture."

The pair spent months fine-tuning their design, a film strip featuring iconic images of Florida movies and culture looping between two reels. Just selecting the scenes to fill the film's frames took weeks. Modifying them to flow and fit properly was even more complicated. "It was a daunting task," says Huebner.

Over the course of a dozen trips from Lafayette to Evansville, and with the assistance of several additional Screaming Eagles, Retro Reel slowly took shape. Shea Stanley '94 transformed Huebner and Sutter's analog drawings into digital images. Students in the Applied Engineering Center (AEC) used a water jet to

cut the sculpture's framework, and a local business produced the film strip's intricate interior sections. "It was so large, just moving it around took hours," says Sutter.

In July 2019, two years after Walker's initial phone call, Huebner and Sutter loaded up their powder-coated puzzle pieces and made the 700-mile journey to Ocala for installation. "We never saw it all together until it was on the wall [of Marion Theatre] in Florida," Huebner says. "It's one thing to put it together in the studio, but it's another thing to actually have it up in its environment," adds Sutter. "It truly is a part of you that's up there."

Though moviegoers in Florida may not realize the many connections their sculpture has to the University of Southern Indiana, Sutter and Huebner are proud of the layered partnership that left a large, lasting mark in Ocala. "I'm honored and grateful," Huebner says. "It was a huge learning process. There were a lot of firsts."

**"IT'S HAD A REALLY POSITIVE RECEPTION BY THE PUBLIC, THE COMMUNITY, THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY MANAGEMENT TEAM. EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY REALLY LOVES IT."**

– LAURA WALKER '05 M'17

# BEHIND THE SCENE

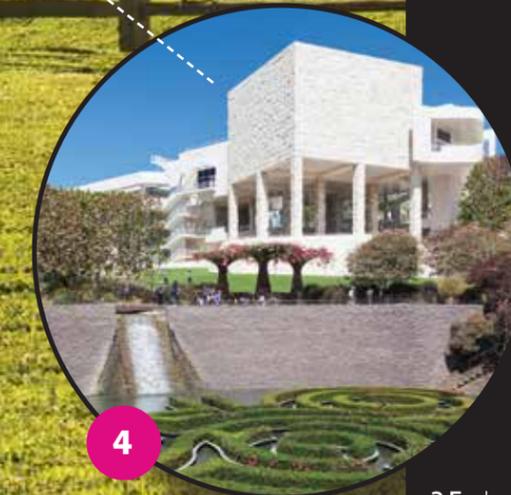
The New Harmony Atheneum rises out of the low farming fields along the banks of the Wabash River in southern Indiana like a beacon of inspiration. The ship-like design is the work of Richard Meier (who created the Getty Center in Los Angeles, California) and is considered one of his icons. The creation and opening of the Atheneum in 1979 launched a revolutionary aesthetic, as it is considered the first white walled museum. "One can find every color of the rainbow," Meier said. "White is... the color which intensifies the perception of all of the other hues that exist in natural light and in nature."

Forty years later, the structure is still wowing visitors from around the world. In 2008, the Atheneum received the American Institutes of Architects' "Twenty-five Year Award," which is given to only one building per year. From its window along the journey from the ground floor to the roof terrace, visitors can take in the splendor of a gentle river, lush countryside and the small town that was once a utopian community renowned for its advances in education and scientific research, and still home to many artists.

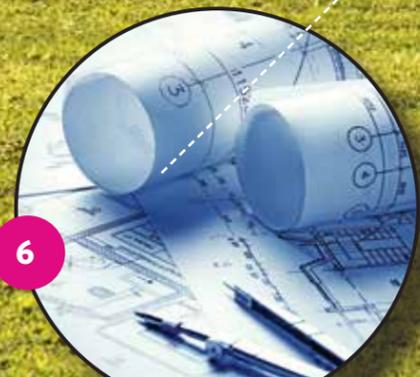
1. It was named after a temple in ancient Athens, Greece, dedicated to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, where poets, philosophers and orators gathered to read and discuss their work.
2. A model of the Atheneum and the original architectural drawings are part of the permanent architecture collection at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, New York.
3. The original conceptual design included a restaurant: a McDonalds.
4. During the Atheneum's construction, Meier worked from gallery four where he conceived the concepts for the Getty Center.
5. Design elements from the Atheneum are included in the High Museum, in Atlanta, Georgia, which was constructed two years after the completion of the Atheneum.
6. The three-story, hard-angled, architectural promenade uses the Modern theories of spatial experiences centered around a moving observer and was designed for visitors to arrive by boat.



3



4



6



5



1

## BY THE NUMBERS

12 pieces COMPLETED

+3 study paintings

1500 hours spent

75+ brushes

13 friends who served as models

55 TUBES OF PAINT USED

Largest painting 4 FT X 4 FT

9 graduate school applications

1 PAIR OF PAINT-COVERED OVERALLS



## HER WORDS

### Learning Curve

"I learned not to give up on myself, because large projects can be exhausting and shake your confidence. You've just got to keep going. I learned a lot about how I think and how I process art."

### Mortal Flesh Exhibition

"I paint flesh, I paint people. And 'mortal' ... it's life and death, it's people making mistakes—us mortals compared to gods being perfect. We make mistakes. We have flaws. We have negative sides to us, as a race, as individuals."

### Interpreting Art

"I like to give people enough to face them in the right direction, but how far they want to walk in that direction is up to them. Putting the painting topic in their own worlds has more of an impact on them."

### Advice

"Don't be afraid to change direction in the middle. Don't be afraid to get this feeling in your gut and go with it, because that's what being an artist is about."

### Point of View

"I really enjoyed painting others' lives and human experiences that we all go through—relationships, depression, all these universal themes that every culture, every person has—and finding that unity."

## THE ART OF AN EFROYMSON

Livia Alexander '18, art, the daughter of a longtime USI employee, grew up on campus. She remembers watching a VHS tape that captured her budding artistic skills, recorded at the Children's Learning Center when she was 3 years old. "I was always just painting," she recalls of the video. "I had this big rainbow, and I was so proud of myself."

Twenty years later, the 2019 Efroymsen Bridge Year Fellow is back painting at USI. Her rainbows replaced by oil-on-canvas interpretations of serious, sometimes controversial issues: depression, suicide, privacy and gun control. "It's hard to sit down and talk to people about these things, but the visuals can speak without us speaking," she says. "I want us to come together as one instead of being so divided in every way."

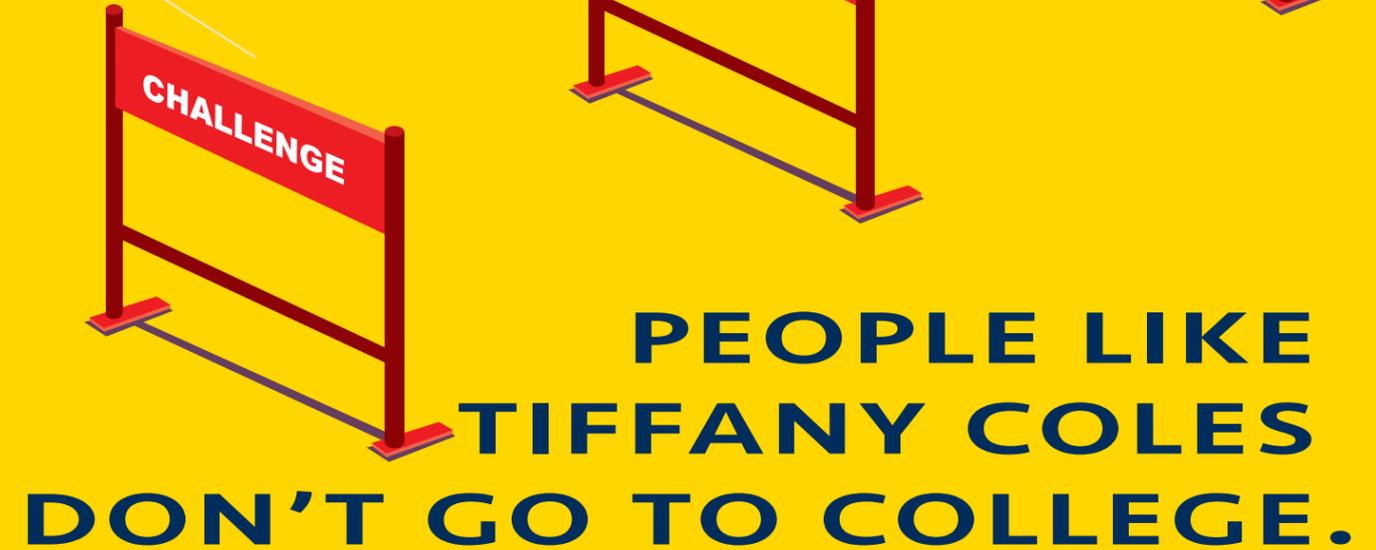
Established in 2012, and awarded to one USI Art and Design Department graduate each year, the Efroymsen Bridge Year Fellowship allowed Alexander time to grow her portfolio in preparation for graduate school. Her work, *Mortal Flesh*, was exhibited in USI's Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries too.

VIEW ALEXANDER'S WORK AT [USI.EDU/ILLUME](http://USI.EDU/ILLUME).

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Against the Odds

by Erin Meyer



# PEOPLE LIKE TIFFANY COLES DON'T GO TO COLLEGE.

People whose mothers are addicted to drugs. People who grow up in foster care. People who are expelled from three high schools, get involved with the wrong people and end up pregnant at 19. Degrees aren't meant for those people.

Most of her life, that's what Tiffany Coles believed. "I had a bad childhood, and I just don't see that for myself," she told a friend who brought up the idea of college.

It seemed far-fetched. Impossible even. No one in her family had ever gone to college, let alone graduated.

Still, something about the suggestion stuck—and became the catalyst for change Coles desperately wanted.

### PUSHING THROUGH

At first, nothing happened. Coles, then in her mid-20s, visited USI and had some encouraging conversations. But despite the GED she'd earned, she still lacked the confidence to take the next step and apply. Two years passed

before she decided to enroll—as a single mom of three, working full-time.

Tiffany Coles poses with her family after 2019 Fall Commencement. "Those first few years it wasn't easy at all, but I just kept pushing through it because I really, really, really wanted this," she says. "I didn't want to live the life my mom lived, and I didn't want my kids to ever get taken away from me."

While working toward her bachelor's degree in psychology and minor in social work, Coles often relied on USI's Student Support Services. Former program director Heather Bauer and current director Aaron Pryor connected her with tutors, helped with assignments and offered the encouragement, structure and motivation that had been missing all her life. "I really needed

someone who was familiar with me and my situation to give me that push, like, 'Tiffany, yes, you've been through a lot, but you're here now and you can do it.' And he [Pryor] gave me that," says Coles. "I feel like they were my guardian angels. They really guided me ... I don't think I could have made it



without them." But Coles' own "passionate persistence," as Pryor puts it, may have been her greatest resource.

"Tiffany would be the first to admit that certain aspects of school did not come effortlessly to her, but what I admire the most about her is that she met every obstacle with her head held high, a smile on her face, a vision of the future in her eyes and words like 'can't' and 'won't' out of her vocabulary," Pryor says.

With her mother and children there to watch, Coles reached the

finish line of an emotional five-year journey at Commencement. "I just cried. I cried a lot. I cried before, I cried after," she says. "It was extra beautiful for me because I look back at my life, and I'm just like, 'Wow. Things could have been way different.'"

**CHANGING THE NARRATIVE** People like Tiffany Coles do go to college.

People who are mothers (and fathers). People who refuse to stop growing. People who go back for what they missed, get involved in their future and end up graduating at 33. Degrees are meant for those people.

That's what Tiffany Coles believes now.

"When you go to school and have a degree, you have something. That's your ticket to a successful life. It's your way to say, 'Hey, I made it. Whatever I want to do, I can do it,'" Coles says. "I feel like the sky's the limit for me right now."

# ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.



BECOMING A PROFESSOR REQUIRES MORE THAN EARNING A PHD, IT TAKES INSIGHT AND SELF-AWARENESS. FACULTY FROM USI'S FOUR COLLEGES LET US IN ON A MOMENT IN THEIR CAREERS THAT IMPACTED THEIR TEACHING.



## HOW DR. WARD LEARNED TO RAISE THE STAKES

My first day at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Dr. Bill Conroy's Constitutional Law undergrad class he assigned six dense, academic books for us to read. He was one of the toughest professors on campus, and to be quite honest, I had never read anything like those books before.

He instructed us to use a method he called "active reading," where you underline the important aspects of each paragraph and make notes in the margin. This substantially raised our understanding of the material in the book and made reviewing the book prior to discussion and exams much easier.

It's a technique that has stuck with me a decade later. Today, I teach my students the same technique when assigning dense material on topics such as strategy or competition in healthcare. Students can recall the information they read much quicker in class, which makes class discussion much more enjoyable for all parties.

**Dr. Zachary Ward**  
Assistant Professor of Health Administration  
College of Nursing and Health Professions



## HOW DR. BROST BROKE A BARRIER

Teaching my first composition class as a graduate student at Colorado State University, I was 23 years old and looked even younger. On the first day, I heard students whispering among themselves, speculating about how old I was.

I was nervous anyway, and even more so on the day I was observed by a full-time faculty member. She was encouraging, but noted that I spent the class practically glued to the same spot, almost as if I was hiding behind my desk. She encouraged me to walk around more, even walking among the students as they did small group activities. It was as if I had to be told to literally break the invisible barrier I had built between myself and my students.

I now frequently walk around as the students work on class writing and group activities, and I have found that it makes them feel more free to ask one-on-one questions that they might not have asked if they were the ones who had to cross that barrier.

**Dr. Molly Brost**  
Contract Assistant Professor of English  
Assistant Director of Composition  
College of Liberal Arts



## HOW DR. PURCELL DISCOVERED A UNIVERSAL TRUTH

Nearly 30 years ago, I was introduced to Carl Sagan's popular *Cosmos* series on PBS. I was awed as he laid out the wonders of our universe—wonders so fantastical and grand in scale that I recall a sense of unease—until Dr. Sagan explained the physical concepts governing what seemed to my young mind like magic.

He was a masterful storyteller, capable of explaining in his very deliberate tone these concepts in a way that was both attainable and entertaining. I realized that, although we are but very small specks of star dust in our immense universe, we are specks that can discover that while grand in scale, the innerworkings of our universe are both beautiful and comprehensible.

I think back to that moment when my students encounter a topic that troubles them. In my own way, I try to make the topic approachable as Dr. Sagan did for millions of us. But equally important, I let my students know that the sense of unease is a shared human experience. Whether expanding the limits of our personal or of human knowledge, a scientist must always remember that these underlying concepts remain beautiful and strangely comprehensible.

**Dr. Kenneth Purcell**  
Associate Professor of Physics  
Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education



## HOW DR. SRIVASTAVA GOT HER GROOVE BACK

A few years ago I received an email from a junior colleague of mine from my graduate school, whom I had mentored when we were in the same program. She was thanking me for my teaching style, which she said made her understand even the most challenging topics in the research field.

Her message made me aware that my instructional style had become very traditional—lecture notes, slides, textbook resources and others. I was missing the spark that I had while pursuing my doctorate. She reminded me that I used to employ an active learning style in my teaching, including hands-on examples from the real world, and even roleplay to help students understand how a computer, an artificially intelligent machine, would process information.

I switched my teaching style back to my active learning approach for my students at USI. Now, I feel the spark in my teaching and an increased level of excitement towards learning in the students when I ask them to problem-solve as a computer would, without using their human intelligence. It helps them understand the complicated mechanisms of a computing machine, before they get into the more complex details of implementing the solutions using computer programming.

**Dr. Srishti Srivastava**  
Assistant Professor of Computer Science  
Romain College of Business



USI may be tucked away in the southwest corner of Indiana, but students still enjoy exposure to cultures from afar. Last fall, students from the African Culture Club presented a program involving traditional foods, fashion and dance to introduce and educate USI's community to a sampling of African culture.

"The growing international presence on the USI campus makes it imperative to sensitize students through organizations such as this one," says Jerome Degbe '21, founder and former club president.

The club brought Saakamm, a professional dance team from Ghana, to campus to present traditional and contemporary African dance and music. It was funded by the Multicultural Center, the Provost's Office, Student Government Association and the Center for International Programs.

"The college is a unique place where knowledge and differences are celebrated," Degbe says. "This organization allows us to spread knowledge and celebrate with the entire USI community our differences and similarities."

## STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL us  
at [alumni@usi.edu](mailto:alumni@usi.edu).

UPDATE your information  
and send photos  
via the form  
at  
[usi.edu/AlumniUpdate](http://usi.edu/AlumniUpdate).

*Class notes may be edited  
for length or clarity.*

*We regret that  
we may not  
be able to use all  
submitted photos, and  
reserve the right to select  
which ones are included.*

## 1970s

**James Robert (Bob) McDaniel '73**, elementary education, received the Holland Club (named after John P. Holland, designer of the first U.S. Navy submarine) Award for 50 years as a qualified submariner. The award is given to an exclusive group within the U.S. Submarine Veterans organization. [1]

**Wendell Crim '75**, biology, at the age of 70 years old, skipped his first international yacht race out of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, due to "very foul weather." [2]

**Tim Goad '79**, chemistry, made some changes in 2019. "I recently upgraded my amateur radio license class to Amateur Extra in November 2019. I obtained my Novice license while I was a student at ISUE in 1978, the same year I obtained my Technician license. I obtained my Advanced license in 1979. Here is a view of me at the amateur radio station KA9AMO on Christmas Eve 2019." [3]

## 1980s

**Jennifer (Johnson) Bartek '85**, dental hygiene, M'06, secondary education, retired from teaching. "Here's to many next big moments, like rafting on the Colorado, as I enjoy retirement and exploring our beautiful country. I am grateful for the 29 years as a professor at the University of Southern Indiana and am proud to be a Screaming Eagle Alum." [4]



# Class Notes

**Mark Isaac '87**, accounting, was promoted to executive vice president in retail banking for United Fidelity Bank, in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

**Amy Baehl-Kazma '87**, communications, has been named honorary chairwoman of this year's Woman Volunteer of the Year luncheon, an annual event that celebrates women nominated by nonprofits throughout Palm Beach County in Florida.

**Scott Hyatt '89**, finance, senior advisor at Summit Real Estate, began pursuing his lifelong dream of racing vintage sports cars. "I have participated in 10 vintage car races, driving my 1974 Datsun 260Z at such notable tracks as Road American, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, and Blackhawk Farms, South Beloit, Illinois. It has been an absolute blast." [5]

## 1990s

**Timothy Bryan '90**, accounting, M'07, accounting, had a big year. "I welcomed my first grandbaby, Rosalie June Gaslin, on April 17, 2019. I completed my doctor of business in administration with a concentration in accounting at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida, over the summer. Finally, my wife, Sarah, and I moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where I am an assistant professor of accounting at Marshall University." [6]

**Brian Hancock '90**, psychology, was promoted to market executive of the Evansville regional office by ONI Risk Partners.

**Sue Strobel-Sanders '91**, marketing, was selected by H&R Block as one of the 2019 Top 100 Franchises. Her franchise began in 2014 in Tell City, Indiana.

**Deavron Farmer '91**, management, and **Jeanene (Bohnert) Farmer '05**, health services, love to travel and try to never repeat the same locations. "Whether it's exploring Europe, traversing all of Nova Scotia or sunning in Exuma, Bahamas, our one location we are willing to repeat each December around the holidays is the beautiful parts of Old Quebec City, Canada. This is a view from the top of Escalier Casse-Cou (breakneck stairs) looking back over Petit Champlain, Old Quebec City, Canada." [7]

**Carla (Forston) Birska '95**, communications, has been promoted to global claims director at Cummins Inc. in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Tracey (Claxton) Parrish '96**, communications, was awarded 2018 Safety Leader of the Year at Sabic in Mount Vernon, Indiana. [8]

**Jeremy Alexander '97**, social science, has been promoted to senior vice president in retail at First Kentucky Bank, in Henderson, Kentucky. He is currently enrolled in the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania and is also pursuing a Leadership Certificate from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Vicki (Weyer) Drysdale '97**, business administration and psychology, of Bowles Mattress, in Evansville, was



awarded an Emerging Business Award from the Southwest Indiana Small Business Administration.

**Bill Norman '97**, accounting, has been appointed president of consumer packaging-North American Division at Berry Plastics, in Evansville. He joined Berry in 1993 and previously held a variety of managerial and vice president positions in areas such as accounting, finance and commercial strategic planning.

**Rebecca Tyner '97**, biology, is the senior director of education strategy at ArcheMedX, Inc. of Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Marc Hostetter '99**, biology, principal at Mount Vernon Junior High School, was presented the prestigious Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award.

**James Myrick '99**, physical education (teaching), caught up with classmates. "Last summer, up here in Michigan, a

group of us got together for a BBQ with all our families. We are still all super close just like back in the 90s at USI." (Left to right: Jason Waddell, James Myrick '99, physical education (teaching), Nitin Naidu '00, business administration, Winston Church '99, physical education (teaching), and Jason Hardiman). [9]

## 2000s

**LeeAnn (Race) Boggs '00**, accounting, is welcomed as the newest director at Friendship State Bank in Vevay, Indiana.

**Kimberly (Davis) Nightingale '00**, sociology, M'02, social work, has been hired as an assistant general counsel by the Indiana Department of Child Services for the state's north and south regions.

**Michael Todd Treadway '00**, computer information systems, joined Provident Bank, in New York, New York, as senior vice

president, digital channels director with the information technology team. Todd will be responsible for the management of all of the bank's digital channels.

**Ben Schmitt '02**, business administration, joined the German American Insurance team as a senior employee benefits consultant based in the Evansville office.

**Emily (Garoffolo) Webb '02**, advertising and public relations, was promoted to program mentor II for the College of Health Professions at Western Governors University.

**Beverly (Bendzen) Brinker '03**, social science, is now a manager in the support services department at Evansville Teacher's Federal Credit Union, ensuring documents are legibly imaged/scanned and making sure quality control procedures are followed.

**Andrew Koors '03**, accounting, is a financial controller at Mainstream

Fiber Networks in Nashville, Indiana, and became a certified management accountant (CMA) this year.

**Bryan Stahl '03**, business administration, has been promoted to senior vice president/operations officer/IT manager at The Peoples Bank, in Brownstown, Indiana.

**Tyson Wagler '03**, accounting, has been appointed to the board of directors at German American Bancorp, Inc. He was also appointed to the company's audit committee.

**Travis Clowers '04**, political science, and his wife Jennifer celebrated 16 years of marriage and have five wonderful children: Triston, Jackson, Bryce, Nash and Emma. Travis was reelected as Prosecuting Attorney of Posey County in April 2019, but the retirement of a Superior Court Judge led Governor Holcomb to appoint him to the vacancy. He teaches a Constitutional Rights class at USI this spring. [10]

**Bryce Cooper '04**, sociology, played soccer at USI then served his country in the Indiana Army National Guard (he was ROTC at USI). "I've been coaching soccer collegiately for 11 years (at Butler, Saint Francis and Duquesne). I am currently the head men's soccer coach at Newberry College here in South Carolina. My wife, Courtney, and I have two amazing girls, Stori and Priya." [11]

**Lindsay Botsch '05**, finance, has been named senior vice president of the commercial banking team leads at German American Bank, in Evansville. She has over 15 years of banking experience and has worked with German American for 11 years.

**Justine Lovell '05**, accounting and finance, has been promoted to supervisor at Jarrard, Nowell & Russell, LLC in Charleston, South Carolina.

**September Lant M'06**, elementary education, was named a 2019 Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellow. She spent the summer

in New York City studying playwriting at The Barrow Group and Gotham Writers' Workshop. She is currently writing a play.

**Holly Dunn Pendleton M'06**, business administration, is an inspirational speaker, victim rights advocate and author of *Sole Survivor*. She is the only known survivor of the Railroad Serial Killer. She lives in Evansville with her husband Jacob and two sons. (Left to right: Jacob Pendleton, Warren, William and Holly.) [12]

**Jennifer Waters M'06**, nursing, is leading the new Baptist Health Primary Care Clinic in Benton, Kentucky.

**April (Hale) Woodruff '06**, elementary education, and **Randall Woodruff '07**, geology, were thrilled when their 8-year-old daughter Tinley qualified and competed in the United States Track and Field Junior Olympic Cross Country National Championships in Madison, Wisconsin, December 14, 2019. [13]

**Casey (Alexander) Thorbeck '07**, finance, and Daniel are now a family of four with daughters Kiley and Allie. (Left to right: Allie, Daniel, Kiley and Casey taken at Walt Disney World Resort.) [14]

**Ebonie Cook '07**, political science, exploring nature with her son Keden. "He loves being outside, so we decided to take a selfie to document this day in October 2019!" [15]

**Amy (Seay) Byrd M'08**, family nurse practitioner, has joined the staff of Mercy Health - Paducah Ear, Nose and Throat in Paducah, Kentucky. She has over 23 years of experience and is certified with the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

**Ryan Kay '08**, business, is a new member of the Ellis-Schafer Team at F.C. Tucker Emge's 7820 Building, in Evansville.

**Michelle (Swihart) Tudor '08**, radiologic and imaging science, is the new clinical coordinator for the Owensboro

Community and Technical College's radiography program.

**Joseph Collins '09**, business administration, is the indirect lending business development officer at Heritage Federal Credit Union, in Newburgh, Indiana.

## 2010s

**Steven Geiss '11**, biology, and **Emily Severeid-Geiss '12**, political science, traveled to Paris, France, in December. He completed his medical residency in July 2019 and took a position as a clinical instructor of anesthesiology at University Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. She is an academic advisor in the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri. [16]

**Jeremy Luman '11**, radio and television, is the senior customer success manager at



LogMeln, Inc. in San Francisco, California. Luman was awarded a paid master's program and cultural ambassador position in Madrid, Spain, from 2012 to 2014.

**Nicholas Voegel '12**, business administration, is the process facilitator at Astra Zeneca in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

**Caylin Blockley '13**, advertising and public relations, **M'16**, communication, has filled the role of director of alumni relations for the Jindal School of Management, University of Texas at Dallas.

**Chad Cook '13**, physical education, has been added to the men's wrestling staff at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, Kentucky. He will primarily work with the upper weight classes.

**Tori (Victoria) Daugherty '13**, occupational therapy, '14, Spanish, is the occupational therapy brain lead at the Mayo Clinic Hospital Saint Mary's Campus in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Rachel Spalding M'13**, nursing management leadership, was hired as the new chief nursing officer at Good Samaritan Hospital in Knox County.

**Jordan Whitlege '14**, economics, **M'16**, business administration, was chosen to be part of the Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation's 2019-2020 Fellows Class of 20 Outstanding Hoosiers.

**Jamie Adkins '15**, kinesiology and nutrition, **M'17**, occupational therapy, a runner on USI's national championship track team when she was a senior, competed in the 2020 U.S. Olympic Marathon trials in Atlanta, Georgia. The photo is from the California International Marathon, where she earned a slot at the Olympic trials with two seconds to spare. **[17]**

**Amanda Brinkman '15**, art with a concentration in graphic design, and her husband, Michael Saalman, are expecting another baby girl in June 2020. Her big sister Evelyn Godsey sports a T-shirt to announce her upcoming role in the family. **[18]**

**Josey (Sexton) Roth '15**, English, is the director of strategy and organizational development at the Evansville Christian Life Center and was recently named the Young Professional of the Year by the Southwest Indiana Chamber at its 2019 Young Professionals Conference held on August 2, 2019.

**Kaci Turner '15**, biology, is a general dentist at Heartland Dental in the Nashville, Tennessee, area. She graduated *cum laude* from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry and was inducted as a member of the dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon.

**Sara (Benzinger) Blazier '16**, communication studies, is the digital communications specialist for the City of Westfield in Westfield, Indiana.

**Dylan Krohn '16**, marketing, is a new member of the Ken Haynie Team at F.C. Tucker Emge-Newburgh, Indiana.

**Raven (Sprague) Pirtle '16**, nursing, and her husband, Gabe Pirtle, became foster parents. "We recently were asked to take in two boys needing emergency placement and we decided to open our home to this opportunity." **[19]**

**Elliot Prusz '16**, accounting, is part of the internal audit staff at Kimball Electronics in Jasper, Indiana. He married Megan Prusz September 7, 2019.

**Nick Gobert '17**, sports management, has been hired as an assistant coach for the Indian Hills Community College baseball program in Centerville, Iowa.

**Justin Groenert M'17**, public administration, has taken the position of vice president of public policy at the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Jason King '17**, accounting, is an internal auditor at Kimball Electronics in Jasper, Indiana.

**Elizabeth Mickus '18**, individualized studies, was promoted to chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy and is stationed at Navy Operational Support Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. "It was my big career milestone for 2019. I could not have done it without my education from USI." **[20]**

**Mallory (Phelps) Payne M'18**, health administration, is a radiography program tutor for the Owensboro Community and Technical College's radiography program that continues to shine with success and state-of-the-art technology.

**Ai Ishikawa M'19**, second language acquisition, culture and policy, stepped forward to a new chapter in her life. She plans to travel the United States before returning to Japan to work. She is behind Archie, wearing the white stole. **[21]**

**Michelle (Duncan) Kelley M'19**, nursing and family medicine, recently joined Baptist Health Medical Group Cardiology in Madisonville, Kentucky. Kelley specializes in cardiology and is available to provide

skilled, thoughtful care to area patients with coronary artery and vascular disease, heart failure or heart rhythm disorders.

**Holli Melton '19**, political science, has joined Field & Main Bank, in Henderson, Kentucky, as a brand experience specialist. Melton brings experience as an administrative intern for the City of Henderson as well as the Henderson Area Arts Alliance.

**Morgan Rowe '19**, marketing, has been named a digital marketing coordinator by Coles Marketing in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Sally (Gries) Smith '02**, public relations and advertising, **M'16**, public administration, and Randy Smith, January 13, 2019, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. **[22]**

**Katherine (Defries) Kote '04**, nursing, and Hasaba Kote, December 15, 2018. The couple resides in Evansville.

**Stevie (Lynch) McGill '14**, finance and accounting and professional services, **M'16**, business administration, **Justus McGill '17**, geology, September 7, 2019 at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. **[23]**

**Fletcher Brinkmeyer '16**, management, and **Jenna (Deisher) Brinkmeyer '16**, public relations and advertising, **M'17**, business administration, August 17, 2019. **[24]**

**Jason King '17**, accounting, and Natalie King, April 6, 2019. The couple resides in Huntingburg, Indiana.

**Samantha Peters M'18**, industrial management, and Eric Hering, September 10, 2019.

**Micayla (Zeger) Argo '19**, health service, **M'20**, health administration, and Brennan Argo, August 10, 2019. **[25]**

## Births

**Connie (Greenwood) Davis '04**, business administration, and **Travis Davis '04**, political science, welcomed Odessa October 18, 2019, to their family. Olivia, Odessa and Oliver. **[26]**

**Laura (Davis) Reidford '04**, accounting and professional services and finance, and Ryan Reidford welcomed Sierra Noelle who joined her three big and protective brothers on September 12, 2019. **[27]**

## Marriages

**Rebecca Tyner '97**, biology, and Chris Skidmore, July 7, 2018. The couple resides in Carmel, Indiana.



**Jonathan Eickhoff '11**, engineering, and **Shannon (Painter) Eickhoff '12**, nursing, welcomed Lexi Nicole on April 24, 2019.

**Nicholas Voegel '12**, business administration, and **Katlynn (Sater) Voegel M'19**, school administration and leadership, welcomed Maddox Lee on September 16, 2019.

**Taylor Gogel '13**, political science M'19, public administration, and **Hannah (Blount) Gogel '13**, elementary education, welcomed Lawson Charles on October 31, 2019.

**Ashley (Hilton) Hughes '13**, social work, M'17, public administration, and Chris Hughes welcomed Hudson to their family October 2, 2019, a bit sooner than expected. "This photo is of our newest, third child, Hudson after he got released from 3 weeks in the NICU for being a preemie." [28]

**Ana (Curry) Kane '15**, biology, and Nathan Kane welcomed Aldyn Michael on July 28, 2019. [29]

**Rachel (Runyon) Lortie '15**, occupational therapy, and Neil Lortie welcomed Oliver Lenard on August 12, 2019. [30]



**Marvin Smith M'18**, school administration and leadership, and Audrey Smith welcomed Amelia Briella on August 11, 2019. "I have reached another milestone that I wanted to share with my USI family." [31]

## In Memoriam

**Andrew Cassidy '71**, accounting, of Tampa, Florida, died August 5, 2019. He honorably served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

**Glen Alen Malott '72**, marketing, of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, died on December 25, 2019. He was a scuba instructor, photographer and photo editor for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for more than 30 years.

**Allan Knapp '73**, biology, of Evansville, died December 11, 2019. As a long-time dentist in Evansville, he was a well-respected and active member of the community. More than anything, Allan believed in people and inspired them to be their best.



**Susan (Hundley) Thompson '73**, social science, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died August 13, 2019, after a long battle with cancer. She enjoyed swing, genealogy and spoiling her granddaughters.

**Robert Schoenbaechler '74**, biology, of Evansville, died August 21, 2019. He served in the Army Reserves for nearly 20 years.

**Allen Eicher '78**, biology, of Evansville, died August 29, 2019. Allen was an avid wood worker, enjoyed the outdoors and volunteered frequently at the Evansville Rescue Mission.

**Timothy DeVault '84**, mechanical engineering, of Evansville, died December 11, 2019. Timothy loved and enjoyed spending time with his family.

**Charlotte (Miller) Craig '86**, English, of Boonville, Indiana, died December 12, 2019. She retired from Boonville High School as an English teacher in 1995 where she had taught for over 20 years.

**David Kapp '89**, accounting, of Newburgh, Indiana, died August 20, 2019.

**Glenn Owens '89**, marketing, of Evansville, died August 14, 2019. He was an outdoorsman who loved camping, fishing and hiking. He was a devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and was very involved in the Boy Scouts.

**Robin Clark '90**, social work, of Toledo, Ohio, died January 1, 2019.

**Geoffrey David '91**, business administration, of Evansville, died September 10, 2019.

**Maria (Koens) Nix '91**, science, M'93, secondary education, of Evansville, died December 25, 2019. She was a published author, writing articles for National Science Teacher Association as well as the book, *The Stoner Chronicle*.

**Lisa Kennedy-Kuhr '92**, dental assisting, of Cannelton, Indiana, died December 5, 2019.

**Rachel (Nantz) Lewis '92**, accounting, of Oakland City, Indiana, died October 30, 2019.

**Judith (DeGroote) Wood '93**, philosophy, of Corydon, Kentucky, died May 9, 2019.



She was more than a student to several professors. She was a friend.

**Dean Geer '94**, business administration, of Newburgh, Indiana, died January 25, 2020.

**Thomas Jackson '95**, psychology, of Evansville, died January 22, 2020.

**Annie (Gogel) Gunselman M'98**, secondary education, of Santa Claus, Indiana, died on September 28, 2019.

**Scott Huebschman '98**, psychology, of Evansville, died September 24, 2019.

**Harriet Vivian (Cleavelin) Long '98**, sociology, of Evansville, died January 12, 2020. She retired from the Department of Child Services in Posey County as a case manager after many years of service. She loved animals, was an avid reader and a prolific poet. Affectionately known as "Nana," she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

**Michael Klueh M'00**, accounting, of Evansville and Grand Rapids, Michigan,

died August 15, 2019. He is survived by his wife **Martha Nell (Riffle) Klueh '79**, dental hygiene.

**Leah Lubbehusen '03**, exercise science, of Huntingburg, Indiana, died in Dec 29, 2019.

**Curt Knight '06**, computer information systems, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died November 9, 2019. Family was the central pillar of his life, and he spent his life doing the things he loved with them.

**Sara Ann Rappee '06**, fine arts, of Evansville, died October 6, 2019. She embraced her life as an artist, adventurer and seeker of wisdom in all her endeavors.

**Emily Anne Rauscher '06**, communication studies and marketing, of Salt Lake City, Utah, died September 16, 2019. Not only an alumna, she taught at the University of Southern Indiana for one year.

**Heather Ota-Watson '08**, elementary education, of Princeton, Indiana, died September 1, 2019. She was a published poet and loved camping and going to the drive-in theatre.

**Jerry Hodges '12**, nursing, of Boonville, Indiana, died July 22, 2019.

**Kristen Norman '15**, accounting and professional services, of Evansville, died November 21, 2019.

**Jennifer (Underhill) Barnes '17**, individualized studies, of Sun City Center, Florida, died September 21, 2019.

## Honorary Degrees

USI's Board of Trustees will confer honorary Doctor of Laws degrees on **William "Bill" and Mary O'Daniel Stone** and **Dr. Nadine Coudret**, dean emerita of the College of Nursing and Health Professions, for their contributions to the University and their generous support to Evansville and the Tri-state, at the Spring 2020 Commencement.

## USI FAMILY Retiring

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Iris Phillips**, professor emerita of social work  
20 years

### COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**Colleen Walsh**, contract assistant professor of nursing  
22.5 years

**Carol Bonham**, associate professor of nursing  
10.5 years

### ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Sharlett Gillard**, professor of computer information systems  
34 years

**Timothy Mahoney**, instructor in economics  
33 years

**Ernest Nolan**, assistant professor of computer information systems  
37 years

**Jennifer Williams**, professor of computer information systems  
28.5 years

### ADMINISTRATION

**Heidi Gregori-Gahan**, associate provost emerita for International Programs  
22.5 years

## In Memoriam

**Larry Goss**, professor emeritus of engineering tech (29 years), died September 30, 2019.

**David L. Rice**, president emeritus of USI, died January 15, 2020.

She served as an expert on PBS's American Experience "The Circus," that's streaming on Netflix.



Nina Simone's and Bob Marley's songs of resistance, social change, love and hope keep her encouraged.

**D**r. Sakina Hughes, assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts, associate professor of history and director of USI's Africana Studies Program, wants her students to hear voices—particularly “voices of diverse peoples from disparate walks of life.” It is through their stories that her students grasp racial, socioeconomic and sexual orientation experiences as an avenue to “challenge and critique all the -isms and phobias that plague our society.”

Outside the classroom, Hughes’ research investigates the world of African Americans and Native Americans through the lens of their roles as entertainers in the circus. Focusing on the 1800s to early 1900s,

her research has led her to understand how participation in Wild West and minstrel shows allowed people of these groups to be legitimate entertainers, creating a space for themselves in society despite the prejudices against their races.

Driven by social justice ideas in and



out of the classroom, Hughes teaches her students the history of traditionally neglected peoples while challenging them to think about the future we are all creating.

**How does your research inform and shape your teaching, and in turn your students?** At its core, my research is about re-writing traditional narratives to include people who were routinely left out of or neglected by the historical record. I teach this type of inclusion and corrective history in every class. It is essential and, in some cases, life-changing for students. In my “Race, Power and Violence” course, some students have been so inspired they’ve decided to incorporate social justice ideology into their own lesson plans when they become teachers.

**As a historian, with insight that history repeats itself, what lesson do you feel humans are doomed to keep learning?** To respect everyone’s humanity, no matter who they are or where they come from. So many wars and atrocities have resulted in not recognizing this and I fear that with all the anti-immigrant rhetoric and rise in hate crimes we are going further down that path. Once we are at a point in society where we can respect others, we will be on our way to solving most, if not all, of our problems!

**What keeps you hopeful in troubling times?** As a historian of the African American experience, including slavery, I study some pretty gruesome things and sometimes must grapple with

the worst things people have done to each other. What gives me hope is that at every point in history where there has been oppression—extreme, horrible oppression—there have always been people—black, white, and of all colors and backgrounds—standing up to that oppression and showing how incredibly brave, inspiring, creative and good humans can be.

**What book should everyone read and why?** This might be the hardest question for me because there are so many good ones.

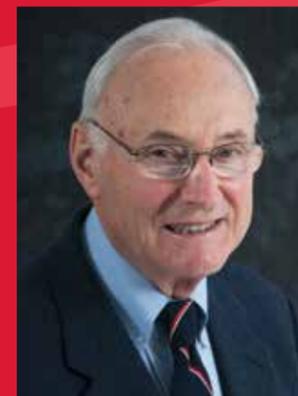
W. E. B. Du Bois’s The Souls of Black Folk—the idea of Double Consciousness is so important in understanding race and identity—and Bell Hooks’ Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center. She teaches us how incorporating black women’s experiences into our understanding of feminism, we are able to be more inclusive of all men and women of all colors and backgrounds.



**How do you want to be remembered by your students?** As someone who made them think about the important things in life in regard to being a better citizen of our nation and of the world.

She loves to bake sweet treats with her 17-year-old daughter, who is a pastry chef extraordinaire.

READ MORE ABOUT DR. HUGHES ONLINE AT [USI.EDU/ILLUME](http://USI.EDU/ILLUME).



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*Spirit and Heart of USI*



Artist Alex Bailey '14 returned to the USI Dowhie Ceramics Center last summer to begin creating an outdoor sculpture celebrating the USI Foundation's 50th anniversary (1968-2018). Her piece, "Standing Together" is the largest she's ever worked on. Made and fired in sections, the five round columns differ in heights that range from eight to 12 feet tall. Viewers will be able to walk among the columns, and she hopes the sculpture will "serve as a starting point for fostering empathy, and as a site to develop and nurture fellowship."

*Visit [USI.edu/spiritheart](http://USI.edu/spiritheart) for student submission guidelines.*