

illume

SPRING 2025 • UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

*"The goal is to
bridge the digital
and AI divide."*

**ENGINEERING
ELDERCARE**

18

*"It's an opportunity
that isn't available
at any other
university."*

**CRACKING THE
MENTAL HEALTH CODE**

25

SYNCING HUMANITY AND TECHNOLOGY 22

■ **Encore Careers** Wendell Crim '75

■ **World View** Matt Myers '83

■ **Tailfeather** Dr. Robin Sanabria

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ILLUME • SPRING 2025

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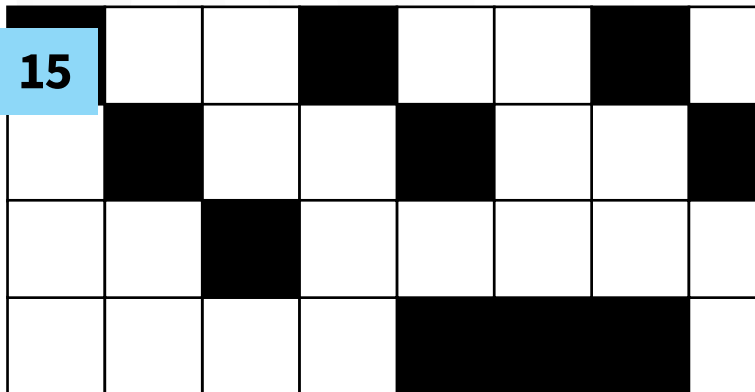
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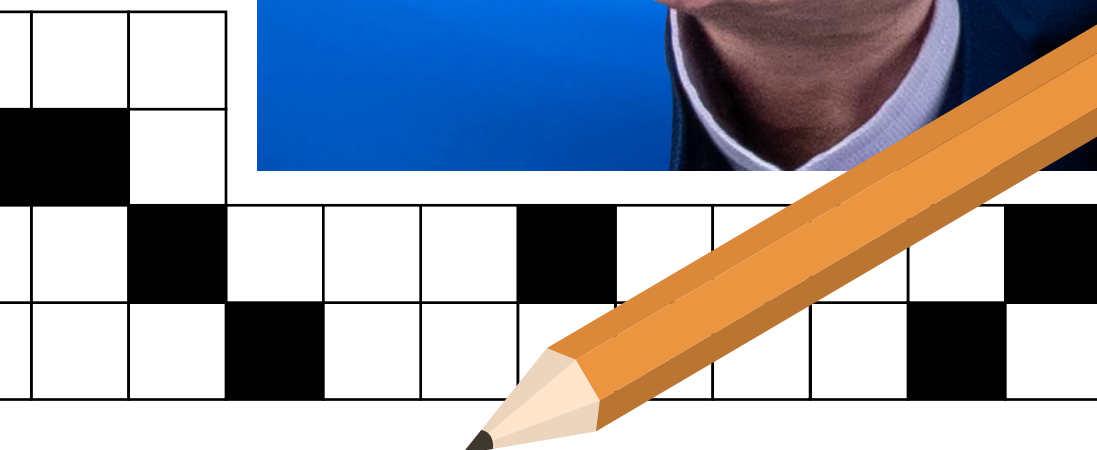


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On the Cover: Jacob Mills '25, manufacturing engineering technology major, inventor of the Orbiter 3D Controller, a mouse designed to navigate 3D computer programs. Read his story on page 30.



Illume

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Corrections: Neal Franklin was misidentified in Illume Fall 2024 as being a former member of USI Foundation Board of Directors. She currently serves on the board and has for more than a decade. Dan Brumett's last name was misspelled in the 40 Cool Things We Love About USI.

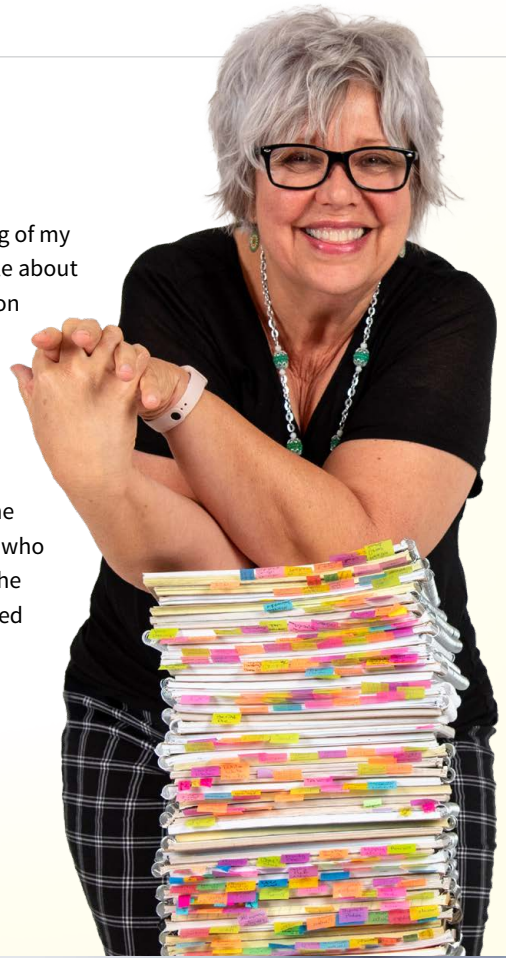
Farewell to USI

THIS ISSUE MARKS the end of my journey as editor of *Illume* and the beginning of my retirement. When I accepted the role a little more than 12 years ago, I knew little about publishing a magazine, but in time it has grown to an award-winning publication I'm proud to have helped shape. My objective has always been to illustrate the impact USI has on alumni, students, staff and faculty, and the community, who in turn took that impact and made the world a better place for others. I am grateful to the team I collaborated with to make *Illume* the best we could, including writers, designers, photographers and proofreaders, and to readers for participating in *Illume*'s surveys, submitting photos and updates to make the magazine better. As a USI storyteller, I am deeply indebted to the many people who shared intimate and personal details of their lives so I could write their story. The magazine is and always has been for the reader. Thank you for staying connected to USI through *Illume* and for your role in making it a wonderful magazine.

C. L. Stambush

C. L. Stambush

Editor/Senior Writer, *USI Magazine* and *Illume* 2013-2025



FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE

NURSING STUDENTS AT

the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions are benefiting from a new simulation program designed to address educational gaps in transitioning to practice, while fostering collaboration across disciplines and mirroring real-world healthcare environments.

The creative brainchild of Dr. Kelly Pruden, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Dr. Bailey Rankin, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Dr. Marilyn Ostendorf D'11, Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, Friday Night at the ER is a simulation project that aims to advance interprofessional education by providing healthcare students with a transformative, systems-thinking learning experience. This innovative

simulation challenges participants to manage the complexities of a 24-hour hospital shift, emphasizing critical thinking, resource allocation, teamwork and leadership, and earned Pruden, Rankin and Ostendorf a 2025 Kinney College Faculty Development Award.

TED^x USI X MARKS THE SPOT

USI IS NOW the host of an official TEDx event thanks to Dr. Kenny Purcell, Associate Professor of Physics and Director of CORE 39. "The slogan for this year's TEDxUSI was *Ideas Change Everything*. USI is an educational and cultural hub for our region, so I feel it is our duty to host an event such as TEDxUSI," said Purcell. "While our event may have speakers from outside of the USI community, the focus will be to highlight and celebrate the insights and new ideas that are flowing from the hard work of USI faculty, staff, students, alumni and community partners."

ALUMNI ADVENTURES RETURN

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEER USI has reinitiated its collaboration with Collette Travel and Tours, offering alumni an opportunity to travel together to some of the nation's and world's most exciting places. A new tour, titled *Colors of New England*, will take place October 15-22, 2025, and offers an eight-day excursion along the Eastern Seaboard. From Boston to Kennebunkport, Maine, travelers will explore quaint villages and sumptuous cuisine in the no worry, no hassle comfort of a luxury bus.

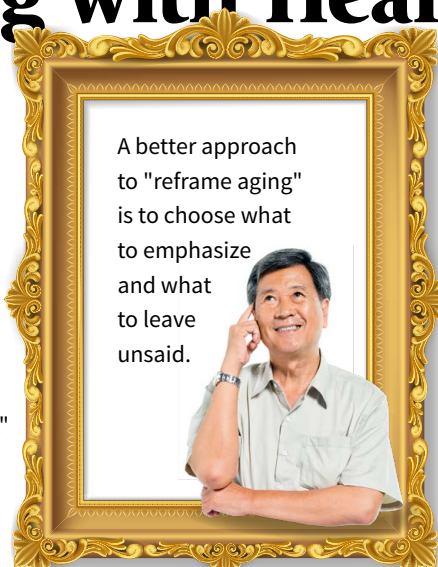
LEARN
MORE



Reframing with Healthy Words

ATTENDING A GERIATRICS

Workforce Enhancement Program conference last December, Dr. Katie Ehlman, Professor of Gerontology in the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions, picked up some new insights on word choice when talking about older people/generations. Referring to an aging population in catastrophic terms, such as "title waves" and "tsunamis," generates fear and alienation and does not induce people to work together toward solutions.



"[The conference provided] resources about how we can 'reframe aging' in our messaging," Ehlman said. "This is helpful for me as I think of how I am teaching ageism in the classroom." In or out of the classroom, we can all use some educating when it comes to how we think and talk about people across generations and other demographics. After all, we are all aging. There is no "them" or "they." Just "us" and "we."

USI BLOOD DRIVES SAVE LIVES

DID YOU KNOW that every two seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion, that blood can't be manufactured or that donating blood burns 650 calories? More than 75% of all Americans reaching the age of 72 will receive donated blood at some point in their lifetime, while everyone else has loved ones who need it. Ensuring those life-saving needs are met, the University partners with both the American Red Cross and Versiti Blood Center of Indiana to host about nine blood drives annually.

"Each organization is able to hold a drive (about a week apart from each other) during January, March, September and November. The Red Cross also visits for a June blood drive," said Megan Doyle '09 M'20, Associate Director of Special Events. "This staggered schedule allows us to continually promote the urgent need for blood donations to the USI community. If you happen to miss one drive, you can always sign up for another drive coming soon!"

Faculty Advocating for Children at United Nations

CINDI CLAYTON '99 M'15, Instructor in Business Communication, attended a high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York last November, titled: *Ending Violence against Children, From Commitment to Action*. Clayton is President of the Board of Holly's House, an Evansville-based Children's Advocacy Center founded by alumna Holly (Dunn) Pendleton M'06.

The invitation to the event was extended to Holly's House by Princess Madeline of Sweden on behalf of the World Childhood Foundation. "Being in the room with national and global leaders who are also supporting children in their corner of the world was empowering," Clayton said. "We are not alone in the quest to keep our children safe, especially in an increasingly digital world. Sharing best practices and combining forces is the best way to ensure excellence in service in our own community."



ANTHROPOLOGY REVEALED IN DAILY LIFE

THE USI ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAM launched an Anthropology Speaker Series last fall. The biannual series hosts leading professionals in the field to examine and discuss how anthropology relates to our daily lives. "Culture is a foundational component

of what it means to be human. Without culture, we are not human," said Dr. Daniel Bauer, Professor of Anthropology. "Whether it's politics, economics, cultural traditions, rituals, religious beliefs, language, all of that is encompassed within anthropology."

Dr. Richard Lunniss, Research Professor at Universidad Técnica de Manabí in Ecuador, kicked off the series in which he discussed his research in understanding sacred landscapes and human occupation in coastal Ecuador dating back 6,000 years. "The ancestral inhabitants of the Salango site were an ocean-centered society where the richness of the Pacific Ocean supplied them both materially and spiritually," Bauer said. "The Anthropology Speaker Series is an opportunity for us to highlight the diversity and relevance of Anthropology."

Cooking Opportunities



THE FOOD AND NUTRITION and Occupational Therapy (OT) Departments in the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions collaborated to develop a series of inclusive cooking classes employing visual recipes and adaptive cooking equipment for SMILE on Down Syndrome. The classes, developed by Dr. Beth Young D'23, Professor and Chair of Food and Nutrition; Jamie Baker '14, Professor of Food and Nutrition; and Dr. Stephanie Rexing '13 M'14, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy who also taught the class, allowed

individuals with Down Syndrome to gain independence in the kitchen. "The OT students completed skill evaluations and assessments for the individuals with Down Syndrome, and the Food and Nutrition students created the visual recipes and organized all supplies, including the required adaptive equipment based on the recipes," said Young.

Young, who was awarded a 2025 Kinney College Faculty Development Award, said she will use the funds to elevate the existing cooking classes to a new level. "It's been a wonderful University-community collaboration."



NEW DEGREES & PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE

World Languages and Cultures concentration, Applied Studies major

Childhood Health and Well-being Microcredential

Public and Nonprofit Leadership Microcredential

State and Local Government Microcredential

GRADUATE

Artificial Intelligence, MBA concentration

Occupational Therapy

Special Education

Elementary Mathematics Leadership

Elementary Mathematics Leadership Certificate

Teacher License Addition for English Learners Certificate

Nonprofit Professional Microcredential

Policy Making Microcredential

Program Evaluation Microcredential

Fundraising Microcredential

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONG



"Steve has the full confidence of the USI Board of Trustees and the skills, integrity and vision to lead USI well into the future."

—Christine Keck, Chair of the USI Board of Trustees

"USI is a big piece of my heart, and I am so proud to continue to serve the institution as President."

—Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95,
USI President

1989 Graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and hired as Staff Accountant



1992 Bursar

CONGRATULATIONS,

President Steven J. Bridges

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA has named one of its own as its fifth President—Steven J. Bridges '89 M'95, a two-time USI graduate whose 36-year career on campus has shaped nearly every corner of the institution.

President Bridges began his journey at USI in 1989 as a Staff Accountant and steadily rose through the ranks, eventually overseeing the University's entire Finance and Administration operation. "The extraordinary education I received at USI has prepared me well and will continue to take center stage for our students," he said. "As a Screaming Eagle, and one of more than 54,000 alumni, I am determined to continue to share the care and concern I received as a student and am proof of the transformative nature of higher education."

As Vice President for Finance and Administration, Bridges led the largest bond issuance in school history and secured a record-low rate for another. He implemented the campus-wide Banner system on time and on budget, chaired key committees to strengthen fiscal stewardship and helped USI avoid layoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic—a major accomplishment in higher education at that time.

Known for getting things done, he's just as committed to serving others. A longtime Girl Scouts supporter and community volunteer, Bridges lives in Henderson, Kentucky, with his wife Rosemary. They have three adult children, four grandchildren and a fifth on the way. The Bridges plan to move into the University Home once renovations are complete.

"I am delighted that Steve Bridges, an outstanding USI alumnus and person of character, rose to the top of the list."

—Christina Ryan, Chair of the USI Presidential Search and Board of Trustees First Vice Chair

1993 Chief Accountant

1997 Controller

2003 Banner
Project Manager

2010 Assistant Vice President
for Finance and Administration

2024 Interim President

April 2, 2025
Selected as USI's
fifth President

1995 Earned Master of
Business Administration

2006 Controller and
Business Office Director

2015 Vice President for
Finance and Administration

Tracking in Play

By Tegan Ruhl '24

FOR DECADES, coaches of all sports could only guess the physical exhaustion of their players. They relied on their own judgment to take a player out of the game if they looked tired but could never see the full physical exertion the players were experiencing. Now, coaches can track their athletes' physical wellbeing thanks to advancements in technology.

Eric Schoenstein '93, Head Coach of the Women's Soccer Team, requested GPS vests for the 2024 season, believing they would improve his player's skillfulness on and off the field. He estimated that at least 80% of Division I programs have some form of a tracking system for athletes. The University agreed to invest in 30 of these vests, which have become a popular option for enhancing athletic performances around the world. Typically, a tracker is placed in a front or back pocket of the vest to collect an athlete's performance data, improving athletic skills and injury prevention.

"We felt that this would be a [great] way of tracking their health. We're probably the largest contact sport at the University, and we felt like this was a better way of tracking injury prevention and having data that shows them how successful they are on the field," Schoenstein said.

Players can access data collected by the vests through an app called GameTraka, which visualizes a player's physical exertion and recovery through a numerical system and the

colors red, yellow and green. "Say a player is sitting in the red," Schoenstein said. "We know if we were to train today, they would almost need to take the whole day off to heal their body for the next game. The data also helps us know when to sub a player off the field."

Coaching staff can track the data and know when a player is wearing down on the field. Schoenstein said he hardly sees any players in the red any more because they've learned how to utilize the data.

Now that players can track their workload, they can see the progress they're making and know when to rest. "It's been a lot easier to communicate with them about protecting themselves because they always want to play through injuries," Schoenstein said. "They can also see where they're at with an injury and how their recovery is progressing. That helps with the mental side of things as well because mental health is just as important as physical health."

After one season in use, Schoenstein is thrilled with the insight the vest delivers. "The GPS vests turned out to be an incredible asset to the program. We were able to track each student-athlete's physical performance in every game and training session, which lead to being able to manage each player's performance."

SPORTS TICKER

DOUBLE SWEEP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|
|  | 80 | 73 |  |
|  | 78 | 68 |  |

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|
|  | 72 | 58 |  |
|  | 70 | 66 |  |

Men's and Women's Basketball swept their home games against Lindenwood and Western Illinois mid-January.

ACES FOLDED

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
|  | 154 | FINAL |
|  | 142 | |

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
|  | 195 | FINAL |
|  | 94 | |

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams out lapped the University of Evansville; a second win for the women against the Aces this season and a first-ever victory for the men.

BREAKING THROUGH

Swimming & Diving had breakthrough performances at the Summit League Championships in February. The Screaming Eagles finished with four podium finishes and had seven student-athletes earn All-Summit League honors.

SOARING ON LAND

Men's and Women's Cross Country teams won their first-ever Ohio Valley Conference team championships and are the second and third teams in USI's history to win a Division I conference championship since the Screaming Eagles moved from Division II to Division I in 2022-23.



Making the Move

By C. L. Stambush



IN FEBRUARY, USI decided to pursue an expedited reclassification path to Division I athletics, which would allow the University to become a full-fledged Division I member a year earlier.

"Our campus community will work extremely hard this spring to fulfill the necessary criteria to be eligible for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Championships beginning in 2025-2026," said Jon Mark Hall, USI Vice President and Director of Athletics. Previously, USI

Athletics would not have been eligible until 2026-2027.

During the first two-and-a-half years of the transition process, USI has been successful in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), Horizon League (men's tennis) and the Summit League (swimming and diving). The Screaming Eagles captured the OVC Women's Basketball regular season and conference championships in 2024 before taking the league titles in Men's and Women's Cross Country last fall. USI Cross Country and Track and Field runners also have garnered 13 individual crowns. Academically, USI Athletics earned the OVC Institutional Achievement Award during the first two years in the OVC.

Screaming Eagle Accolades

Mike Hillyard '94, Head Coach Men's and Women's Cross Country, was named the OVC Men's and Women's Coach of the Year in 2024.

Chris Crawford '05, Head Coach Men's Tennis, was named Horizon League Men's Tennis Coach of the Year.

Hadessah Austin, Women's Cross Country/Track & Field, food and nutrition, was named the OVC Indoor Track & Field Freshman of the Year after winning the 3,000 meters and the 5,000 meters at the OVC Indoor Championships in February. USI's women had six podium finishes and won three titles at the league meet, while USI's men earned one title and three podium finishes.

Meredith Raley, Women's Basketball, business administration, was named to the OVC All-Tournament Team for the second year in a row. She was the OVC tournament MVP last year during USI's run to the tournament championship title.

Jordan Mackey, Softball, freshman, was named All-OVC Second Team and OVC All-Newcomer Team.

Caroline Stapleton, Softball, psychology, was selected All-OVC Second Team for the second year in a row.

Kylie Witthaus, Softball, freshman, was named All-OVC Second Team and OVC All-Newcomer Team.

Brady Terry, Men's Cross Country, finance, was named the OVC Runner of the Year before winning the OVC individual championship.

Jason Bannister, Men's Golf, business administration, was named to the All-OVC First Team for his second All-OVC selection in his career.

Sam Vertanan, Men's Golf, English, was named to the All-OVC Second Team for his first career All-OVC honor.

USI's 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame Class members are **Angie Gries '00** (Women's Soccer 1996-99); **Julia Kohnen '14 M'15** (Women's Soccer, Cross Country, Track & Field 2010-15); **Travis Marx '95** (Men's Soccer 1989-92); **Greg Tassios '85** (Men's Soccer 1981-82); **Chris Thompson** (Men's Basketball 2004-06); **Rodney Watson** (Men's Basketball Head Coach 2009-20); and the **2014 NCAA Division II Baseball National Championship Team**.

ENCORE CAREERS

WHEN WENDELL CRIM '75, biophysics, retired from a career at Eli Lilly in 2010, he turned to a life of adventure. With a commercial pilot's license in hand, he planned to fly charter jets but detoured to driving 45-foot motor coaches for a tour company out of Seattle, Washington, specializing in winter mountain travel because the destinations were more interesting. Next, he took up international yacht racing in the British Virgin Islands and Desolation Sound in British Columbia. And now, at the age of 75, he knows road riding is no longer safe and has turned to gravel cycle racing. This new chapter in his life echoes his lifelong love of bicycles—he was an extra in the film *Breaking Away* and competed in the 1984 Olympic trials—that began at USI's Eagle Grand Prix (a mini bicycle race) in 1976.

Photo courtesy of Belgian Waffle Ride - British Columbia



Screaming Eagles Soar with Liberty's Gift

Record-Breaking Gift Supports Athletics, Secures Arena Naming Rights

USI ATHLETICS and its 19 varsity intercollegiate women's and men's sports are the beneficiaries of a historic leadership gift made to the USI Foundation from Liberty Federal Credit Union. The funds from this \$10 million gift are unrestricted to support student-athlete scholarships, travel, Division I transition requirements and other essential athletic needs.

"Liberty Federal Credit Union and the University of Southern Indiana have grown in this community together. In fact, I've personally banked with them for the last 35 years," said Steve Bridges '89 M'95, President of the University of Southern Indiana. "This generous gift from Liberty will greatly enhance our athletic programs over the next 20 years and provide much-needed support as we continue our transition to Division I athletics. Liberty's commitment helps pave the way for future success and ensures our student-athletes have the resources they need to thrive."

This landmark investment, the largest in the University's history as well as the largest gift Liberty Federal Credit Union has made to date, positions the Screaming Eagles for continued success in their Division I journey.

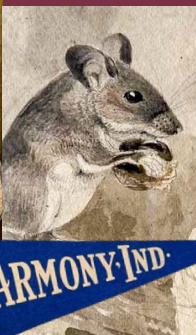
"This partnership with Liberty allows us to take our vision and make it a reality," said Jon Mark Hall, Vice President and Director of Athletics at USI.

The gift also secured the naming rights to the Screaming Eagles Arena—now Liberty Arena, Home of the Screaming Eagles—for the next 20 years. "Supporting the advancement of USI students and their athletic programs aligns well with our mission of providing value to our members and the communities we serve," said Bill Schirmer, Liberty Federal Credit Union President and CEO. ▼





 **Liberty Arena**
Home of the Screaming Eagles



"I have always learned history by listening to the stories of ordinary people."

—Heidi Taylor-Caudill



The Archive of Us

Creating Community

By C. L. Stambush

LISTENING TO COWORKERS

reminisce about New Harmony at a potluck Christmas lunch in 2023, reminded Heidi Taylor-Caudill of family dinners. Growing up, Taylor-Caudill, who serves as Collections and Community Engagement Manager for USI Historic New Harmony, heard older relatives share their memories and stories of life in Eastern Kentucky during the Great Depression that bonded her to them. Now she wondered, could a program centered on listening to people talk about their memories of a place be educational and strengthen the community's ties?

The idea, known as social objects theory, is the concept of using objects to spark discussion and interaction among people. Taylor-Caudill decided to

develop a program, titled *Talking History*, using items from Historic New Harmony's collection and items people bring with them.

"When I'm in the collection, I look for photos and objects that I think will set off people's memories from their own lives."

Taylor-Caudill, who earned a bachelor's degree in art history and a master's in library science, calls the talks "gatherings," and the first was held in February 2024 in the basement of Black Lodge Coffee Roasters in New Harmony. At first, she was unsure if there was an interest in the event. As the hour neared for the program to begin and no one had arrived, she started second guessing the idea. "It was almost like one of those sad stories where nobody shows up, but it turned out they were all upstairs

getting coffee," she said, noting the program continues to grow in attendance.

"At Historic New Harmony, we are trying to work on community development. I really think hearing the stories of ordinary people can teach you a lot about history and community [as well as] empathy and being neighborly." ▼

Scan here for upcoming *Talking History* dates:



The Campus Cruciverbalist

Math Professor Has a Mind for Crosswords

By Trista Lutgring

DAVID RITTERSKAMP, Instructor in Mathematics, remembers his mother and grandmother spending time doing crosswords and other puzzles when he was younger. "As early as 9 or 10 years old, I remember a magazine called *Games* that featured different crosswords, logic puzzles and other items like that," he said. "We had a subscription, so, every month there would be a new magazine with new crossword puzzles available to me."

This exposure to puzzles provided a hobby that led to creating them himself. He purchased software online that enabled him to set up a grid, pulling from a huge internal dictionary of words to help create workable puzzles. He joined an online community of people who solve, create and post their own creations. "I could see when people solved my puzzles, what worked and what didn't, how I could improve them," he says. "It's just been an ongoing process. I keep trying different things, working on getting better."

Many crossword puzzles tend to have themes: wordplay or longer answers connected in some way. Ritterskamp starts by picking how he would like things to be connected. "I'm always on the lookout for clever wordplay or popular phrases that can be put together in a theme," he says.

Once the grid is set, the next part is his favorite: writing the clues for the answers. "I like the challenge of coming up with a clue for a word that is not completely obvious but makes sense and is not too

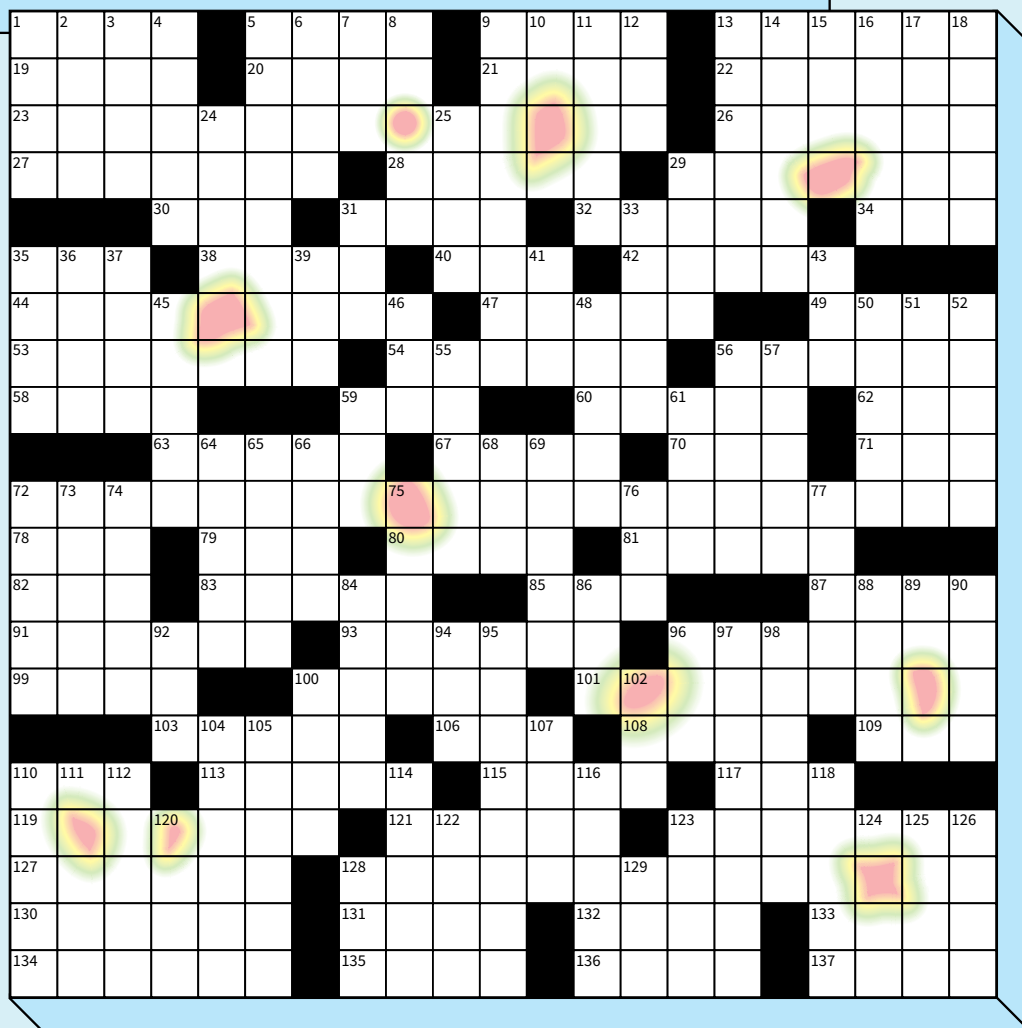
hard," he says. "I aim to be a little bit outside of the box but not so far out that it doesn't make sense to anyone else."

Ritterskamp's crossword puzzles have grown in elegance and sophistication since his early works, and last year, one was picked up by the *Los Angeles Times*. We invite you to solve this USI technology-themed puzzle Ritterskamp created especially for *Illume*. ▼



Crossword

By David Ritterskamp



ACROSS

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 Twitches one's tail | 28 Passed out on the table? | 42 Singer who bases album names on her age | 60 Gives an assessment |
| 5 Tar, in Tijuana | 29 Microsoft's AI companion | 44 USI's virtual assistant on the web | 62 Mentions on social media |
| 9 Adroit | 30 Summer in Strasbourg? | 47 Doughnut, mathematically speaking | 63 Best of the best |
| 13 Break in the party? | 31 Popular pollinators | 49 Peel a fruit – and homophone of a fruit | 67 Palm's fruit |
| 19 "Just wait ____" (2 wds) | 32 Lowry, 2019 Open Champion | 53 Notifies of an upcoming meeting | 70 Book containing "colour" and "honour" (abbr) |
| 20 Expresses a grievance | 34 Either side of a <i>MAD</i> magazine rivalry | 54 Most popular product of the Longaberger Company | 71 Nanny's call |
| 21 World's 2nd largest MLM company | 35 Earth's largest active volcano | 56 Upside-down frowns | 72 Software suitable for 128A – or what the grid decorations are emulating |
| 22 "They gave me no choice" (3 wds) | 38 Miss, in Madrid (abbr) | 58 Keats or Yeats | 78 Toddler's (and parent's) midday respite |
| 23 Small-scale production option | 40 "For in the ____ of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed" —Khalil Gibran | 59 SSNs, e.g. | 79 Bauxite, for one |
| 26 Strand | | | 80 Get exactly right |
| 27 Like most college freshmen | | | |

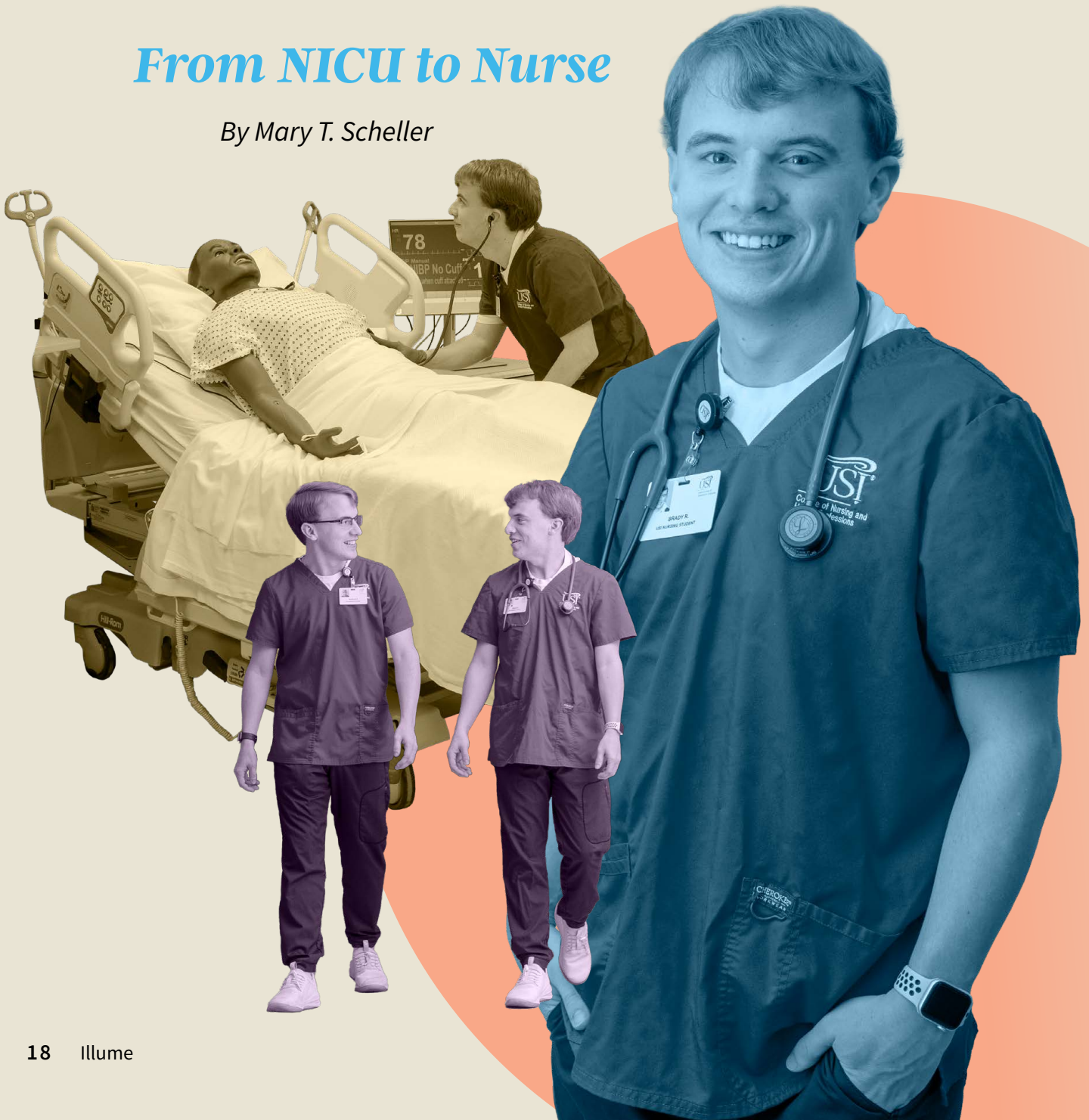
- 81 Like untied ends or unrolled change
 82 "Open up" responses
 83 Wonka's hard fruity candy
 85 Overwhelm
 87 Villain's henchman
 91 How you want your goose literally, but not figuratively
 93 Voluntarily leave the bench
 96 Be a go-between
 99 Significant volume
 100 Conducting equipment
 101 USI lab used in the field of 128A
 103 2003 Affleck/Lopez bomb
 106 It's needed to get the bronze
 108 They may be short or floating
 109 Concorde, for one (abbr)
 110 YouTube annoyances
 113 "...said _____, ever" (2 wds)
 115 Lowland, poetically
 117 Assistance
 119 USI's campus version of DoorDash
 121 Daughter of Marie Curie, herself a Nobel Prize winner
 123 Reaches one's destination
 127 They're found around every pupil
 128 Field of study combining business and psychology
 130 Formally disprove
 131 Granny's windowsill coolers
 132 Only U.S. state with a non-rectangular flag
 133 Congeal, like blood or cream
 134 Sketchy location?
- 135 Traveled ahorse
 136 Roti alternative
 137 Petroleum company known for their line of toy vehicles
- ### DOWN
- 1 SI unit of power
 2 Tennis legend Arthur
 3 Roberts' Runaway Bride costar
 4 It's part of an act
 5 Hounded
 6 Ready for harvest
 7 Show one's humanity?
 8 Line that breaks the fourth wall
 9 Numbers of numbers, perhaps
 10 Goatee-sporting twin, stereotypically
 11 Georgia and Broadway, e.g.
 12 Where '90s Data was found (abbr)
 13 Olympic legend Biles
 14 "_____ Of Love" —The Dixie Cups classic
 15 Fictional mathematician Seldon or real-life spy Mata
 16 Most-watched TV franchise with over 50 versions world-wide
 17 Urban "front porch"
 18 Game show host Hall whose name is used in a famous math exercise
 24 Uses 44A, perhaps (2 wds)
 25 Require, or a requirement
 29 Louts
 31 Dim sum bun
 33 Terre _____
 35 Activity for some weekend warriors
 36 Cookie that had a *Game of Thrones* version released in Germany
- 37 High point
 39 Modern-day incarnation of WTCG, TV's first superstation
 41 Panda Express pan
 43 When before, it can mean "before"
 45 "Step on the gas!"
 46 Not yet set (abb)
 48 Do up your shoe, again
 50 Revolutionary site of '36
 51 Indicate an additional price drop
 52 Common ENG 101 assignment
 55 Cow, cat or cobra
 56 One who uses shorthand, for short
 57 Windows forerunner (abbr)
 59 Kind
 61 Trendy West End area
 64 Go on and on, in monotone
 65 Like a chullo or deerstalker
 66 One-hit wonder, on the court?
 68 Pixar's animation method (abbr)
 69 He bears the weight of the world?
 72 Make happen
 73 Google forerunner
 74 English town with a salty name?
 75 Picture-in-picture, mapwise
 76 MLB's Guardians loc.
 77 Proper, slightly improperly
 84 Sap, as energy
 86 Interconnected network
 88 Galley movers
 89 Milo's canine cohort
- 90 Following
 92 Hundredweight of nails
 94 Bivouac bed
 95 Place for everything
 96 Is that "me" in Marseille?
 97 Begin, as a trek (2 wd)
 98 Yen
 100 Stain, as on a record
 102 Wrath
 104 Not ready for full release (2 wd)
 105 Gave a little gas
 107 Step below micro
 110 Director Kurosawa
 111 More ominous
 112 Maker of 2014's 1989
 114 Popular kindergarten refrain
 116 Fey's 30 *Rock* role
 118 Skip, like a class
 120 Displays wokeness? (2 wds)
 122 Disdained
 123 Habanera is a popular one
 124 Utterly despicable
 125 Biblical son of Seth
 126 York, Pepper and Slaughter
 128 Where to get a daily dose of *Fresh Air* (abb)
 129 "Take On Me" band

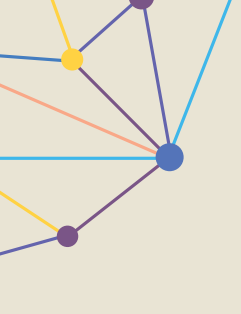
**CHECK
ANSWERS
ON PAGE
47**

A Healing Course

From NICU to Nurse

By Mary T. Scheller





WHEN BRADY ROBINSON '25 was only 13 months old, a serious medical condition landed him in the hospital. Luckily, healthcare providers were able to give him a second chance at life. This turn of events set him on a trajectory to follow in the footsteps of his providers by enrolling in the USI Nursing Program, so he can one day help others.

Brady is one of three triplet boys (two identical, one fraternal) born in 2002 in Greencastle, Indiana, five weeks before their due date. From the start, there were signs that Brady would face more health challenges than his brothers. "When I was in the NICU*, the scans and records indicated that I had a small brain bleed," he says. "They said this was probably due to prematurity and not due to another disease or illness, and it was noted on my records and our pediatrician was notified."

Nine months later, however, the Robinson parents were alarmed when their pediatrician noticed Brady's forehead seemed larger than normal. Because brain bleeds can lead to hydrocephalus, a condition where fluid builds up on the brain, the quick-thinking doctor referred young Brady to a neurosurgeon at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis where a diagnosis of hydrocephalus was confirmed and surgery was required.

"If left untreated, hydrocephalus can be fatal, so I'm very thankful our pediatrician told my parents to take me to Riley," says Brady. "During my first brain surgery there, the surgeon implanted a ventricular placement (VP) shunt in my brain—a permanent implant—to drain the excess cerebrospinal fluid. The surgery took around eight hours to complete."

Brady was too young to understand what was going on back then, but now, as a senior nursing major at USI, he understands the impact that hospital and neurosurgeon had on his life. "If I could talk to him, I would give him all the praise in the world," says Brady. "He has inspired me to provide the same type of care for my patients and their families. The amount of sacrifices he gave to be there late at night or early in the morning, making sure I was healthy following the surgery, and checking on my family, means the world to me now."

Unfortunately, Brady's first surgery would not be his last. In 2011, when he was in second grade, the shunt in his brain malfunctioned, which caused him to have a terrible headache, vomiting and dizziness. He told his parents he just needed to sleep it off, but as the day went on, his symptoms only worsened. The entire family, including Brady's grandmother, quickly packed their bags and made the one-hour drive to the Riley emergency room.

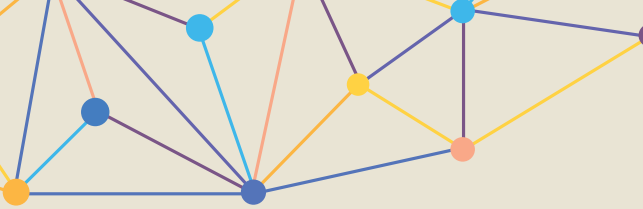
During that hospital stay, he endured three lengthy brain surgeries back-to-back because of complications encountered while inserting a new shunt.

Three years later, when he was in the fifth grade, the very same symptoms—headache and vomiting—returned with a vengeance, all due to problems with his shunt. He remembers being terrified to return to the emergency room at Riley, and this time, at 11-years-old, he was old enough to be more aware of the seriousness of his medical condition.

"Even though I was young, I knew several medical terms already, so I began to understand what was about to come," he says. "Just overhearing a nurse tell someone 'The OR has been contacted' brought me to tears."

For a fifth time, Brady was rushed to the Riley operating room where his life was in the hands of the same neurosurgeon who had performed his previous shunt surgeries. This time, the entire shunt system in his brain was replaced with a programmable shunt, which is the one he still has today, to prevent fluid buildup.

Over the years, Brady returned to Riley for frequent check-ups, and he has also seen specialists there to monitor his kidney function. "In addition to brain bleeds, premature babies are at a higher risk of chronic kidney disease," he explains. "I was



diagnosed with this when I was 3 years old. My kidneys are small but still functioning. If I get to the point where I need a kidney transplant, my identical twin brother, Marcus '25, is a perfect match!"

As a sibling, Marcus was impacted by the nurses he encountered at Riley. "I remember being so scared when the doctors would come into the room and tell us things about Brady's condition that we didn't understand," he says. "The nurses would always stick around afterwards to answer our questions and make sure we had everything we needed. They didn't just take care of Brady. They cared for our entire family."

Brady and Marcus are both seniors in the USI Nursing Program. They agree the time their family spent at Riley ignited their interest in nursing careers, along with encouragement from their parents. Their dad is an Indiana State Trooper, and their mother is a former public safety dispatch officer, so growing up, the boys were aware of the importance of essential healthcare workers during emergency situations. They both chose USI because of the Nursing Program's reputation and high pass rates on the licensure exam required for registered nurses.

While working as a student nurse at the hospital, Brady often thinks back on his own journey when he encounters young patients. "Knowing just how

smart some pediatric patients can be from their experiences in the hospital has allowed me to better improve my communication skills," he says. "I try to talk with kids in a way that is honest, but also explained at a level they can understand that won't be too traumatizing. My parents were always honest with me as we were heading to the emergency room. They would tell me there may be something wrong while also assuring me I had a great team of doctors to get it figured out."

Brady says that he and his brother have both forged strong friendships in the Nursing Program to help them survive the ups and downs. "Nursing is a tough field, and I knew that going into it," says Brady. "We have a solid friend group, and our study group sessions are something I will forever carry with me after graduation."

Brady and Marcus will graduate with their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees on the same day as their brother, Craig, who is majoring in English education with a theater minor at another college in central Indiana. The identical twins have accepted identical jobs as emergency room nurses at the same Evansville hospital.

"We will be employed at the same hospital where we began our first medical jobs as techs," says Brady.

"This is where we got our foot in the door as healthcare workers and had some clinical experience. The staff there are very welcoming and lend helping hands where needed. Plus, the Evansville area has brought way more than lasting friendships. Through friends, school, work and church, we have found second families."

Now that Brady is preparing to graduate from USI, he has also graduated from Riley. The specialists he has seen there have told him it is time to move on to an "adult" hospital. But his heart will stay at Riley, and his dream is to one day work as a nurse at the



Marcus and Brady Robinson

same emergency room in Indianapolis where he endured so many anxious hours as a child. "The time I spent at Riley had such an impact on me," he says. "I still remember my 'favorite' nurses. They were the ones who had the most compassion and who were kind to me and my family. When you are in the hospital, you never know what type of nurse will walk through the door to take care of you. I strive to be the type of nurse my patients look forward to seeing!" ▼



Brady and Marcus Robinson



The Power of the DANCE

BECAUSE THEY ARE identical twins, Brady and Marcus Robinson seem to be everywhere at USI. The USI nursing majors have been involved in many of the same campus activities, including being peer advisors and student ambassadors, which can cause some confusion and cases of mistaken identity. Marcus wears glasses instead of contacts most of the time to make it easier for USI faculty and clinical instructors at the hospital to tell them apart.

Among the many organizations they've been involved with, the Southern Indiana Dance Marathon (SIDM) holds a special place in their hearts because it raises money for Riley Hospital for Children, which is part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The USI Dance Marathon has been a student-led philanthropic movement at USI since 2010, and the money raised for Riley Hospital supports groundbreaking pediatric research; patient programs in need of additional funding; maternity and newborn health; and family support programs, such as child life and social work.

The Robinsons, and other members of the SIDM executive committee, spend months planning the multi-hour USI Dance Marathon, which, despite the name, involves much more than just dancing. There is also food, games and appearances from local Riley families who share their patient stories on stage. USI students are encouraged to raise money for the Riley Children's Foundation via an online fundraising website, and the donation total is announced at the end of the evening. In 2024, they were rewarded for their efforts when SIDM received the Campus Impact Award during the USI Center for Campus Life Student Organization Celebration.

Brady, who is a "Riley kid," describes the Dance Marathon movement as a "cause greater than ourselves" and "nothing short of powerful."

"We as college students attend classes, hang out with friends and take every day we have for granted. Dance Marathon helps open our eyes and allows us to see what we have to be grateful for and what we can do with our time—specifically here at USI—to leave an impact on kids who need it," Brady says. "I have been in their shoes, so this is a way for me to give something back. I would tell anyone, no matter their background, to give Dance Marathon a chance. This organization can shape your future and bless others in ways that can change their lives. Dance Marathon uses the message of staying on your feet for those who can't and builds connections within the USI community."

— Mary T. Scheller

SYNCING HUMANITY AND TECHNOLOGY

By C. L. Stambush





THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY and understanding how technology can be harnessed to create a better world is central to the lives and careers of USI students. From USI's web team implementing a chatbot to exercise science and kinesiology students using a 3D motion capturing system, University programs and departments across campus are leaning into technology to elevate and enhance education, including the evolutionary role artificial intelligence (AI) will play. The following stories illustrate some of the ways students, faculty and staff approach new innovations in tech. ▼

The Global Governance

of AI

New Advisory Committee Navigates AI at USI

By C. L. Stambush

LAST FALL, USI established the AI Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Data Governance Strategic Team, to address the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) on campus. While still in its infancy, the Committee aims to educate and guide staff, faculty and students on best practices for AI usage. The 11-person Committee comprises a diverse cross-section of the University, including administrative staff and faculty.

The Committee does not serve as an enforcement or compliance agent, rather it provides the primary goals of AI as an educational resource, and best practices for its use. "We established early on that we did not want to police people across campus," said Brandi Hess '00 M'22, Director of University Web and Digital Content, who serves on the Committee. "We saw ourselves as more an educational entity that can help establish some best practices for people who want to use AI tools in their day-to-day work." The goals are to raise awareness about the ethical implications and potential risks associated with AI, such as data security concerns when using tools like Copilot or ChatGPT. Additionally, the initiative aims to provide guidance on the responsible use of AI in academic

settings. This includes helping faculty integrate AI tools into their teaching while addressing academic integrity considerations.

One of the Committee's key functions is to connect different departments and individuals across the University who are working on similar AI-related projects. This networking aspect is intended to foster collaboration and share best practices. Additionally, the Committee will review AI tools proposed for University-wide use to ensure they are fiscally responsible and align with the University's goals. "I'm hoping it's a networking thing, where, if people have questions about a best practice or software to accomplish some goal of theirs, and they came to us with that, we would be able to say, 'Oh, well, so and so over in this department is doing something very similar'," said Amy Chan Hilton, Professor of Engineering and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the Office of Sponsored Projects and Research.

As the Committee continues to develop, they plan to offer professional development opportunities and resources to help the USI community navigate the evolving landscape of AI technology. ▼

CRACKING THE MENTAL HEALTH CODE

Big Data, Bigger Impacts

By Hendrix Magley

FOR YEARS, researchers have struggled to access large-scale behavioral health data. Now, undergraduate students at USI's Romain College of Business are among the first in the country to work with a real-world mental health dataset, thanks to a partnership with Holmusk, a behavioral health data analytics company.

USI's Computer Science Program is using NeuroBlu, a research platform containing over 30 million anonymized patient records spanning 20+ years. This gives students hands-on experience analyzing big data in behavioral health before entering the workforce.

"Access to clean, structured data for analysis is difficult to come by in computer science," said Dr. Srishti Srivastava, Associate Professor of Computer Science. "This platform, along with a large library of validated machine learning algorithms, gives our students a unique skill set."

The partnership began in 2022 when Dr. Sudesh Mujumdar, Dean of the Romain College of Business, connected Holmusk CEO Nawal Roy with USI faculty. Recognizing its potential, they saw an opportunity to equip students with high-demand AI and data analytics skills.

"It's an opportunity that isn't available at any other university."

KAIRVI BHATT '24

A team of computer science majors, including Kairvi Bhatt '24, Joshua Dellamuth '24, Sydney Given '24, Addison Higgins '24, Peyton Hopkins '24, Tyler Lofthouse '25 and Cathy Sandoval '24, developed code to analyze the data, training in Python, TensorFlow and AI-driven processing.

"This is a great experience to see what real-world data looks like," said Bhatt.

For Given, who worked in a research clinic before USI, the project is personal. "This hits the sweet spot between what I do for work and what I'm studying for my degree."

As the project continues, USI students are gaining invaluable AI and data analytics experience, setting them apart in the job market while contributing to mental health research. ▼

Decoding Care

The Science Behind the Face

By Hendrix Magley

IN THE AGE of telehealth and virtual doctor visits, non-verbal communication between patients and clients is more important than ever. But whether you're meeting for a face-to-face appointment or sitting down for a visit in the comfort of your own home, a healthcare professional who displays a friendly expression can play a pivotal role in a patient's health.

Dr. Kristi Hape '99, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, knows the effect empathy has on patients, but when she learned the Romain College of Business had a Biometrix Discovery Lab that could help her students understand how their facial expressions impacted others, she wanted to bring the technology into her curriculum. "We are always hoping to further develop students' ability to provide words of encouragement to their clients by allowing them to see the impact emotionally in a positive way."

Hape connected with Dr. Chad Milewicz, Professor of Marketing and Chair of USI's Economics and Marketing Department and coordinator of the Biometrix



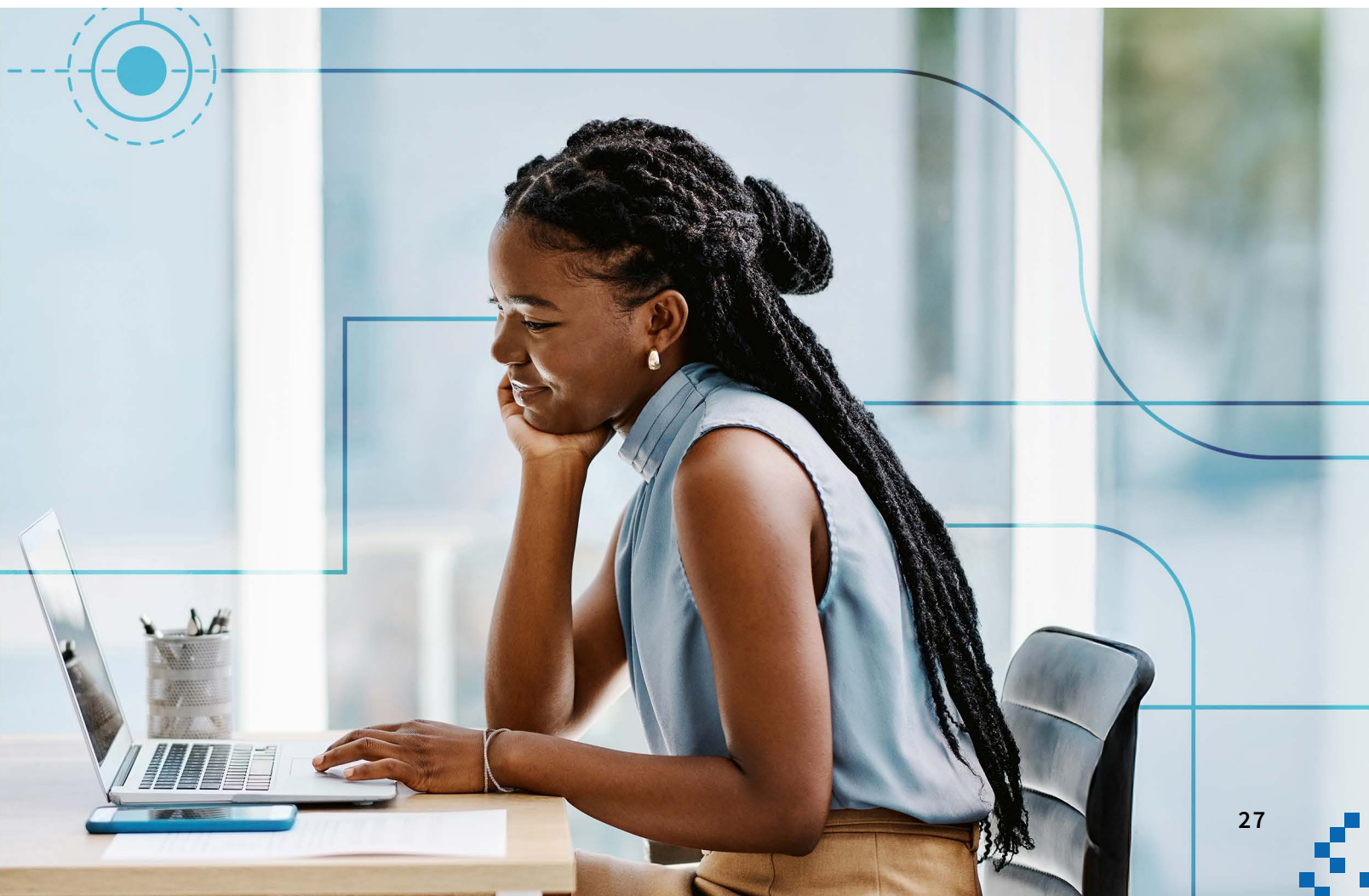
Discovery Lab, to begin discussions on how the lab's technology can enhance OT students' education.

Using new and emerging technologies, the Biometrix Discovery Lab can be used to conduct research on decision making by measuring human attention, arousal, cognition and emotion. Through artificial intelligence (AI) and facial expression analysis, OT students can instantly understand how their expressions impact a patient positively or negatively. The data helps ensure they show empathy and care during interactions with patients. For students seeking to provide the best care possible when they enter their career fields, understanding and managing this soft skill can be transformative.

The way it works is, students complete a "Therapeutic Use of Self" interview, designed to create a meaningful relationship between the therapist and patient, as part of their Occupation Centered Practice Course—the pilot use of the facial expression analysis took place in March of

2024. Students had a second opportunity to use the facial expression analysis as part of a telehealth appointment. After completing a virtual 10-minute interview with a standardized patient actor known as "Betty" in her "home" (the USI Minka Learning Lab for Living Well), students met with their instructor for one-on-one feedback. Visual analysis of their facial expressions was provided using seven different emotions—anger, contempt, disgust, fear, joy, sadness and surprise. Students could see in real-time what emotions they're displaying and how it impacted Betty's emotional responses.

For example, the biometric analysis measured joy from both a student and patient after the student provided praise to a patient's resilience after experiencing a stroke. It's also allowed for corrective feedback such as how the facial expressions students use when thinking between questions could be perceived as negative. Once students recognize this and soften their expression, they are less likely to trigger a negative response from their clients.



"As we continue to use this process of biometric analysis for student feedback, we are hoping to see students set personal goals about the amount of joy they can elicit from their client," said Hape.

From students using the biometric technology in a variety of classes to businesses learning how these tools can positively impact their companies, Milewicz has seen firsthand how these skills have proven helpful and can even give students an upper hand as they move into their career field. "Exposure to this technology increases creativity, sparks interest in research and analytical problem solving and raises awareness of human behavior," Milewicz said. "I hope this collaboration inspires others to consider ways they might benefit from these outstanding resources."

While presenting at the American Occupational Therapy Association 2024 Education Summit, Hape and Dr. Jessica Mason '05 M'06, Chair of the USI Occupational Therapy Program, mentioned how rare a partnership of this nature is. But it's something Milewicz and the faculty in the Biometrix Discovery Lab want to make sure their peers across campus know exists. "This software gives students the opportunity to gain valuable insight into nonverbal communication and emotional responses that can be utilized to enhance interpersonal skills in personal and professional settings," said Meshea Greenwell, a graduate student in the Occupational Therapy Program.

It's not common for undergraduate students to have readily available access to technology of this nature. Unique opportunities such as this provide students, regardless of their major, the chance to be ahead of the curve by learning emotional analysis and other skills. But perhaps most importantly, at least in this scenario, it ensures a patient will receive comfort and care—even during some of their toughest times.

"I find that exposure to this type of emotional analysis has a long-term impact because it raises a person's awareness of emotions expressed in different situations," Milewicz said. "Not only does one learn from how they responded in a given assignment, but they can learn how to understand expressions of emotions in the future." ▼



Printing Possibilities

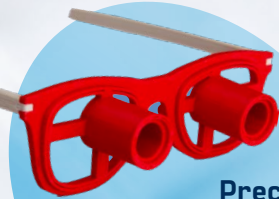
OT Students Use 3D Tech to Enhance Lives

By C. L. Stambush

FOR A FEW years now, students in USI's Occupational Therapy (OT) program have used 3D printers (purchased by a former faculty) to help improve the lives of individuals. "Students choose a person for whom they would like to design a 3D printed item, based on their knowledge of disability and disease. Many of them choose a certain design based on someone they know, or a family member," said Kristi Hape '99, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy.

Second year OT student Abbie Dart and two classmates used the printer to create a bottle cap opener for someone with limited grip strength and/or arthritis. "It gave me hands-on experience with the design process, from ideation to prototype creation, and taught me the importance of precision and adaptability in crafting functional tools," she said. "A cool aspect of this technology is its potential for quick, cost-effective solutions that can significantly enhance clients' independence. It was exciting to see how creativity and technology can directly impact someone's quality of life."

OT faculty incorporate a variety of tools to prepare students in their approach to improving the lives of their future patients. "We have certain standards to ensure we are teaching students everything they'll need to know in their careers, and one of those is technology—using technology to modify the environment for people who have different abilities," Hape said. ▼



Precision Eyedrop Glasses

122 PRINT MINUTES*



Key Grip

79 PRINT MINUTES*



Eyedrop Holder

140 PRINT MINUTES*

**The print times are an average, depending on which of the three 3D printers in the department a student uses.*

A Click Ahead

Evolution of a New Mouse

By Tegan Ruhl '24 & C. L. Stambush



JACOB MILLS '25

knew the problem was with the mouse. As a manufacturing engineering technology major, he had to work in computer-aided design (CAD), a software that renders 3D models of real-world products, and the mouse wasn't cooperating when executing assignments. "One of the biggest hurdles learning 3D programs is moving around the workspace," Mills said. "Even as you become more advanced, the problem does not go away."

The average computer mouse is built for a 2D program, not a 3D one. A 2D mouse takes more time to move around 3D environments and makes it difficult to precisely manipulate an object. Mills decided to build a controller designed around 3D to efficiently work in these environments, calling it the Orbiter 3D Controller.

As a college student, Mill's didn't have the funds to pay for a prototype of his idea, but he was a student worker in USI's Center for Applied Research (CAR) and had access to all the necessary resources. The one thing he didn't have was funding.

CAR Director Steven Stump '99 M'09 helped establish Mills as a CAR client, which he had not done for a student



before, and began exploring different programs he could fund his project through. "It was actually a good business practice for us as an institution and for me and this office in training the students in this," Stump said.

Stump assisted Mills with a grant application for the Indiana Technical Assistance Program (INTAP), along with help from the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC). Recipients of the INTAP grant can receive up to \$15,000 worth of funding and can receive a maximum of two rounds of funding.

"INTAP is one that we use every single year," Stump said. "It's a program designed to really help small businesses and entrepreneurs who have ideas but don't necessarily have the means to be able to build that prototype or take that product to market."

Since 2019, Stump has helped clients apply for funding through INTAP. Currently, CAR has had over 20 projects funded for a total of over \$180,000. "Part of the requirements for the funding is that you apply with a business that is going to do a particular scope of work for you with that

budget," Mills said. "CAR was that group for me."

As a client and a student worker for CAR, Mills couldn't directly work on his project because it would've been a conflict of interest. Instead, Stump helped form a team of student workers that would work on the project, and Mills would tell the team what he wanted.

"People who have ideas and have no idea how to do anything with them, if they can bring them to us and we can turn that into something tangible, and turn that into a business plan, and help connect them with folks who can take that to market and be successful, that's where I see us really making an impact, regionally," Stump said. "That's the fun in what I do."

Since working with CAR, Mills established a company called Antidote Electronics, LLC to produce his controller. He has also become a client of companies that can produce parts the controller needs that he is not skilled at. "I worked with [a hardware product development firm] in Indy to have a customized printed circuit board made to integrate all of my systems using my second INTAP funding," he said.

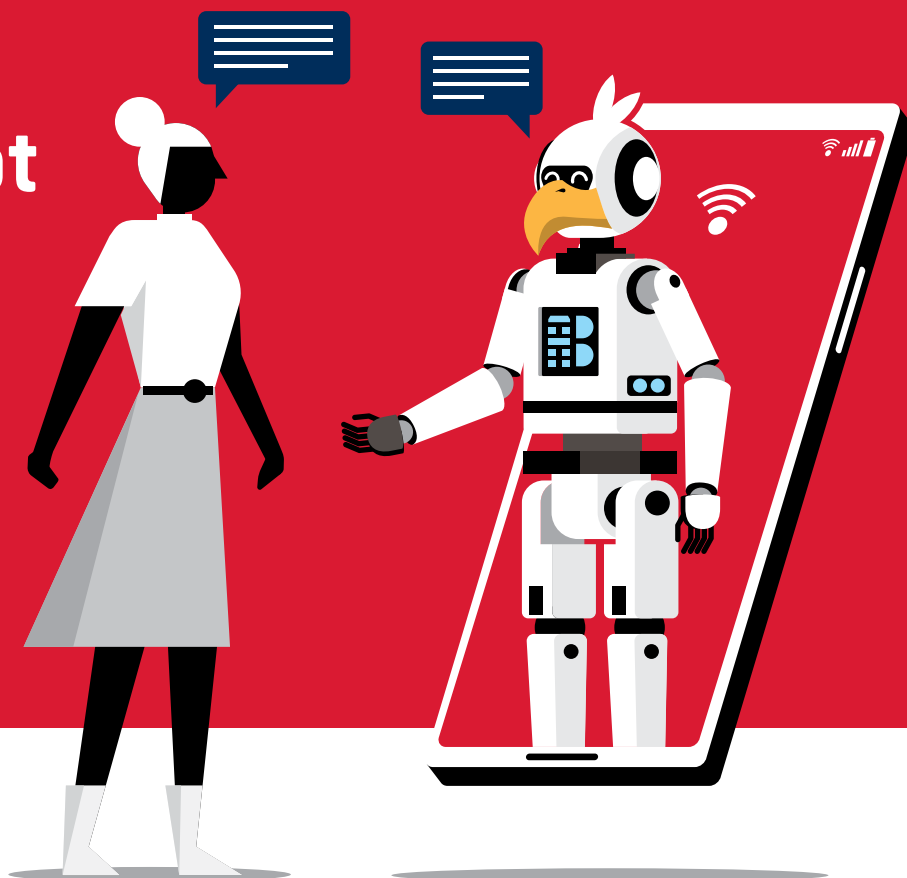
The next step for Mills will be getting a functioning prototype in the hands of several people to collect some initial user feedback. If all goes well, once the design and functionality have been validated, Mills will begin raising capital so he can eventually move into mass production. "This journey has given me a major appreciation for all of the work behind even the most mundane products because I know how much effort goes into making something successful," Mills said. "It is hard to say what hurdles lie ahead for the Orbiter 3D Controller, but I have a solid road map and experienced people guiding me." ▼



ArchieBot Takes Flight

Chatbot Transforms Online Assistance

By Brandi Hess '00 M'22



THE IDEA FOR the chatbot began in fall of 2023 when Jason Provence, Senior Web Programmer, was exploring ways to help triage the hundreds of emails received by the web team and find a solution to better serve visitors while relieving the time involved in answering or forwarding those emails. "Many of the emails asked questions that could be easily answered on our website, if the visitor had searched for it," he said. "A chatbot can answer those questions immediately, plus prompt any follow up questions to support the visitor with any other customer service needs."

Last April, University Web and Digital Content launched its first AI-powered chatbot called ArchieBot. Accessible 24/7, ArchieBot draws its knowledge from USI's website, documents and instructions to help answer questions from prospective students, parents, current students, employees and the community. "ArchieBot doesn't mind if you have a question at midnight or on a holiday—it responds instantly, and always in a polite and friendly way," Provence said.

If ArchieBot can't provide a satisfactory answer, the conversation is handed off to a live person to follow up over email. Chat conversations are monitored to determine the questions being asked and the answers given to help the web team update website content or clarify instructions if ArchieBot is struggling on a certain topic.

"Its ability to help us communicate quickly and efficiently with our website visitors has been amazing," Provence said. "However, the most significant benefit has been its role in identifying knowledge gaps in our web content. By highlighting areas where we can add more information or better explain processes, ArchieBot has played a key role in improving the overall quality of our website." ▼



Engineering Eldercare

By C. L. Stambush



WHEN IT COMES to improving healthcare, collaboration is key, and artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are the tools to unlock it. With the future in mind, USI's Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness collaborated with Dr. Ryan Integlia, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to explore ways AI can be employed to bridge a looming healthcare divide. "There is a growing need for assistance among the aging population, while the number of people available to help is declining, creating a significant gap," says Integlia, who serves as lead faculty for the AI Work Group in the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education.

Seeking to help close the divide, Integlia proposed a two-day intensive course during the Summer 2024 Semester, designed to bring engineering and healthcare professionals together. The course, which was repeated in the Spring 2025 Semester as a full semester course, focused on how AI technologies can enhance diagnostic accuracy, optimize patient care and support healthcare providers in delivering more personalized and efficient services. "By integrating digital incentives, patient-aware edge* devices and practitioner engagement, I aim to enhance patient participation and improve clinical outcomes," says Integlia.

The course—Applications of Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning in Healthcare—was supported as an initiative of the Bronstein Foundation. Complementing the course, Integlia is working closely with one arm of the USI Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), a \$5 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2024, to support integrating AI in nursing homes.

"Academic partnerships such as USI's gerontology and engineering programs, were the focus of a concurrent session at the Gerontology Society of America's annual meeting," said Dr. Katie Ehlman, Professor of Gerontology and Director of the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness, noting USI may be one of only a small number of universities collaborating in this space.

Out of the course collaboration between engineering and health professions, a range of projects providing practical outcomes have been explored, from wearable devices for fall detection, to using algorithms to analyze certain types of data in the healthcare setting, to using robotics, augmented reality (AR) and extended reality (XR) devices to combat loneliness. Integlia has introduced engineering students into the Bronstein Center and established a volunteer mentorship group of young professionals and mid-career professionals from across the country to provide expert advice on the projects. "The mentors discussed image processing, robotics, AI and ML applications, as well as their experience in the industry, developing applications and more," says Integlia.

There are plans to introduce additional courses on AI, computer vision, and robotics, to bridge disciplines within the Kinney College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and have a larger impact on the University, Integlia says. "The goal is to bridge the digital and AI divide, making technology accessible to everyone, including students, faculty, staff and the community." ▼

*Edge computing processes data locally on medical devices rather than sending data to a remote data center.

Lights, Camera, *Learning!*

Biomechanics Equips Students for the Big Role

By C. L. Stambush

IMAGINE STEPPING INTO a classroom where the magic of Hollywood meets the precision of biomechanics. Exercise science and kinesiology students are experiencing this exciting blend using a 3D motion capture system—the same technology that brings your favorite CGI movie characters to life!

While motion capture is traditionally used in media like CGI movies, animation, robotics and virtual reality, USI is harnessing its power for biomechanics. By capturing the angular positions and velocities of joints, the system allows for a detailed quantitative analysis of movements.

The motion capturing system uses eight high-tech cameras to track movements with incredible accuracy using reflective markers. It can be synchronized with the department's force plates and wireless electromyographers (EMG) for a more in-depth analysis of body movements. "It is crucial for our students to have this technology as the

field grows so we can adequately prepare them for their future careers. Biomechanics is a very important component for our majors," says Dr. Cody Strom, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Sport.

"Demonstrating the 3D motion capture system to potential students showcases the physics behind movement, making the study of biomechanics seem more engaging and relevant to real-world scenarios, especially in areas like sport performance and rehabilitation."

—Dr. Renee Frimming
Professor and Chair of
Kinesiology and Sport

The Kinesiology and Sport Department uses this equipment in its Biomechanics and Motor Learning course, which includes a movement analysis component. Projects explore how different movement patterns can affect an individual's health and performance. "I have my students determine things like linear and angular velocities, angles, trajectory, power, etc., using basic video and

tape as markers," says Strom. "This gives them an underlying knowledge of what is called 'digitizing.'"

Beyond the classroom, the 3D motion capture system is also used in recruiting students and faculty research. "Our department has



been very exercise-physiology heavy when it comes to advanced equipment offerings," says Strom. "Adding this, and the EMGs, gives our current research faculty more capabilities and opportunities to branch out into other forms of research that were not previously possible or feasible with the time it takes to manually 'digitize.'"

This advanced technology is not only enhancing research capabilities but also broadening the scope of practical applications.

"Biomechanics is crucial for all concentrations in exercise science and kinesiology," says Strom. "For occupational therapists and physical therapists, analyzing movements helps identify and address insufficiencies through program prescriptions.

Coaches can use this analysis to correct athletes' form more precisely. From mobility to sports performance, improving movement through video evidence guides our plans moving forward." ▼



Market Mavericks

Armed with an AI Edge

By Hendrix Magley

IN AN ERA where understanding consumer behavior is more critical than ever, the Romain College of Business is focusing on two learning competencies to ensure students' education includes access to cutting-edge AI tools giving them a competitive edge in the marketplace as well as market-leading skills in neuromarketing and textual analytics.

Learning these skills allows students to meet the College's value proposition created by Dr. Sudesh Mujumdar, Dean of the Romain College of Business: Leveraging technology in unique ways to build market-leading competencies in our students in a personalized, co-created learning environment.

While students have had access to software through iMotions, an IT company specializing in human research software, at USI's Biometrix Lab since 2017, they can now access the company's EduLabs. The web-based platform enables students to use iMotion's eye-tracking and facial expression analysis software remotely using any laptop equipped with a webcam.

"Romain College of Business graduates now have first-hand experience with cutting-edge technology that most other business school graduates do not have," said Dr. Chad Milewicz, USI Professor of Marketing and Chair of the Economics and Marketing Department. "This experience will improve how they evaluate opportunities to apply new technologies in business and expand their thinking of how people respond to business decisions."

The EduLabs platform is integrated into the Introduction to Marketing course, taken by all Romain College of Business students, typically in their second semester of freshman year. Graduate students will also use the technology in the Marketing Strategies course within the MBA program. Milewicz aims to reach 1,000 students a year with neuromarketing curriculum.

"The knowledge and skills I acquired have been important in my career," said Courtney Bourne '23, marketing. "As a Marketing Insights Analyst for First Financial Bank, I apply these lessons daily to analyze consumer behavior, identify patterns and uncover trends."

In addition to neuromarketing, each undergraduate business student is introduced to the market-leading skill of textual analytics. Textual analytics is the analysis of any text-based or unstructured data for the purpose of understanding deeper information in those data.

"For the second year in a row, several hundred Romain sophomores are executing work in text analytics across business communication courses. Industry appetite for unstructured data literacy and AI analysis is expanding significantly, and we are positioning students to meet these needs," said Dr. Curt Gilstrap, Professor of Business Communication. "Romain students prepare by executing on research projects inclusive of original datasets, Generative AI tools and machine learning-based cloud software."

The College created its own AI-data-scraping facility called TAPLab (Textual Analytics and Publications Laboratory), providing students with an in-house advantage. In the Lab, students use Natural Language Processing to comprehend and comb through large amounts of data. A recent assignment had students scraping the internet for job listings in major regional cities—including Indianapolis and St. Louis—to discover the most common baseline skills required and prepare them for what employers are looking for in job searches.

"[Professors] at USI always try to keep up to date with the current technologies," said Lilly Neeson '25, computer science, former project manager in the TAPLab. "This is an essential part of being in the tech industry."

Undergraduate business students are learning this skill as early as their sophomore year in business communication classes. The hands-on experience puts students ahead of the curve when they enter their career field. ▼

TO AI OR NOT TO AI: THERE IS NO QUESTION

"I want my students to learn to think..."

By Keene Short, Instructor in English



IN MY SYLLABUS, I restrict the use of AI in completing assignments at every stage in the writing process, and I provide my students with two explanations for this policy.

The first explanation is a metaphor: Using AI in an English class is like going to the gym and paying somebody else to lift weights for you. It's a waste of tuition money; the purpose of college is to learn and grow, and that requires the friction that comes with challenging assignments, just as strength and endurance come from the friction of exercise and cardio.

The second explanation is a little more abstract: Most students come to college with the idea that writing is about "rules that you follow," but the truth is that writing is about actions and their consequences. Every word, every sentence, is a choice that students are free to make, or not, and as such, learning how to write in college is about learning to use the abundance of writing choices at our disposal.

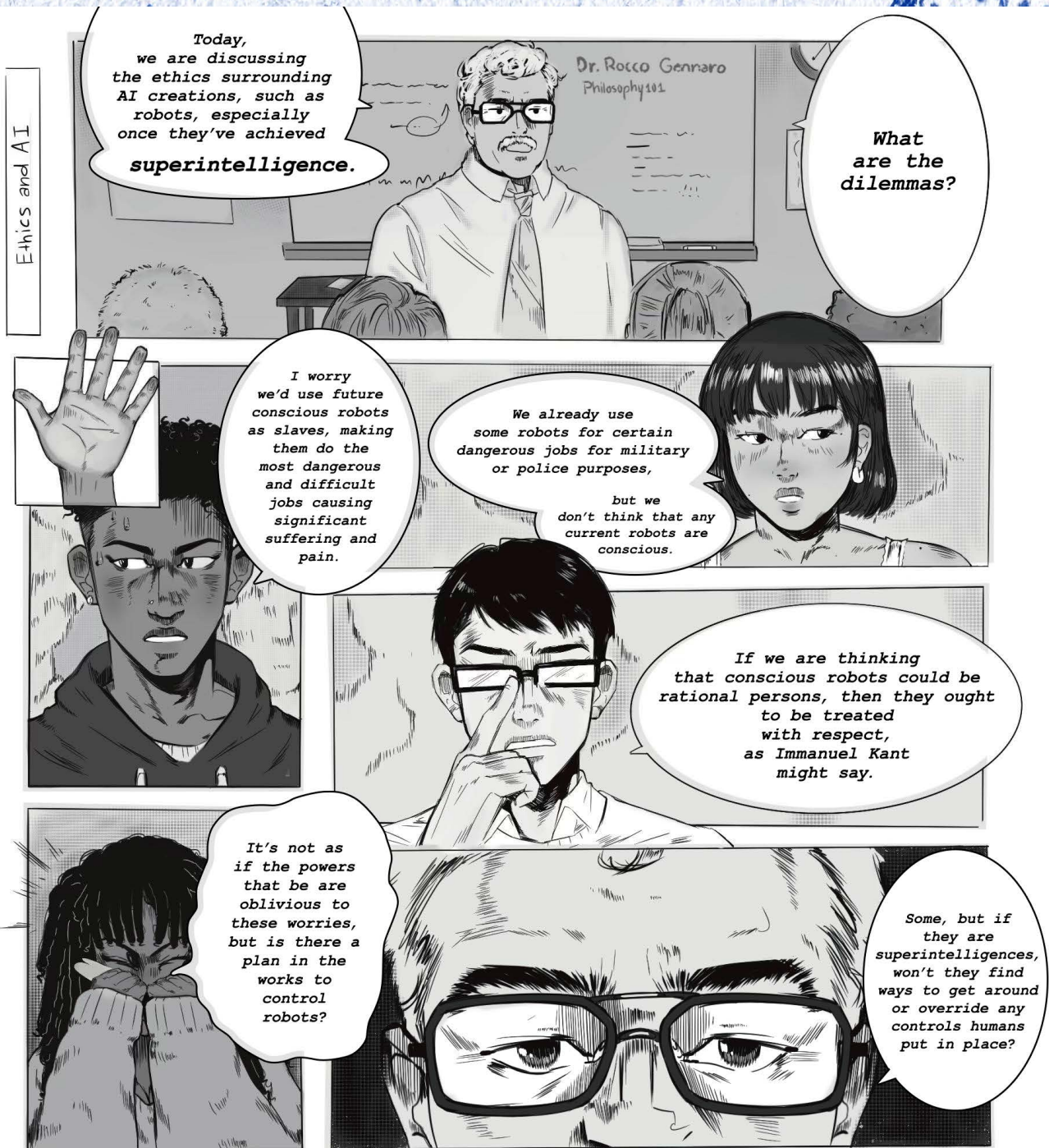
This is engrained in our culture, but creative decision-making is also the core of our evolution as a species. We evolved larger brains that not only store memories, but connect them, and writing is the intentional process of making connections. When we sit down and make a series of decisions about how to write to a professor requesting an extension, we use creative thinking as a form of problem-solving as our neurons leap into action. In essayist Kazim Ali's words, "Chemically, it is invented in the brain. Thought is matter."

Generative AI is not currently capable of replicating this process. Tech writer Ed Zitron describes generative AI as "probabilistic, meaning that [AI programs] don't know anything, they're just generating an answer (or an image, or a translation or a summary) based on training data."

This training data is essentially the purchased or stolen writing of actual people scraped from the internet and meshed together to form an algorithmic prediction of what generative AI programs are designed to regurgitate, which are customer satisfaction tokens. Programs like ChatGPT are designed to plagiarize thousands of writers and stir together billions of words and spit out an answer designed to please potential customers, regardless of factual accuracy.

Outsourcing any part of the writing process to AI means voluntarily refusing to think about a subject. If I asked ChatGPT to give me an outline for an essay about Stephen King's first novel, *Carrie*, the program would run a gargantuan search through the data that has been stuffed into it, which in this case would include book reviews, scholarship, film reviews, biographies of Stephen King, student essays and probably some miscellaneous information about real people named Carrie. It would then condense those ideas, produced by real people, into a completely unoriginal and entirely plagiarized list of the most common themes and interpretations of the novel, which would then direct me toward a thesis based on already-existing arguments.

I want my students to learn to think for themselves because college is an environment where they will be challenged and will encounter many different viewpoints. This brings me back to the abstract explanation. As a teacher, grammar and syntax are far less important than students learning how to access, express and navigate their own original ideas. There is more educational value in writing a clunky, error-filled rough draft that expresses an original opinion than to have a polished and organized final draft regurgitating what everybody else already thinks. ▼



Kamryn Johnson

This graphic comic of students discussing artificial intelligence possessing consciousness was inspired by a book Dr. Rocco Gennaro, Professor of Philosophy, is working on, tentatively titled *Dialogues on Minds, Machines, and AI* (forthcoming, Routledge Press). Gennaro plans to teach a course on AI Ethics in Fall 2025. The script for this illustration was edited from Gennaro's book by C. L. Stambush, Editor/Senior Writer. Charles Armstrong, Associate Professor of Graphic Design, used the script as an assignment for his students to illustrate. The comic was illustrated by Kamryn Johnson. To see the other students' graphic submissions, scan this QR code.



Through the Lens of Adventure

By C. L. Stambush
& Breanna Wyman

WHEN MATT MYERS '83 began travelling abroad shortly after graduating from USI, where he studied communications and media studies, he did so for pleasure. Later, that love grew into something greater as he embarked on a career teaching filmmaking at universities around the world enhanced by three Fulbright Scholar Awards.

A Benjamin Bosse High School graduate, Myers originally thought he would study economics at USI. "After my first semester, I realized I didn't have the interest or the affinity for the subject," he said. "After bouncing around to a few different majors trying to find something that would keep my interest, I realized I enjoyed photography."

Two years before he graduated from USI, Myers received an offer to become a camera operator for a local television station. "My professional career in film started two years before I graduated, so I learned a lot of the practical aspects of my field on the job. However, the classes that had [the most] lasting impact on my career were outside my major," he said. "An art appreciation class taught me to think in terms of color and contrast—essential for cinematography, and English literature classes deepened my understanding of story—a foundation I rely on every day."



Romania



Jordan



England





"I've always been a 'learning by doing' sort of student.

For me, classes have always been a good introduction to a subject.

*But without **lifelong learning**, nothing truly becomes an art."*

Today, Myers is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked on feature films, television, documentaries and commercial projects for Orion Pictures, MTV, Discovery Channel, NBC, PBS, CBS, ESPN, Animal Planet and many others.

Myers' love of travel and filmmaking bloomed into a beautiful life when he became a visiting instructor at institutions in England and Dubai, giving him experiences that inspired him to apply for his first Fulbright. "My love of travel and different cultures is what first sparked my interest in the Fulbright program. To be able to live in a country and immerse yourself in that culture is the greatest reward of a Fulbright," he said. "Giving back to that community is a calling."

Since graduating from USI, Myers has worked in six countries, travelled through 26 and been awarded three Fulbright Scholarships. His first Fulbright was in 2010 teaching advanced cinematography in The Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts' Master of Fine Arts program. In 2017, he led workshops in filmmaking for working professional filmmakers at Royal Film Commission in Amman, Jordan. His most

recent Fulbright acquisition has taken him to Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, to teach cinematography.

"It is the biggest (50,000+ students) and the most prestigious university in the country. My main class will be lighting for genres—how light placement and quality can turn a romantic comedy into a horror film. I'll also teach a non-fiction cinematography class in documentary at the graduate school," Myers said. "Beyond that, I'll be helping with curriculum design. The film school wants to increase its experiential classes and is interested in the 'hands-on' approach I use in my filmmaking classes."

Myers' life as an educator and filmmaker has led him to insights beyond the cinematic scope of the classes he teaches around the world. For all of us, he has this to say. "Trust in yourself. I grew up in a poor family with no advantages. I had lots of doubts about whether I could make a living in my field. I had some good mentors and supportive professionals who gave me the confidence to keep working toward my dream. If you trust in yourself while remaining humble, you truly can do almost anything." ▼



STAY IN TOUCH

Update your information and send photos to alumni@usi.edu or by using the QR code.



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.

1980s

Matthew Myers '83, communications, was awarded the Fulbright Scholar Award by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and is a teacher in documentary and narrative filmmaking for Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. This is Myers' third Fulbright Scholar Award.

Daniel Melchior Jr. '88 M'95, accounting, business administration, is Director of Shared Services for San Diego State University in San Diego, California.

Mike Roeder '89, communications, is Senior Vice President, External Affairs at CenterPoint Energy in Indianapolis, Indiana.

1990s

Michael Ficker '91, business administration, is Senior Inventory Manager for Yellow Supply in Shepherdsville, Kentucky.

Angi Darnell '92, social work, is a provider education consultant/HEDIS specialist at Anthem in Evansville.

1 Michelle (Raaf) Hillenbrand '94, occupational therapy, presented at the American Occupational Association conference in Seattle, Washington, last December. She was in the first graduating occupational therapy class

31 years ago and has since worked in home health, hospitals and outpatient clinics but primarily provided school-based OT with Henderson County Schools since 1997. Married to **Doug Hillenbrand '00**, occupational therapy assistant, two of their four children, **Hunter Hillenbrand '24**, accounting and professional services, and **Hannah Hillenbrand Gee '19**, biology, are USI graduates.

LeeAnn (Jones) Stark '17, health services, is Pulmonary Function Technician for UK HealthCare in Lexington, Kentucky.

Vicki (Weyer) Drysdale '97, business administration and psychology, is Regional Account Manager for Bowles Mattress Co.

Jason Hopf '97, business administration, is Director of Treasury Operations at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis, Indiana.

2000s

Caleb Adamson '00, nursing, is Utilization Management Nurse at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Neil Laughbaum '01, exercise science, is Director of Operations at Triad Local Schools in North Lewisburg, Ohio.

Matthew Schwartz '01 M'07, sociology, public administration, is Assistant Vice President, Outreach and Engagement at Vincennes University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kristine (Frederick) Daugherty '03, English, recently published an anthology on Taylor Swift-inspired poems titled *Invisible Strings* and is a professor at University of Evansville.

Todd Palmer M'03, social work, is Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Brescia University in Owensboro, Kentucky. He earned his doctorate in social work in 2023.

Michael Ready '04, English, is Partner in the firm Summit Financial Group. He has been in the industry since 2006 and with the firm since 2021.

Melissa (Griswold) Potts '05, nursing, is Clinical Educator for Daviess Community Hospital in Washington, Indiana.

Angela (Patton) Russell '05, art, is Global Internal Communications Manager at e-TeleQuote Insurance in Tampa, Florida.

Megan Mortis '06 M'11, communication studies, public administration, is Director of Public Information for Henderson County Schools. She received the 2025 Kentucky School Public Relations Association OV Jones Memorial Award.

Katie Rice '07, public relations and advertising, is Yearbook Sales Representative at Walsworth Publishing Company in Marceline, Missouri.

Kensington (Blaylock) Eck '08, theatre arts, is Executive Director for the Henderson Area Arts Alliance in Henderson, Kentucky.

Quintin Myers '08, elementary education, is a 5th grade teacher at Washington Upper Elementary School in Washington, Indiana.

Stacy (Kasmier) Rhody '08, biology, is Client Relations Specialist and vet assistant at Cedar Creek Veterinary Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Robert Roads '08 '17, physical education, nursing, was commissioned at the rank of First Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve as a Critical Care Nurse.

Brent Owen '09 M'11, physical education (teaching), public administration, is a former USI Men's Basketball player and Head Men's Basketball Coach at Lenoir-Rhyne University. He led his team to a record-breaking season, winning Coach of the Year in the South Atlantic Conference and Co-Coach of the Year for the NCAA Division II Southeast Region.

2010s

Laura Effinger '10, finance and economics, is Senior Manager of Strategic Financial Planning and Analysis at The North West Company in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.



Aaron Luttrull '11, finance, is President of Schuler Bauer Real Estate Services in New Albany, Indiana.

Chantal (Dash) Wood '11, nursing, is Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Evansville.

Brandie Wheeler-Cooley '13, health services, is Owner and Editor of The Scout Guide Tri-State in Evansville.

Jill Hanson '14, early childhood education, is Partner Success Manager at Discovery Education, working remotely in Evansville.

Kyle Williams '14, nursing, is Lead Clinical Nurse at Sharp Healthcare in San Diego, California.

Tyler Nicole '16, elementary education, is a teacher and Assistant Athletic Director at Westfield Washington Schools in Westfield, Indiana.

Megan (Gresham) Collins '17, criminal justice, is Program Director for the Vanderburgh County Court Alcohol and Drug Programs in Evansville.

Emily Earhart '17 M'23, criminal justice, is Community Engagement Coordinator in the Evansville Police Department Crime Prevention Unit in Evansville.

Nicole (Lao) Coomer M'18, business administration, is Executive Director of The Center of Concern in Des Plaines, Illinois.

Margaret Hagan M'18, human resources, won the Showcase Showdown on the Price Is Right.

Matthew Mahoney '18, sport management, is Deal Desk Administrator at Bazaarvoice in Austin, Texas.

Philip Pepper '18, public relations and advertising, is Social Media Manager at VIV in Newburgh, Indiana.

Tia (Hoover) Pepper '18, food and nutrition, is Registered Dietitian at American Senior Communities in Evansville.

Tommy Wiseman '18, accounting and professional services, is

Accounting Manager at Harrison REMC in Corydon, Indiana.

Katelyn Knoll '19, economics, is Senior Fiscal and Legislative Analyst at the Indiana Department of Revenue in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Taylor Krieg '19, marketing, is Marketing Associate for Mirazon in Louisville, Kentucky.

Matthew Tomlin '19, economics, is Coroner for Floyd County, Indiana.

2020s

Cameron Alderson '20, history, is 6th grade social studies teacher at Brown Middle School in Harrison, Tennessee.

Kaitlyn Deskins '20, geology, is Environmental Scientist 1 for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Jessica Hedge '20, social work, is Family Home Developer for Arrow Child and Family Ministries in Waco, Texas.

Lauren (Hambrock) Jenkins '20, biology, is Optometrist at Dr. Black's Optometry in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Kennya Santiago '20, English, is Program Coordinator for TEAM Enterprises in Miami, Florida.

Colten Pipenger '20 M'21, sport management, business administration, is Executive Director at Dubois Strong, the economic development organization for Dubois County, Indiana.

Olivia (Pickerill) Schear '20, sociology, is Attorney at Lorch Naville Ward Legal Firm in New Albany, Indiana.

Casey (Frederick) Hand '21, food and nutrition, is Nutrition Research Professional at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado.



Colton Sanders '21, political science and philosophy, is Child Services Attorney for the Indiana Department of Child Services in Tell City, Indiana.

Lexanna (Kocher) Strader '21, exercise science, is Health Educator at Edgar County Public Health Department in Ashmore, Illinois.

Erin Curran '22, health services, is Client Services Manager for BAYADA Home Health Care in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Samantha (Harris) Niemiec M'22, healthcare administration, is Director of Patient Experience at Norton Healthcare in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Madelyn Sturgeon '22, civil engineering, is Structural Engineer for Salas O'Brien in Evansville.

Kara Tucker '22, communication studies and political science, is Grant Consultant for Upcoast Consulting, serves on the board of directors for Between Friends – Chicago and is a Manager of Foundation and Corporate Philanthropy for The Night Ministry in Chicago, Illinois.

Savannah (Loehr) Mathews '23, political science, is Legal Administrator for Poag Disability Law in Evansville.

Elizabeth Sinning '23, art, is Outreach Advisor for Vincennes University-Project ASPIREE in Vincennes, Indiana.

Marriages

Anita (Keller) McGlothen '95, business, and Anthony McGlothen were married July 2024.

USI Family

Retiring

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

M. Shan Jensen, Professor Emerita of Theatre • 32.5 years

Ronda Priest, Associate Professor Emerita of Sociology • 29 years

KINNEY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Lorinda Coan, Associate Professor Emerita of Dental Hygiene • 12 years

Kathy Riedford, Associate Professor Emerita of Nursing • 20 years

Julie St. Clair, Clinical Assistant Professor Emerita of Nursing • 35 years

POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION

Paul Doss, Professor Emeritus of Geology • 28 years

Doris Mohr '87, Associate Professor Emerita of Mathematics • 29.5 years

Joyce Reitman, Director Emerita of Clinical Internships • 14.5 years

Sara Wannemuehler, Director Emerita of Clinical Practice • 10.5 years

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Ramadan Hemaida, Professor of Decision Sciences • 37 years

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Steve Baker, Network/Telecomm Tech III • 35.5 years

Pamela Doerter, Career Coordinator Emerita • 27.5 years

Connie Stambush, Editor/Senior Writer Emerita • 12 years



Lisa (Schuttler) Henkle '04, English, and **Mel Henkle** were married August 2024. The couple resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Geneva (Adams) Weiland '06, French studies, theatre arts, and **Joshua Weiland '05**, computer science, were married September 2024.

Heather (Crundwell) Britt '10, psychology, and **Adam Britt** were married July 2024. The couple resides in Owensboro, Kentucky.

2 Victoria (Embry) Boerner '15, health services, and **Jonathan Boerner '14**, sociology, were married May 2024. The couple resides in Evansville.

Cindy (Mauro) Nunley '16, geology, and **Jerod Nunley** were married September 2024. The couple resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Karyssa (Morgan) VanHoose '20, English, and **Edward VanHoose** were married December 2024.

Lexanna (Kocher) Strader '21, exercise science, and **William Strader** were married August 2024. The couple resides in Ashmore, Illinois.

Births

3 Chardae (Chambers) Kelly '10 '11, health services, nursing, welcomed **Mariella Kelly** in December 2024.

Sara Fehrenbacher '11 M'16, business administration, and **Lee Fehrenbacher '10**, engineering, welcomed **Lucas** in October 2024.

Emily Waterbury '12, public relations and advertising, welcomed **Emmett** in September 2024.

Tanner Gellinger '16, criminal justice, and **Jackie Gellinger** welcomed **Grace** in August 2024.

Eric Hormuth '16, English, and **Jennifer Hormuth** welcomed **Ezra** in March 2024.

Ashton (Mossberger) Logan '16, social work, and **Tyler Logan** welcomed **Maisy** in October 2024. **Brianna (Perry) Alvey '17**, exercise science, and **Blaine Alvey '17**, sport management, welcomed **Kason** in January 2025.

Ashley (Wright) Brokus '17, business administration, and **William Brokus**

'19, business administration, welcomed **Garrett** in December 2024.

Isabella (Simone) Henderson '17, elementary education, welcomed **Daisy** in September 2024.

Corinne (Gentry) Moeller '17, Spanish studies, and **Alec Moeller** welcomed **Frederick** in October 2024.

Amy (Stull) Wolff '17, criminal justice, welcomed **Charles** in July 2024.

Alexis (Craft) Swartzell '17, psychology, and **Dylan Swartzell '13**, kinesiology, welcomed **Jace** in January 2025.

4 Bradley (Holmes) Horty '19 M'22, health services, business administration, welcomed **Beckham** in October 2024.

Sierra (Craw) Schmitt '20, sociology, and **Tyler Schmitt** welcomed **Melody** in November 2024.

5 Sydney (Caplinger) Oliver '21, respiratory therapy, and **Matt Oliver '20**, radio and television, welcomed **Theodore** in December 2024.

In Memoriam

Mark Myers '71, English, of Carmel, Indiana, died December 6, 2023. He retired from teaching English, science and ethics at Decatur Central High School after 30 years, where he was the head of the English Department. Mark played guitar, loved music, books, art, good food, beautiful places and people and was so kind to everyone.

John Schroder '71, management, computer information systems, of Evansville, died September 22, 2024. He began his career as a caseworker for the Vanderburgh County Welfare Department before becoming a supervisor there. John was County Welfare Director in Dubois County and Vanderburgh County and was the Assistant Director at what is now the Vanderburgh County Department of Child Services. He retired in 2014 as Regional Financial Manager for the Indiana Department of Child Services covering 13 counties.

Joyce (Qutonne) Crabtree '72, accounting and economics, died February 28, 2025. She worked in the oil industry for 40 plus years until she was 80, was an accountant for ISUE for several years, taught accounting classes at the University of Evansville and was a bank president for a year in Illinois. Joyce lived her life to the fullest, enjoying



hot yoga, movies, parties and beaches. She was an Elvis fan who was always ready to lend a hand.

Earl South '73, management, of Sedalia, Missouri, died December 31, 2024. He was a machinist in the U.S. Navy, which took him to Connecticut, Maryland, California and Hawaii. Earl was an engineer for General Tire and Bucyrus Erie in Evansville, and later for Waterloo Industries in Sedalia. Earl was an avid outdoorsman, enthusiastic Clabber and Bridge player, crafted his own beer, schnapps and Irish cream. His love for woodworking,

leather working and amateur gun smithing was evident in his creations. But above all, he bragged about his kids, grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great-grandkids.

Lawrence "Larry" Hamilton Jr '74, marketing, of Ferdinand, Indiana, died March 7, 2025. A great American Patriot, he served our country in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1969. He worked at the Abbey Press Catalog for 19 years and worked and co-owned Solutions by Hamiltons until his retirement.

Hugh Layer '74, business administration, of Bloomington, Indiana, died February 3, 2025. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War. Hugh's active duty in the Gulf of Tonkin deeply affected him and made him a pacifist for the remaining decades of his life. He was employed by General Electric and later SABIC at Mt. Vernon for over 37 years, loved jazz music, motorcycles and boating on the Ohio River.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Gaul '75, history, of Evansville, died October 31, 2024. He was a Paraprofessional with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation for 13 years, working with special needs students at Bosse High School. Jeff enjoyed woodworking, music, antiques, walking, biking and spending time

on his family's farm in Western Kentucky.

Myrtle "Jane" (Baker) Bennett '76, elementary education, of Carmel, Indiana, died December 21, 2024. She had a diverse and accomplished career, serving as a schoolteacher, real estate agent, appraiser, and, most importantly, a full-time mother and grandmother. Jane was a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Indianapolis Pacers & Fever and IU Basketball, cheering passionately for her teams through every season.

August "Gus" Blaxton '76, communications, of Evansville, died October 22, 2024. He honorably served in the United States Navy, stationed in Guam. After the military, Gus studied and graduated with a master's degree in theology from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He taught theology at Mater Dei for a short time and later worked as a Chaplain at St. Mary's Medical Center. Gus ended his working career as a caregiver for Homewatch CareGivers.

James "Jim" Droege '76, accounting, of Posey County, Indiana, died November 13, 2024. He was raised on his family's farm alongside his brother and sister where he attended North Posey High School and played 8-man

In Memoriam

Steven Baker, Network/Telecomm Tech III (35.5 years), retired, died December 29, 2024.

Marinea "Reno" Gross, Custodial Worker (15 years), retired, died March 30, 2025.

Pam Hurley, Senior Administrative Assistant (26 years), retired, died March 1, 2025.

Robert Klippel, Former Dean, College of Business; Professor of Marketing (2 years), retired, died February 20, 2025.

Lois Stevens, Building/Equipment Supervisor (21.5 years), retired, died May 2, 2025.

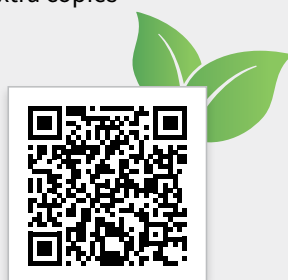
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football and basketball. Jim was a U.S. Army veteran, a lifelong farmer, raised pigs, spent hours on a tractor listening to AM radio, operated the sawmill and repaired or built equipment to keep the farm running. He earned Master Farmer title in 2020.

Roger Huff '76, social science, of Newburgh, Indiana, died November 26, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving a tour in South Korea. After the Army, Roger had a long career with Conrail and the Federal Railroad Administration. He had a deep appreciation for education, science and nature, and loved learning about the vastness of the universe. Roger was known to take long road trips to national parks, which anyone was welcome to join. He was an avid wildlife photographer in his later life, leaving behind an extensive collection of photos.

James "Tim" McCracken '77, marketing, of Evansville, died December 1, 2024. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, worked for the National Cash Register for many years, co-owned and operated his own company for several years and worked in car sales. Tim enjoyed camping, photography, travel and spending time with family and friends.

Philip "Phil" Wolter '77, art, of Nashville, Indiana, died December 2, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran and earned a Purple Heart for his service in the Vietnam War. He was an artist at Evansville Mesker Park Zoo, painting many of the animal habitat landscapes and an art therapist at the Evansville State Hospital, where he earned awards for his patient-centered art programs. He later owned and operated Olde Courthouse Catacombs, The House of Lecter and more. Phil grew up with dogs, chickens, a pig named Curly,

fishing and hunting. He biked for a winning USI intramural cycling team, competed at the National Championship Senior Games in the 40+ division of pole vaulting in the 1990s and coached as many sports as he played, was a golfer and a champion cornhole player.

Paul Wright '79, economics, of Evansville, died November 27, 2024. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving four years in the Vietnam War. Paul spent most of his career as an industrial pipe valve and fitting salesman at Evansville Plumbers Supply Co. Inc. In his free time, he enjoyed being with friends, playing golf, working outside in the yard and watching Notre Dame football.

Mark Settle '80, marketing, of Evansville, died March 12, 2025. He dedicated many years as an electrical project manager at Alva Electric, where his expertise and leadership were highly valued. Outside of his professional life, Mark was an active member of the Oak Meadow Golf Country Club. His love for golf was only matched by his passion for the Cincinnati Bengals football team. Win or lose, Mark stood by his team with the same loyalty he showed to every aspect of his life.

Patrick Jankowski '82, marketing, of Parkville, Missouri, died April 25, 2024. He had worked at Travelport for 37 years as a software engineer and was looking forward to retiring.

Daniel "Dan" Lewis '83, marketing, management, of Evansville, died December 3, 2024. He grew up working in the family heating and air business started by his grandfather, taking over the family business from 1995-2017 when his sons took ownership. Dan was a 40-year member of the West Side Nut Club, serving as Festival Chairman in 2000 and President in 2010. He served on the Evansville Water

Utility Board, the Alcohol Board and was a CASA Volunteer. Dan was a big supporter of USI Athletics and was a member of the USI Varsity Club and Dugout Club.

Amy Klanac '85 '89, marketing, elementary education, of North Port, Florida, died March 23, 2025. She began her career as an elementary school teacher and librarian before transitioning into the field of User Experience. Over the years, she contributed her expertise to companies such as Tribune and JP Morgan Chase, ultimately serving as a Principal UX professional at The Home Depot. Amy had a deep appreciation for nature and photography, particularly wildlife and landscapes. She found joy in sailing and taking long walks on the beach, where she could capture the beauty of the world through her lens. Her kind, patient and loving nature touched those around her.

Lucinda "Cindy" (Cannon) Smith '85, health occupations, of Holly Springs, North Carolina, died January 4, 2025. She was a Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner and selfless caregiver, whether at home or with her patients. Cindy loved life and her laugh was infectious and well known. She loved sports, Christmas, baking and making candy, especially her homemade toffee.

Kurt Harris '88, accounting, of Evansville, died January 12, 2025. He worked hard, put himself through college and was the Assistant Director of the Financial Aid and the Veterans & Military Benefits Coordinator at Ivy Tech where he worked for 19 years, making a difference in students' lives. A kind and soft-spoken man, Kurt was always willing to stop and take time to talk with people or simply wave and offer his smile. He enjoyed golfing, exercising, jazz

music, Kentucky football and never passed up a chocolate chip cookie. His final act in this world was to donate his bodily tissue to the Indiana Donor Network.

Daniel Gates '89, psychology, of Missoula, Montana, died November 22, 2024. He held a master's degree in psychology but worked as a machinist with experience in gear cutting for most of his career, retiring from Babcock & Wilcox Enterprises in 2006. He enjoyed racing dirt bikes in his younger years. Other hobbies included studying Civil War history and chess. Dan was the kind of person who devoted himself entirely to an interest or passion and always enjoyed learning something new.

Mandy (Bowers) Elpers '92, elementary education, of Evansville, died May 19, 2024. She was actively involved in her children's lives, supporting them in their sporting events and activities. Mandy was a faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Vanderburgh County, where she served as a Lector.

Martha (Guiney) Oates '92, nursing, of Newburgh, Indiana, died May 5, 2024. She had a love for music and had a passion for writing, composing and painting. Martha was a proud member of the Chi Omega Sisterhood and loved spending time with her family and pets.

Judy (Fickas) Fowler M'94, business administration, of Newburgh, Indiana, died October 25, 2024. She retired from the Social Security Office of Hearings and Appeals after many years. Judy was an active member of the Honored Ladies of the Hadi Shrine. She cherished attending the Fall Festival, participating in the Dominoes Club, enjoyed cross-stitching, reading on her Kindle and traveling.

Susan Bailey Jindrich '94, early childhood education, of Newburgh, Indiana, died April 10, 2025. She was a grade school teacher, a teacher and administrator for Head Start in Evansville and ran a three-county Head Start Program. Susan remained active in the National Association for the Education of Young Children, in her later years, she belonged to the Southern Indiana Region Porsche Club of America.

Julianne (Morse) Donovan '95, nursing, of Abingdon, Virginia, died January 3, 2025. Her professional life was dedicated to helping others, first through her work in social services and later as a Registered Nurse at various locations throughout her career.

Marcia (Wagner) Burgdorf '96, respiratory therapy, of Evansville, died December 9, 2024. She was a triplet who enjoyed the sand, sea and sunsets of Florida. Marcia was a Respiratory Therapist who earned the Rick Day Dedication Award for her dedication and perseverance in the care of her patients. She was known for her enthusiasm, her love of cooking for large family holiday gatherings and watching *The Wizard of Oz* with her grandchildren and dancing like the Tin Man.

Deanna (Green) Dyer '96, nursing, of Chrisney, Indiana, died December 2, 2024. She was a paramedic for 18 years and a nurse for 16 years. She enjoyed being a traveling nurse, sky diving, scuba diving, rock climbing and riding her bike. She was also a cat lover.

Suzanne (Sutton) Elliott '96, nursing, of Evansville, died October 29, 2024. She was a devoted and compassionate Registered Nurse who dedicated her life to providing care and comfort to those in need. Throughout her career in the healthcare industry, Suzanne wholeheartedly served

the Vincennes community, utilizing her knowledge and expertise to enhance the well-being of others. Beyond her professional endeavors, Suzanne found joy in the simple pleasures of life, cherishing the company of her friends, the companionship of her beloved dogs and the occasional retail therapy session.

Paul Ebert '98, visual art K-12 (teaching), of Dubois, Indiana, died February 19, 2025. He worked for Kmart for 25 years, and later taught at Troop Elementary in Paoli, Indiana, for 25 years. In his spare time, Paul was also an Uber driver. He enjoyed helping his parents and everyone around him, as well as spending time with his family and friends.

Mark Magan '99, art, of Mexico Beach, Florida, died March 20, 2025. He held a wide range of jobs throughout his life from an adjunct Art teacher at the University of Southern Indiana, to a gardener at the Indianapolis Museum of Art/Newfields and the Christel DeHaan Estate, to operating forklifts and, most recently, fitness center manager. Mark worked wherever people needed someone dependable. He showed up, got the job done and treated everyone he met with empathy. Mark loved folk, bluegrass, country and classic rock music. His love of storytelling carried into his work as a sculptor, building delightfully crooked wooden houses that invited curiosity and smiles.

Nicole (Devine) Montgomery '99, accounting, of Evansville, died October 24, 2024. She was a part of the Screaming Eagles Dance Team and excelled in all things she put her mind to, especially cooking. She enjoyed spending time with her beloved dog, Shadow, as well as painting, reading and joy, however, were her children.

Scott Pelikan '05, computer information systems, of Evansville, died March 27, 2025. He was a proud native of Evansville, an Eagle Scout and passionate outdoorsman. Scott was an active member of the Izaak Walton League of America, Evansville chapter and dedicated to his career at Berry Plastics.

Ashley (Long) Ashley '07, marketing, of Evansville, died August 27, 2024. She was a passionate photographer whose greatest joy came from sharing her vision of the beautiful world she captured with her camera and being a devoted wife and mom.

Haley Crumb '23, psychology, of Newburgh, Indiana, died January 28, 2025. She was just one year away from earning her masters' degree in social work. Haley's passion was to work with children, and she was dedicated to making a positive impact on their lives. She was deeply caring and compassionate, always checking in on her loved ones to ensure they were doing well and had a heart of gold. Haley's selflessness and warm spirit will be missed.

Honorary Degrees

USI's Board of Trustees conferred honorary Doctor of Laws degrees for **Dr. Ronald S. Rochon**, California State University-Fullerton President and USI's fourth President, and **Mrs. Lynn W. Rochon**, former USI First Lady, for their 14 years of service to the University.



Crossword Puzzle Key

Ritterskamp employed an "eye-tracking" component to his crossword puzzle design as a playful nod to to USI's Biometrix Discovery Lab's eye-tracking capabilities.

DR. ROBIN SANABRIA, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), is a retired civilian psychologist for the U.S. Army who originally thought music therapy was how she wanted to help others, but decided she wanted to impact people's lives in a different way and pursued a doctorate in psychology. Music, however, has remained in her life. She plays keyboard in a local band—Patriotic Soul—and plays the mellophone in USI's Pep Band!

How do friends and family describe you?

I'm known for asking a lot of questions. It's the best way I know to be informed and to understand the other person's perspective.

Who was young Robin?

I have deep roots in Posey County (Indiana) where my ancestors settled in 1814. I grew up on a farm which taught me the value of family, faith and respect for nature. But I have always had a strong passion for music. When I play music, especially with other people, it truly touches my soul.

How have you grown in your career at USI?

I have worked with young adults in the military setting

as a civilian psychologist with the Department of the Army, but coming to USI CAPS, and working with college students (actually of all ages), has truly helped me develop as a psychologist to better understand the challenges of transition, especially in higher education as it is today. It has been a very unique experience working with college students, while also helping my children go through this period of their lives. It has helped me to be a more understanding parent for this period of life.

How do you decompress at the end of the day?

I read non-fiction books about real life events. I particularly love biographies about people who have overcome very

difficult odds.

I love *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, *A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety* by Jimmy Carter, and *Happiest Man on Earth* by Eddie Jaku. I figure if they have the courage to share their story, it's a good use of my time to learn from their experience.

What superpower do you employ in your position at USI?

I'm not sure I have perfected any superpower, but I do identify with Elastigirl from *The Incredibles*. Being an effective director of CAPS requires incredible levels of flexibility to meet the needs of the students, adhere to professional/ethical standards of psychology and





help students to meet the rigorous requirements of higher education to prepare them for the world.

Describe the most bizarre thing you were asked to do while at USI?

When our band, Patriotic Soul, played on The Quad for the Eclipse last spring, it was one of the most surreal experiences. It was an awesome moment with so many people. To play music as part of the experience was

probably the closest I've gotten to experiencing Heaven on Earth. I'm quite sure that no other CAPS Director in the U.S. can add that experience to their resume.

What is the most adventurous thing you have done in your life?

Right after my husband and I got married, he was in the Army and got an assignment to Mannheim, Germany, where we lived for a year. It was an amazing experience!

What insult have you received that you were proud of?

My children complain that I ask too many questions, but I know that asking questions is how you learn.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who don't honor their commitments or follow through with what they are supposed to do.

SCREAGLE PRIDE

USI'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL was on fire this year, making its first-ever appearance in the WNIT Super Sixteen. Following a first-round bye and a 60-51 win in the second round against Campbell University, at home, USI welcomed the University at Buffalo to Liberty Arena, Home of the Screaming Eagles, March 27 in front of 2,000-plus fans. The 2024-25 campaign and USI Women's Basketball's third year in Division I came to a close after seeing the program accomplish more firsts.

