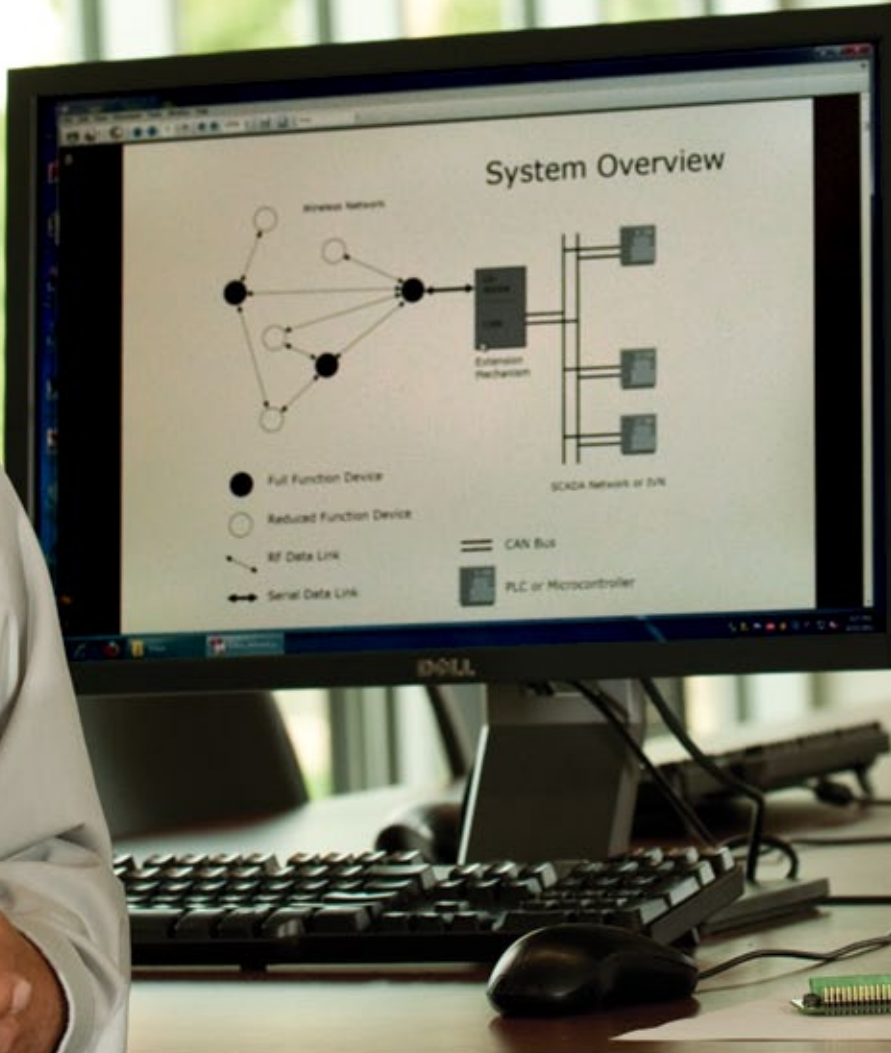




Magazine



USI: Catalyst for innovation
Paul Kuban secures technology patent

FROM THE EDITOR

From start to finish

Successful students become successful alumni. Read in this issue about what's happening at the University of Southern Indiana today. The quality of top scholars in the freshman class is a point of pride. They come from 20 communities in three states (page 4). And, throughout the issue, stories relate how alumni are applying their knowledge and interests after graduation. Michael Pugh (page 10) employs his photography skills around the world. Jina Campbell (page 28) puts her accounting expertise to work right here on campus. Wherever they are in their careers, alumni continue to draw upon the leadership opportunities, experiences, and friendships that were part of their USI experience.

As we approach the University's 50th anniversary in 2015, we offer a look back with a new feature—Revisit USI—on the inside back cover.

This is the last time I will have the opportunity to introduce an issue of *USI Magazine* by penning the From the Editor column. I will retire in 2012. Since 1997, I have enjoyed the privilege of helping tell the USI story. My job has allowed me to talk with and get to know many members of the faculty and staff, administrators, students, alumni, community partners, and friends of the University. They are the ones who tell the story most eloquently, and they have much more to say. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the USI community. I look forward to discovering what's inside the next issue of *USI Magazine* when I open my mailbox or go online for exclusive content.



Betty R. Vawter

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

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On the Cover

Dr. Paul Kuban, associate professor of engineering, is the first faculty member working through the University's Center for Applied Research to secure a patent. His CAN-Bee interface improves the accessibility between wired and wireless networks. See page 20.

USI Magazine

Online exclusives

- Update: strategic plan goals
- Virtual tour: teaching theatre
- More alumni success stories
- Paul Kuban's patent
- Slide show: men's basketball summer workouts
- Profiles: Alumni Association Award winners
- and more online content



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President's Perspective

by Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, President

Alumni ties: important to University, graduates, and current students



Everyone says it. Summer flies by so quickly. Memories of May Commencement still seem fresh and already the summer winds have cooled and we have welcomed the Class of 2015 to campus. In four years today's freshmen will be standing in line, dressed in graduation regalia, remembering their first days on

campus. No doubt many will be asking themselves, "Where did the time go?"

The passage of time is a familiar theme in almost every conversation with USI alumni. It's a joy to talk with those who remember the Centennial School building and who marvel at the growth and beauty of their campus today. Even those who graduated in more recent years express excitement and pride in the transformation of the campus and the growing reputation of their alma mater.

Alumni are USI's best ambassadors. This issue offers updates on the careers of four outstanding

graduates and their contributions to the arts, education, business, and public management. Their stories make it clear that the impact of our graduates extends far beyond this region and state.

Gathering these stories and sharing them leads me to believe that USI can have an important role in the continuing education of our alumni; and alumni, through their experiences, can play an important role in the education of current students. Building those connections between alumni and educational opportunities at USI will be a priority as I look ahead.

Alumni, I welcome feedback about the kinds of programming you would like to take advantage of as you advance in your careers and about your willingness to connect with today's students.

Let's use the coming year wisely to strengthen the

connections between alumni and their alma mater. Let's dedicate this effort to the wonderful work of alumna Nancy Johnson for her outstanding service as director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. No one has worked harder to nurture these continuing connections.



Freshmen from the College of Liberal Arts react in support of their college during Freshman Convocation.

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



The University quad is a popular pathway for students as they move across campus.

Fall enrollment sets record: 10,820 students

University of Southern Indiana has set a new enrollment record with fall course registration. The University has 10,820 students enrolled for the 2011-12 academic year, up from the previous record, 10,702, set last year.

“The number of new undergraduate students on campus reached 2,807, the highest since 2005 when 2,811 new students enrolled,” said Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, provost.

The majority of students, 5,145, continue to come from Vanderburgh and contiguous counties, along with 1,302 students from nearby counties. This year the number of students from central and northern Indiana counties increased to

2,825 students. Students also come from 43 other states and 60 other countries.

“We are at capacity in campus housing,” Rochon said. USI serves 3,000 students in apartments and residence halls on the campus.

The student census shows that women represent nearly 61 percent of the students and 75 percent of students are under 25 years of age. Those over 25 years of age increased by 90 students

Minority and international students represent more than 10 percent of the student population. “One of the goals of the University’s strategic plan is to increase diversity among students, faculty, and staff,” Rochon said. “We

continue to work to grow in that area. USI views a diverse student population as an important educational resource that enhances learning and academic development plus helps strengthen our commitment to multiculturalism.”

The numbers indicate undergraduate students remain at USI for their education. The junior-level students’ total is 1,970 and the seniors number 2,376. Of the enrollment total, 941 students are pursuing graduate studies.

“USI is becoming more selective of the students it accepts, and the credentials for the Class of 2015 are good,” Rochon said. “It shows in the high academic profile and service records of the new students. While many of the new students are top performers in high school and community college, we review, with an holistic approach, community service and leadership skills as we evaluate applications for admission.”

Another notable statistic for the Class of 2015: 14 sets of twins are among the new students.

Rest, relax, reflect—thumbs up for new fall break

The University has adopted a new academic calendar that includes a two-day fall break. The first-ever fall break takes place October 10-11.

Dr. Brian D. Posler, associate provost for undergraduate studies, chaired the Calendar Task Force. He said students, particularly the Student Government Association, were the impetus for the change.

“The Student Government Association advocated for a fall break in the University calendar and the inclusion of one continues to show the University’s commitment to best serving students,” said Jordan Whitledge, SGA president for 2011-12. “A fall break is important because it allows students time to relax, rest, and reflect on the semester. We are very pleased to have a fall break this year.”

The revised calendar includes other changes. The fall and spring terms are the same length. Adjustments to the summer schedule provide for an intensive May session as well as two summer sessions.

FOLLOW USI ON



2011-12 freshman class

TOP SCHOLARS

Prestigious scholarships made possible by generous gifts to the USI Foundation allow the University to attract bright and hard-working students. This year's 26 freshman scholars have made USI their college of choice. Students of this caliber are highly recruited and may receive offers of substantial scholarships from many institutions. USI continues its efforts to attract outstanding high school graduates because having these scholars on campus motivates other students to reach for academic excellence as well.

Meet the scholars. They come from 20 communities in three states.

USI's most prestigious merit scholarships

Presidential Scholarships cover tuition, laboratory fees, books, and room and board for four years.

Deans Scholarships provide \$2,000 toward tuition.

Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) Scholarships offer admission to USI and a provisional seat in the Indiana University School of Medicine, a full-tuition waiver for the undergraduate program, and special opportunities to conduct undergraduate research.

Sarah Michalec (nursing)
Valparaiso, Indiana
Ruth Gray Yates Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Kayla Tussinger (business administration)
Bringinghurst, Indiana
Aline Nunn Renner Deans Scholarship

Reuben Warshawsky (chemistry - pre-med)
Carmel, Indiana
William C. H. Jr. and Phyllis R. Grimm Endowed B/MD Scholarship

Hannah Thompson (nursing)
New Castle, Indiana
Janet L. and Daniel M. Fuquay Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Julie Myers (English)
Indianapolis, Indiana
Bess C. and Elmer W. Halwes
Deans Scholarship

Kayla McCarty (radio/tv)
Indianapolis, Indiana
Louis and Anne Harpole Deans Scholarship

Elizabeth Daake (biology - pre-med)
Greenwood, Indiana
Edward F. Harrison B/MD Scholarship

Nazish Chaudhry (biology - pre-med)
Fishers, Indiana
Thomas E. Topper Endowed B/MD Scholarship

Brenden Davidson (political science)
Worthington, Indiana
Robert L. and Mary L. Koch Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Deena Condrey (nursing)
Robinson, Illinois
Edward F. Harrison Deans Scholarship

Brooke Gress (nursing)
Washington, Indiana
James J. and Sally H. Giancola Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Sara Young (kinesiology)
Vincennes, Indiana
Rebecca Nunn Couch Deans Scholarship

Nolan Casey (biology - pre-med)
Borden, Indiana
Victor V. Schriefer Jr. Endowed B/MD Scholarship

Taylor Frymire (undecided)
Carmi, Illinois
Frederick B. Riechmann Deans Scholarship

Kayley Pemberton (science teaching)
Lynnville, Indiana
Kenneth E. and Elizabeth J. McCoy Deans Scholarship

Sydney Brown (biology - pre-med)
Sellersburg, Indiana
Edward F. Harrison B/MD Scholarship

Carynn Koch (biology - pre-med)
Mount Vernon, Indiana
Robert A. and Carole D. Rust Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Tyler Coffman (biochemistry - pre-med)
Evansville, Indiana
Delores and Charles Browning and Jennifer and
Mark Browning Endowed B/MD Scholarship

Margie Akin (occupational therapy)
Evansville, Indiana
Southern Indiana Higher Education Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Evan Brinkmeyer
(history - secondary education)
Evansville, Indiana
Southern Indiana Higher Education
Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Jennifer Koch (biology)
Mount Vernon, Indiana
David S. Deering Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Kaci Turner (biology - pre-med)
Mount Vernon, Indiana
Robert M. Kent Family Endowed Presidential Scholarship

Duncan Taylor (political science)
Morganfield, Kentucky
Olive Carruthers Clift Deans Scholarship

Baylee Newton (radiology)
Evansville, Indiana
Henry J. and Hazel D. Bennighof Deans Scholarship

Joshua Todd (computer information systems)
Hanson, Kentucky
Aline Nunn Renner Deans Scholarship

Like mother, like son

First parental legacy Presidential Scholar selected

When incoming freshman Brenden Davidson visited the University of Southern Indiana as a potential college choice, he had the same reaction his mother had in 1989. Mindy Vandevanter Davidson Lent '94 said, "It felt like the right place to be."

Davidson is the first student selected to follow in a parent's footsteps as a Presidential Scholar. Lent, a 1994 graduate in elementary education, was the salutatorian of Worthington-Jefferson High School in Greene County, Indiana, when she was chosen. Brenden is valedictorian of White River Valley Junior-Senior High School in Switz City, Indiana. The family lives in Worthington.

Interested in politics

Davidson plans to major in political science and pursue a career in politics. In high school, he attended the Richard G. Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders. Hearing the U.S. senator speak solidified Davidson's interest in public service.

"I was on the edge of my seat. I didn't want him to stop," Davidson said.

As a delegate to Hoosier Boys State, he worked his way through county politics to become runner-up as governor. Davidson was president of his class throughout high school, played trumpet in the band, and had the leading role in musical productions. He worked part-time at a locally owned restaurant.

Sharing the USI experience

Lent recalls that the small classes at USI and resulting opportunity to get to know professors were important to her. She is pleased her son will have that same experience. The financial support of the Presidential Scholarship will allow him the freedom to get involved on campus rather than working to help pay his way. "He worked hard for his grades and worked at the restaurant on top of that during high school," Lent said. "His hard work has paid off."

At USI, Davidson will be a member of the Honors Program. His interests also include Pep Band, Model United Nations, the theatre program, volunteer service, and faith-based organizations.

Lent is beginning her tenth year as a teacher at Hymera Elementary in the Northeast Sullivan School Corporation. The family had a pivotal experience in 2008 when flooding damaged their nearly new two-story home. Her husband, Dan, retrieved some of their belongings by boat. The family lived in a two-bedroom rental house while rebuilding. The household also includes Ian, 15; Mackenna, 13; and Tucker, 4.

Since its inception in 1987, the Presidential Scholarship program has attracted some of Indiana's brightest high school graduates to USI. Awards are made on a competitive basis.



Freshman Brenden Davidson follows in the footsteps of his mother, Mindy Lent, as a Presidential Scholar.

Historic Southern Indiana: serving the region for 25 years

One of the University's first regional outreach programs—a program that has received national recognition since its early days—celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Organized in 1986, Historic Southern Indiana (HSI) is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and promoting the historical, natural, and recreational resources of Southern Indiana. It links historic sites, visitors' bureaus, state parks, and other agencies with a similar mission in 26 counties. At the outset, USI President Emeritus David L. Rice envisioned an organization that would coordinate with heritage sites and agencies throughout Southern Indiana.

Regional resource

Leslie Townsend, director of Historic Southern Indiana, said HSI has its greatest impact as a convener and resource for the region. She joined HSI in 1997 and has led the program since 2008 when the founding director, Dr. Darrel E. Bigham, retired.

"We have the broad view," Townsend said. "We are a small agency. We may not be the experts on historic preservation, for instance, but we can get community organizations to the experts. And, there is a misconception that we are involved only in history. We also deal with economic development and community outreach."

Southern Indiana is a historically and geographically distinct region. "This part of the state is where Indiana began nearly 200 years ago," Bigham said.

He called the development of HSI a unique experiment. Historic preservation and tourism were not commonly seen as compatible.

"Over the years we developed a network that people trusted because the University was a facilitator," Bigham said. "We became a model for a number of University programs in that the concept evolved out of what constituents indicated would be helpful."

National connections

In 1988, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Historic Southern Indiana provided a two-year program that brought teachers from throughout Indiana to campus and encouraged them to use the communities as teaching tools. The \$275,000 grant was at the time the largest the University had received.

In 1989, the National Trust for Historic Preservation selected HSI for one of 16 pilot projects in the Heritage Tourism Initiative, a three-year program. That initiative defined the principles deemed crucial today to the success of heritage tourism throughout the country.

"Those were two programs early on that gave credibility to what we were doing—the idea of using the University as a resource for the region," Bigham said. "That flew in the face of what many scholars thought, but I believed from the beginning that scholarship had to be practical as well as academically sound."

HSI helped develop the Ohio River Scenic Byway and Indiana's Historic Pathways, both designated to the America's Byways collection by the U.S. Department of Transportation.



More engagement

Recently, HSI provided research and data collection to develop the 2011 Indiana 500 Tour promoted by the Indiana Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus. In 2010, students in computer information systems, graphic design, and journalism designed a web site for Indiana's Historic Pathways. Townsend anticipates more faculty and student partnerships with HSI member organizations in the coming years. Experiential learning opportunities and community engagement are priorities of the 2010-15 strategic plan.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, Historic Southern Indiana will sponsor a two-day bus tour in October of sites in southeastern Indiana.

Bigham recently was named to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, a successor organization to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission on which he served as an appointee of President Clinton.

What constituents say

"Historic Southern Indiana has assisted us with a number of projects from the byways to marketing our historic attractions."

Linda Lytle is executive director of the Madison Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in Madison, Indiana.

"The staff of Historic Southern Indiana were among the first people to welcome me to Indiana. They gave me background on this park's role as a national park within Southern Indiana. Without HSI, I would have been largely unaware of many local and state organizations that are in this region. It would have taken me a lot longer to become oriented."

Brian McCutchen joined the George Rogers Clark National Historic Park in Vincennes, Indiana, as superintendent in August 2010.

Three academic departments have new college homes

The departments of Teacher Education and Physical Education have joined the Pott College of Science and Engineering, and the Social Work Department is part of the College of Liberal Arts. USI President Linda L. M. Bennett announced the organizational changes. They were effective July 1.

USI Provost Ronald S. Rochon said the repositioning addresses national concern for the preparation for teachers. It aligns with suggestions offered by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to deeply ground future teachers in the subject matters they plan to teach.

"There is nothing more important than our children and their future," Rochon said. "With this move we are

investing in the process of faculty collaboration, both methodology and discipline-based instruction, so new teachers can master the content of the subjects they'll teach while instructing more effectively."

The physical education curriculum offers programs in coaching, kinesiology, sport management, and physical education classes.

"Physical education has broadened the curriculum and the class offerings in these programs will interact well in the sciences," Rochon said.

The social work academic programs prepare students for work with diverse populations and emerging social issues at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Rochon said, "Liberal Arts programs in criminal justice, psychology, and sociology intersect well with the social work curriculum, and the departments will complement one another."

The University will continue careful stewardship of contributions given to the USI Foundation for the College of Education and Human Services. Plans are to establish seminars and other programming to be named in honor of Dallas Bower-Suhrheinrich, whose generous donation of a \$1 million gift during USI's first capital campaign established three Presidential Scholarships, faculty enhancements, and programs to promote teaching excellence.

Gubernatorial appointments

Susan Ellsperman

Student trustee

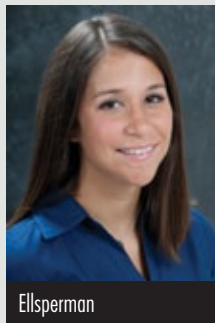
Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has appointed Susan Ellsperman of Newburgh, Indiana, to the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees. A biology major with an emphasis in pre-medicine, Ellsperman will graduate in May 2013. She is captain of the women's soccer team and attends USI on the Harold W. Ashley Endowed Presidential Scholarship.

With a 4.0 grade point average, she was named to the 2010 soccer 1st team All-Great Lakes Valley Conference, 1st team All Region, and 1st team Academic All-Region.

She is the daughter of Michael and Melody Ellsperman of Newburgh.

The student trustee, a voting member of the nine-member USI Board of Trustees, brings a student's perspective to the governing board and serves a two-year term. The student trustee must be a full-time student, a U.S. citizen and resident of Indiana, have a 2.5 GPA or above, and have completed 24 semester credit hours at USI.

(See more about Ellsperman and other student athletes on page 22.)



Ellsperman

Kent Scheller

Member of ICHE

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has appointed Dr. Kent W. Scheller, associate professor of physics at the University of Southern Indiana, to serve as the faculty representative on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Scheller will serve a two-year term representing faculty at all public universities in the state.

Scheller's service on campus includes a third year as vice chair of the Faculty Senate in addition to work with the strategic plan committee, core curriculum committee, and faculty affairs committee. A native of Haubstadt, Indiana, he is active in the community. He is past president of the South Gibson School Board of Trustees and past president of the Sts. Peter and Paul School Board of Trustees.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education has 14 members, nine from Indiana's congressional districts, three at-large members, a student representative, and the faculty seat. The commission is a coordinating agency of the state government. It helps define educational missions of Indiana's public colleges and universities, reviews budget requests from those institutions, plans and coordinates postsecondary education in Indiana, and approves new programs or campus expansions.



Scheller

Federal grants fund new graduate programs in nursing, financial assistance

The College of Nursing and Health Professions is expanding its graduate nursing program offerings and student financial assistance with grants totaling \$2.2 million recently received from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“The HRSA grants provide the opportunity for our college to expand our graduate nursing programs,” said Dr. Nadine Coudret, dean of the college.

A new psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program and a new clinical nurse specialist program (CNS) will be offered.

“We’ve used similar funding to start the family nurse practitioner program and the acute care nurse practitioner program and, we are excited to be able to have these new programs at USI,” Coudret said.

A master’s degree program and a post master’s certification will be available in both areas. Each grant is for three years. The psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program will be funded with a \$720,850 grant. A \$705,980 grant will fund the development of the clinical nurse specialty program.

A grant of \$748,805 will provide funding to expand the doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) program which

began in 2008. The first class of 15 DNP students graduated this spring.

A fourth grant of \$77,049 will be used to fund nursing traineeships. This funding is available for full-time students and for students in their last year of graduate study.

Four nursing specialties are currently offered at the master’s level in the College of Nursing and Health Professions including acute care nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, nursing education, and nursing management and leadership in addition to the doctoral degree in nursing practice. The college also offers master’s degrees in health administration and occupational therapy.

Engaging the future: an update on year two of strategic plan

When the University’s Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan in summer 2010, the campus community went into high gear working on initiatives, detailed planning, and proposals

to meet the six major goals laid out in the plan. USI’s first-ever strategic plan was preceded by a year-long process of revising our mission and vision statements, along with establishing the goals and broad strategies to reach them.

In year two of the process—officially the first year of a five-year plan—groups of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other friends of USI formed to move the plan forward, particularly focusing on 18 initiatives. In 2011-12, there will be significant activity in project implementation and additional planning to help achieve the six major goals.

“In these first two years, there has been strategic, creative thinking about how to make this an even better university,” said President Linda L. M. Bennett. “Other institutions of higher learning look to us as a new model for strategic planning and that is a testament to our Office of Planning, Research, and Assessment, which coordinated the process. It’s also notable that we will make significant steps forward in a time of limited fiscal resources.”

The strategic plan process has highlighted the role USI plays in regional leadership, economic development, and community interaction. “Our partnership with Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, for example, is unlike any other in the nation, facilitating civilian applications of innovative technologies developed at Crane through the knowledge-transfer and patent process,” Bennett said. “At the same time the partnership has created invaluable opportunities for our science, engineering, and business students and faculty.”

Many other examples of innovation and academic excellence at USI have been highlighted by the strategic plan process, Bennett notes. “The University of Southern Indiana has a key role to play in helping transform the region, not just in providing outstanding educational opportunities, but also in being a strategic partner with organizations, businesses, and municipalities. We are shaping the future through learning and innovation, as our vision statement boldly proclaims.”

Six goals

- Increase the graduation rate
- Increase experiential learning opportunities
- Become a 24/7 campus
- Increase diversity of faculty, staff, and student body
- Preserve and nurture the campus community
- Provide leadership to Indiana and region

See updates for each goal online.



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

Construction to begin on two projects

Advanced Manufacturing Center

Groundbreaking will take place during fall semester for the Advanced Manufacturing Center which will support the advanced manufacturing, industrial supervision, and engineering programs.

The new 16,000-square-foot building will be located near the Distribution Services Center on the east side of campus. Completion is expected in June 2012.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the State Budget Committee approved in June the University's request to proceed with the project. USI will fully fund construction of the \$2.3 million facility.

The center will include laboratories for machining, materials processing and welding, plastics processing, automation, precision measurement/computer-aided design, and fluid power and heating and air units.

The University received \$2.7 million in federal funding to purchase equipment for the building. Purchases include the newly developed iFactory Flexible Manufacturing System manufactured by Festo, a German company. This will be the first equipment of its kind in the United States. Dr. Scott Gordon, dean of the Pott College of Science and Engineering, said it will allow the college to teach a number of high-level manufacturing concepts and processes and provide opportunities for the University to offer certificate programs for regional business and industry.

An advisory board of 20 members representing a cross-section of manufacturing industries and economic development organizations advises the advanced manufacturing program, which began in 2008.

Approximately 30 students are enrolled in advanced manufacturing for fall semester. More than 350 students major in undergraduate programs offered by the Department of Engineering. Thirty-two students are pursuing the master's program in industrial management.

Teaching theatre

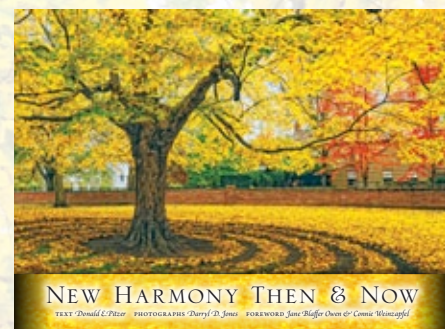
Construction will begin in July 2012 on a \$16.5 million teaching theatre to support the University's program in the performing arts.

In April, the State Budget Committee approved the release of \$13 million in bond authorization to construct the facility on campus. University funds of \$1.5 million and \$2 million in private gifts will complete funding for the building, which will replace the 50-year-old off-campus theatre on Igleheart Avenue.

The new facility will serve the needs of the theatre program and provide a venue for events such as guest speakers, small performance groups, and musical recitals and performances. The 350-seat theatre will be located between the University Center and Rice Library. The design is by Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture of New York.

Stephen P. Helfrich, director of facility operations and planning, said the anticipated completion date is January 2014.

A virtual tour of the teaching theatre is available online.



New Harmony comes to life

Dr. Donald E. Pitzer called upon his 40 years of research on the Indiana town of New Harmony to tell its story in a new book called *New Harmony Then and Now*.

The book combines Pitzer's text with 120 photos taken in recent years by coauthor Darryl Jones and 50 historic images.

Pitzer is University of Southern Indiana professor emeritus of history and director emeritus of the Center for Communal Studies. He said the book is a never-before-attempted effort to combine the utopian past and vibrant present of New Harmony in a single volume. It is aimed at a general audience while including the latest information and scholarship.

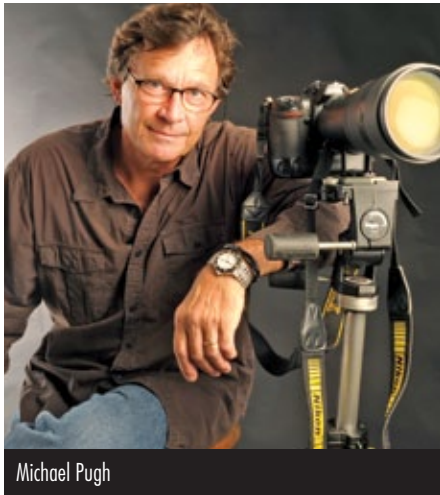
"I have done my best to bring the exciting story to life—Harmonists building a town of 180 buildings and trading with 22 states and 10 foreign countries while waiting for the second coming of Christ and Owenite educators, scientists, and backwoodsmen trying to create a cooperative New Moral World of peace and plenty," Pitzer said.

Published by Indiana University Press, the book will be available November 15. It includes a foreword by the late Jane Blaffer Owen, New Harmony benefactor, and Connie Weinzapfel, director of Historic New Harmony, a USI outreach program.

Jones, a professional photographer, has published photos on other topics with Indiana University and the Indiana Historical Society.

Award-winning photographer got his start at USI

Michael Pugh, an award-winning photographer and former University of Southern Indiana student whose images of people and events have been seen around the world, has presented 10 of his photos to the USI Foundation. The images have been accessed into the University art collection where they can be studied and enjoyed by students, faculty, and friends of the University.



Pugh's photo of the first space shuttle launch on April 12, 1981, appeared on the front page of the *New York Times* and other leading newspapers the following day. He has photographed U.S. Presidents, movie stars, NCAA championships, Super Bowls, nine Olympic Games, six Olympic torch relays, and much more.

Pugh's family moved to Evansville when he was in high school. His father used photography in his work as a soil conservationist with the Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District. Pugh got interested and took a photography course at Harrison High School. He enrolled at USI to study art and communication.

A member of the Mid America Singers and Tau Kappa Alpha, he was a student photographer for the USI President's Office in the early 1970s when Dr. David L. Rice led the University.

"I hold the University as the first step in a career that's taken me all over the world," Pugh said. "In the President's Office, I got to be around a key executive right off the bat. I learned how to handle myself around that stature of person."

Pugh recalled shooting a photo of Rice with Robert L. Orr. Orr was a state senator at that time and later was elected governor. "It was my first documentation of two important people," Pugh said, "and I've done that my entire career."

After two years at USI and an internship with the *Sunday Courier and Press*, Pugh freelanced for a feature writer at the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. His career started to take off. After three months in Cleveland, he joined the daily newspaper in Lorain, Ohio. A year later he was runner up for Ohio Photographer of the Year.

Pugh credits the time in Ohio with honing his photographic ability. Several images in the University collection represent this pivotal point in his career development.

"Back then news space was readily available. We were assigned to go out and make feature photographs and develop stories on our own," he said. "Most of the images you see from me have a human element—even my landscapes. I try to convey a message through strong portraits."

At age 24, Pugh accepted a job at the United Press International bureau in Atlanta, Georgia.

"My pictures were fronting newspapers around the world almost on a daily basis," he said. "There were a lot of major events in the southeast, and I was shooting them."

After nine years as a photographer with UPI, Pugh became a desk editor. Longing to get behind the lens again, he joined the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, working there more than a year before starting his business, Michael Pugh Photography, in 1983.

In 1988, Pugh received the Special Recognition Award presented by the USI Alumni Association for outstanding achievements in his career. He has received many awards from organizations such as UPI, The Associated Press, and the Ohio News Photographers Association. He was named Georgia Photographer of the Year three times.

Pugh lives north of Atlanta. He presented slides and discussed his career during a lecture on campus in November 2010. His future plans include giving his entire negative and digital collection to the University.

"I communicate through my images," Pugh said. "It's a creative high that I get when I see something that moves me. If I can make the picture and get that same feeling when I look at the image, it gives me a thrill. If other people see that also, I feel I have done my job."

View more of Pugh's work at www.mpughphoto.com.



Ronald Reagan's gesture and the expression of the Secret Service agent on the right were intriguing to Michael Pugh when he shot this photograph during Reagan's campaign swing through Georgia in the 1980s. This photo is one of 10 by Pugh in the University art collection.

Jane Davis-Brezette—so many reasons to give

A faculty member remembers her parents, recognizes students who work, and expresses appreciation to USI through a substantial scholarship endowment

A scholarship fund started in the USI Foundation in 2005 by a faculty member has increased and will benefit more students and provide larger awards to students majoring in programs offered by the Department of Physical Education.

Dr. Jane Davis-Brezette, associate professor of physical education, established, with payroll deduction, the Morris and Margaret Davis Scholarship in memory of her parents. Recently, she provided a substantial gift that brings the endowment to the \$100,000 level.

The first \$500 award was presented in 2008-09. The recipient this year is Caryn Yochum, a senior majoring in physical education. In future years after interest has accrued, the fund will provide at least four \$1,000 scholarships each year.

With the award, Davis-Brezette wants to recognize the sacrifices of her parents and the hard work of students.

Her father was a farmer; her mother was an elementary schoolteacher. They lived in Decker, Indiana, 12 miles south of Vincennes.

“My parents sacrificed for my brother, Mike, and me,” Davis-Brezette said. “It was of paramount importance to them that we go to college. They knew it was essential for a better life. This scholarship recognizes my parents in the best way I know. And, it will help support hard-working USI students forever. This also is a way for me to give back to the University of Southern Indiana, which has been so good to me and has been my professional home for more than 40 years.”

The scholarship goes to a student who works at least part-time and has a 2.75 minimum grade-point average.

Yochum is from Vincennes. A student worker in the Office of the Bursar, she also has held part-time jobs as a



Jane Davis-Brezette, left, presented the scholarship in memory of her parents to physical education major Caryn Yochum.

middle-school volleyball official and as a waitress. In the spring she attended the national convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in San Diego, where she presented information on the West Terrace Running/Walking Club. She is a student supervisor in the program organized by Dr. Renee Frimming and Dr. Jay Polsgrove of the USI faculty.

Varsity Club takes giving to platinum level

A new opportunity is in store for friends of USI Athletics. The Varsity Club has added a \$5,000 platinum membership level. Several special benefits are available at the platinum level, including the opportunity to throw out the first pitch at a men's baseball game.



“All Varsity Club membership dues support scholarships for student athletes,” said John Schutz, Varsity Club president. “In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, Varsity Club memberships increased nearly 20 percent over the year before. We have momentum and are concentrating our efforts this year on raising a greater amount to benefit student athletes.”

Visit www.gousieagles.com for more information.

New board structure supports Historic New Harmony

After many months of planning, the USI/New Harmony Foundation has become part of the USI Foundation. The new name is Historic New Harmony Advisory Board.

Due to increasing audit requirements and the consequent expense, the decision to merge into one 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation was approved first by the USI/New Harmony Foundation Board and then by the USI Foundation Board of Directors.

The Historic New Harmony Advisory Board will continue to exercise its role to support and sustain the mission of Historic New Harmony, an outreach program of the University. The board will continue to raise money in support of Historic New Harmony.

The chair of the new board, currently Darla Olberding, is appointed automatically to the USI Foundation Board of Directors. The new structure, authorized through the Indiana Secretary of State, became effective June 22.



Sustaining the delight of discovery and diverse interests

When painter and printmaker Michael K. Aakhus joined the faculty, the University of Southern Indiana was only 12 years old.

"I have been in a unique position to witness the history of this remarkable institution," he said, "and to take part in it since 1977."

Aakhus has the perspective of faculty member, department chair, associate dean, interim dean, and now dean. He brings vision, experience, energy, and diverse interests to his appointment, effective March 1, as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He also is professor of art.

Aakhus came to USI from a one-year fellowship at the Roswell Museum in Roswell, New Mexico. He completed a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1976 at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 at Bemidji State University.

He believes he has had opportunities at USI that might not have come

his way had he joined a more established institution. He has taken great pleasure in teaching a course in the humanities.

"Nowhere else could I have taught art history, history, literature, art, and music," he said. "Through this interdisciplinary course, I have tried to teach the great ideas that informed the development of civilization in order to give students the big picture."

Artistic inspiration

Aakhus grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota. As a child, he drew and painted. He devoured articles on other cultures and ancient civilizations. He began college with a major in the sciences and a minor in art, but an assistantship influenced his path. He applied for two—one in chemistry and another in art. He landed the one in art. Managing a slide library, he became more engaged in art history and, indeed, all art.

"It changed my major and my life," he said.

During graduate school, Aakhus had his first opportunity for serious study of the art of Middle America. A trip in 1977 also was pivotal to his interest in Latin America. He drove from Roswell to El Paso, Texas, and took a bus from there through the Sonoran Desert to Mexico City. Now a recognized scholar of Mesoamerica and a Maya expert, Aakhus finds a fountain for artistic inspiration and creativity in other cultures.

"The way I see and make art is very global," he said.

His paintings are noted for vibrant color. "Latin Americans are rich in how they express themselves in color, and I bring that into my work," he said.

For many years, Aakhus has documented sights from his travels with photographs. In the last five years, he has taken photography more seriously and for its own sake. A recent exhibit at Audubon Museum in Henderson, Kentucky, combined paintings and

photography. Another new direction in his work is use of the human form. Recent paintings incorporate human figures, mostly people working and living in the small towns of Latin America.

Aakhus returned to Latin America in 1991 and has gone back almost every year since then. In 1996, he took his first group of students. They visited Mexico City and the town of Tepoztlan, home of the Nahuas, an indigenous people.

"I wanted the students to see a small town where they could observe how the indigenous people and the culture have had a huge impact on the modern culture of Mexico," he said.

In spring break 2011, Aakhus led a group to Guatemala. Three students, sponsored by College of Liberal Arts faculty, used Endeavor Awards from the University to pursue research or creative work during the trip.

Over the years, Aakhus has received many grants to further his teaching and research from University resources and from organizations such as the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will return to Peru later this year with support from a Faculty Research and Creative Work Award to continue work on his project *100 Views of the Inca Road* and to study the textile tradition.

"It is important for faculty to stay in touch with their creative side so they can become the best teachers they can be," Aakhus said. "This distinguishes University learning. We want to create a balance between teaching, scholarship, creative work, and service to the community. Faculty development opportunities are essential in sustaining the delight of discovery for faculty and students."

Community engagement

Expanding the college's longtime commitment to engagement is a priority for Aakhus. During the summer, several students and alumni assisted in productions at New Harmony Theatre. The USI connection to the theatre offers students an opportunity to work with professionals. Some students and alumni

are earning credit hours toward membership in Actors' Equity Association.

Aakhus says the University outreach in New Harmony, Indiana, provides "a remarkable laboratory." Over the next year the creative-writing faculty will be developing a summer writers' workshop experience to take place there.

"As an engaged University, we must support teaching and learning that moves students into the community to work with businesses, not-for-profits, and government," Aakhus said.

USI has an outstanding opportunity available to students interested in arts administration. James A. Sanders, director emeritus of USI Corporate and Foundation Relations, established an internship that allows students to serve one semester with the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Stephen and Palmina Pace Galleries in the Liberal Arts Center and the University art collection and the next semester with the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. Students get firsthand experience with professional staff.

Aakhus has served the community and the profession throughout his career. He was named Artist of the Year in 2009 by the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. He is presently a member of the council's board. He has served on the Master Fellowship Committee for the Indiana Arts Commission. In 2002, he printed 137 impressions in the USI Art Studio of an intaglio plate by John James Audubon from *Birds of America* in the collection of the Audubon Museum. The sale of impressions raised \$68,000 for the museum. His work has been featured in exhibitions throughout the United States and in other countries. He is a frequent lecturer and workshop presenter.

Curriculum development

Aakhus has a longtime interest in curriculum development throughout the University. He chaired the University Core Committee in 1994-95. The Core became a requirement for all freshmen entering in fall 1995 to strengthen and broaden their academic experience.

The College of Liberal Arts continues to develop new academic programs to meet needs. A proposed undergraduate degree in arts and heritage administration would offer three tracks: history and historic sites; theatre management; and visual arts. Work also is in progress on proposals for undergraduate degrees in anthropology and American studies and a minor in music. A team representing the National Association of Schools of Art and Design recently completed a site visit for initial accreditation of the art program. The development of a Bachelor of Fine Arts program is under consideration. Requiring more studio work than a Bachelor of Science degree, it would benefit art students who plan to attend graduate school.

The college also is exploring master's programs in English and history. The proposed English program would offer three tracks: literature, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition. "A person with this degree is employable in many occupations," Aakhus said.

Students in the graduate program in history would enhance their credentials for jobs working with museums, historic sites, and other organizations involved in preserving culture and historic landmarks.

Master's degree graduates in English and history also would help meet the demand for qualified faculty at junior colleges.

Family ties

Aakhus is married to Patricia Aakhus, USI associate professor of English and director of International Studies. She also is director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies. The Aakhuses have two children. Erin is in the third year of a medical residency at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Her husband, Ashesh Shah, also is a physician. The Aakhuses' son, Halvor '06, recently completed a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Florida. His field is creative writing.

Educational excellence leads to success

The University of Southern Indiana provides an education that leads graduates to achieve success in life, in the community, and in their careers. The University offers an experience that teaches students to think critically and solve complex problems creatively. The low student faculty ratio (18:1) fosters student involvement in the academic experience and close connections with faculty. The stories of alumni confirm and demonstrate the many opportunities a USI education provides. A few alumni success stories are offered here and on the pages that follow, but there are many more. Moving forward, the University will continue to prepare each new class of students for success.



Don Breivogel stays in touch with the University through service to the College of Business.

Don Breivogel '83

Executive enjoys conversations with students

“My favorite activity at the University of Southern Indiana is talking with undergraduates and MBA candidates,” said Don Breivogel, a 1983 alumnus who serves on the College of Business Board of Advisors and the Accounting Circle. As a professional representing the corporate world, he is a guest speaker, at least once a year, in a classroom or at a business student organization meeting or workshop. “The student demographics are changing,” he said. “Students enrolled at USI are now from central and northern Indiana. Just a short time ago most students were only from counties in southern Indiana.”

Breivogel is the chief financial officer (CFO) and heads a 120-member staff at Springleaf Financial, previously American General Finance. The company, with approximately 5,900 employees, is a provider of consumer

loans, retail financing, and other credit-related products with headquarters in Evansville and branches in 40 states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the United Kingdom.

A problem solver is how he describes his work style. He joined then-American General Finance in 1988 as an accounting manager in the credit card department after five years in public accounting. He became manager of Budget and moved to the home office in downtown Evansville. “When my boss had a problem, I’d volunteer to work on it. When you fix a problem, you get noticed.”

He moved to assistant to the CFO, and in 2001 he was named CFO. “As assistant to the CFO, my eyes were open to how broad the responsibilities are for that executive position.”

He credits his success to hard work and a willingness to persevere. “And I’d

recommend hiring good, talented people and letting them do their job,” he said. “Keep your staff motivated, too.”

He and other company executives hire many USI graduates. “The talent of the USI students is impressive,” he said. “We hire students from Indiana University, Purdue University, University of Kentucky, and other schools, and the USI graduates compete well in the job pool.”

Breivogel is an Evansville native and in his senior year at North High School, he explored a variety of college options including offers of scholarships and grants from other Indiana colleges. He wanted to start and finish at the same college, and he qualified for an academic scholarship at USI, so he applied and was accepted. He felt USI was a good-value proposition.

His first academic choice was pre-medicine, but in his initial college semester, he contracted a viral illness and was unable to finish classes. When he recovered, he enrolled again but was undecided on a major. The following semester, he switched to accounting and never looked back.

He recalled how faculty members like Drs. Ed Marting, Emmet Edwards, and Wanda Hibbitts were driven to see USI and its students succeed. “Dr. Hibbitts was a great teacher who could be like a mother hen,” he said. “She nurtured us.”

As a member of the Board of Advisors and a senior business leader who is acquainted with the needs of the region, Breivogel has an interest in maintaining direct and effective communication between the business world and the business classroom. He also participates in setting goals and objectives for the accounting program through his service to the Accounting Circle in the college.

Recently he and his wife, Susan, established the Breivogel Accounting Scholarship Endowment. The scholarship will assist a second- or third-year accounting student from Vanderburgh County.

“My wife and I are glad to be a part of the thriving USI community,” he said. “It is important for us to give back.”



Josh Calhoun, community development specialist with the Department of Metropolitan Development, visits a vegetable garden tended by young adults from Memorial Baptist Church. The produce is grown and sold at discounted prices or donated to local non-profit community organizations. Calhoun oversees the budget for the federal program.

Recent alumnus

Volunteering precedes job for Josh Calhoun '10

Josh Calhoun was invited in January 2010 to introduce keynote speaker Juan Williams at the University of Southern Indiana luncheon to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. Calhoun was seated at a table along with Williams and next to Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

Calhoun had never introduced a speaker or joined distinguished individuals for lunch.

“Is this the real Juan Williams?” he asked Kacheyta McClellan, the assistant director of the Multicultural Center. McClellan, who encouraged Calhoun to join the center, confirmed it was the American journalist and Fox News analyst.

During lunch conversation, Weinzapfel learned Calhoun was a political science major who would graduate in May. He suggested Calhoun send a resume to the mayor’s chief of staff.

Calhoun received a call with an offer of volunteer work with the Redevelopment Commission. He knew the work was an unpaid position, but he considered it an opportunity to gain experience.

Several weeks passed and Calhoun mused about contacting the mayor to ask if openings were available in a paid position. Upon talking with the mayor at a chance meeting in the Civic Center, Calhoun learned of a volunteer opportunity in the Mayor’s Office. “My supervisor told me I’d learn skills that would transfer to other positions,” Calhoun said.

“I later was offered a part-time position in the Department of Metropolitan Development followed by a supervisory position,” Calhoun said. “Those office skills did transmit to the DMD position,” Calhoun said.

As a federal funding liaison, Calhoun oversees program budgets and works directly with community project directors.

“It all started for me when I became involved with the Multicultural Center at USI,” said Calhoun.

Calhoun is married to Shayla Jones Calhoun '08. Her degree is in elementary education and she teaches at Stockwell School in Evansville. The couple has four children: Jasajah, 8; Jordan, 6; Jaxson, 4; and Sajaya, 2.

Rhonda Brown '92 named Einstein Fellow

Nation's top STEM teachers will influence education policy

Who stole the hamster?
Rhonda Moretto Brown '92 staged a hamster-napping when she taught science at McGary Middle School in Evansville. Students learned real-life applications of scientific concepts as they investigated the crime.

Now a high school teacher in Florida and coauthor of forensic-science teaching materials used nationwide, Brown recently was tapped for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educational Fellowship Program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

She began an 11-month program in September that will allow her to see education policy in the making and influence its direction. Her assignment is with the National Science Foundation Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences in Arlington, Virginia. Fellows receive a monthly stipend, a housing and relocation allowance, and a professional travel budget.

One of 28 nationwide

Brown is one of 28 K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) teachers from 15 states and the District of Columbia chosen as 2011-12 fellows. The program brochure states, "Albert Einstein Fellows bring to Congress and appropriate branches of the federal government the extensive knowledge and experience of classroom teachers. Fellows provide practical insights and real-world perspectives to policymakers and program managers developing or managing federal education programs."

Brown's duties will include attending Congressional hearings related to education, traveling to conferences, and evaluating grant proposals that have a science-education component. She also will have an opportunity to research topics that fit her teaching interests.

"I'm hoping I can find programs that work to improve student achievement," Brown said in a telephone interview from Florida. "That's the battle we're fighting. I want to figure out what's working everywhere else and see what will work here."

Stories with relevance

An Evansville native, Brown earned an associate degree in biology at the University of Evansville and worked for five years in biologic research with Mead Johnson in Evansville. She also has work experience with the YMCA. To enhance her career potential, she began taking classes at USI on her lunch hour and then enrolled in the teacher education program after her son was in elementary school. She completed a bachelor's degree in science teaching in 1992.



Photo courtesy of Lori Carter

As an Einstein Fellow, Rhonda Brown will bring the insights of a classroom teacher to the attention of national education policymakers.

Brown's interest in science goes back to her days as a student at Harrison High School where teacher Robert Voegli, who was later on the faculty of Oak Hill Middle School, impressed her with how science affects all individuals personally. She completed her student-teaching for a middle-school teaching endorsement under his supervision.

Her inspiration for teaching science through the field of forensic science developed from the experience at McGary. Many students lived in neighborhoods with high crime rates where they had opportunities to observe law enforcement in action.

"One day I told the students a story about something that related to law enforcement and science," she said. "For the first time ever, they all were looking at me. After that I began telling them a science story every day that related to their lives."

As further motivation, she promised a mock crime-scene investigation as an end-of-semester exercise. For the hamster caper, students became suspects, complete with dossiers that included actual hair samples, footprints, and stride measurements. The popular assignment became an annual tradition in the class.

Brown taught from 1992-95 at Mater Dei High School in Evansville and from 1995-99 at McGary. In 1999, she relocated to the Orlando, Florida, area, teaching at two schools before joining East Ridge High School in Clermont when it opened nine years ago. Chair of the school's Science Department, Brown teaches zoology in addition to forensic science.

Popularity of forensic science

When she offered the first forensic science course at East Ridge, 300 students signed up. She had space for 30.

Pop culture and television, particularly the show *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, have stimulated interest in forensic science. Brown finds her students are critical viewers of the show after their classroom experience. She streamed portions of the murder trial of Casey Anthony from nearby Orlando into her classroom.

"The science concepts are there," said Brown about the teaching of science through forensic science. "The thing that's different is what you use for examples."

State of Florida curriculum

Brown developed the high school curriculum in the state of Florida for Forensic Science I and co-wrote the curriculum for Forensic Science II. In addition, she is the coauthor of *Forensic Science: Advanced Investigations*, a textbook for a second-level high school course.

Published by Cengage Learning, the text has been available nationwide since late February. Cengage says it gives students "the opportunity to expand their knowledge of chemistry, biology, physics, earth science, math, and psychology, as well as associate this knowledge with real-life applications."

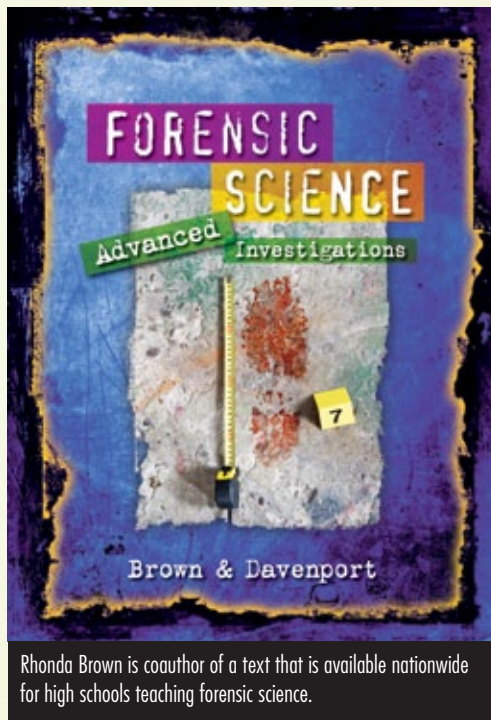
Brown learned of the publisher's interest in finding an author for an advanced text through contacts in the Evansville Vanderburgh School System.

Brown and coauthor Jackie Davenport, also a high school STEM teacher in Florida, presented information on the textbook in March at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association. They have presented at other national and state conferences.

"I always have to be doing something that's a challenge," Brown said.

She completed a master's degree in education at Indiana Wesleyan University and earned certification in 2004 from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Her son, Matthew Tapp, is a senior at USI majoring in Spanish. He is employed at Vectren. Her daughter, Mikayla Brown, is a sophomore at East Ridge High School.



Stage management comes naturally to Jennifer Birge '95

Finding her niche in the theatre propelled her to an exciting and satisfying career

Since graduating from the University of Southern Indiana in 1995, Jennifer Birge has followed her dream of becoming a stage manager—a dream that has taken her from Orlando to New York to Los Angeles and throughout Europe. She has worked with the likes of director Garry Marshall, musicians Alan Menken and Steven Schwartz, television host and author Glenn Beck, and the entertainers of *Cirque du Soleil*.

Birge believes the opportunity to learn what goes into every piece of putting on a show during her theatre days at USI provided a

head start in her career. She completed a bachelor's degree in communications.

"At USI, I was involved in every aspect of the production—from costuming to lighting to stage managing," she said. "Once I got to graduate school, I realized how valuable that hands-on experience was. Many students had come from large schools and did not have the opportunity to work in all areas of the theatre."

Enrolling at USI

Birge's family moved to Evansville from Jasper, Indiana, when she was in high school. Her father, Jerry Birge, was news director at WTVW Channel 7.

Jennifer worked for WTVW and later for WFIE Channel 14 while attending Memorial High School.

Thinking she wanted a career in television, she studied for three years at Purdue University before developing an interest in directing for film or theatre. About that time her mother read an article about Steven Williford assuming leadership of the theatre program at USI. Birge met with him on campus. The two clicked. Williford, most recently director of the soap opera *All My Children*, remains a mentor to this day.

"He was excited that I was interested in coming to USI," Birge said. "He said, 'We'll make sure you do what you want to do.'"

Birge enrolled in August 1992. The faculty—including Shan Jensen, Elliot Wasserman, and Doug Hubbell—were welcoming and supportive.

Becoming a stage manager

"Steven had me in directing and acting classes," Birge said, "but, once he observed how I approached things, he saw it in me to be a stage manager. He asked me to try it."

She was assistant stage manager for Williford's production of Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*.

"It came naturally to me," she said. "Making lists and schedules—that was who I was. I had a fantastic time."

After that, she was production stage manager for one show each semester. When she was not stage manager, she helped in sound, wardrobe, and other departments.

What would prove to be a critical part of her education came in summer 1994 when Williford hired her for the New Harmony Theatre production of *The Fantasticks* at Thrall's Opera House



Jennifer Birge is performance and cultural facilities administrator at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University.

in New Harmony. Williford secured approval for Birge to begin her candidacy for membership in the Actors' Equity Association and manage the musical under the supervision of the Equity stage manager for NHT's productions at Murphy Auditorium. In 1995, she managed the musical *I Do! I Do!* at Thrall's in a similar arrangement and served as an assistant stage manager for one production at Murphy.

In 1995, when she went to New York to interview with the University/Resident Theatre Association for a position in graduate school, she presented the production books from New Harmony Theatre and USI Theatre as part of her portfolio.

Fifteen graduate-program directors invited her to interview. She landed several offers, including one of only two spots in the program of her choice at Rutgers. Thomas Kelly, head of the program, wrote the *The Back Stage Guide to Stage Management*, the definitive manual in the field. Kelly has since told her that he wanted her in the program as soon as he saw her production books. Birge completed a Master of Fine Arts in stage management at Rutgers in 1998.

Joining the actors union

Birge has been a member of Actors' Equity Association since summer 1996 when the Montclair TheatreFest in New Jersey offered her a contract and paid her initiation fee. "They did that based on my experience, mainly my experience in New Harmony," she said.

In summer 1997, Birge was among the first round of stage management interns at Walt Disney World in Orlando. That led to a five-month internship in 1998 with Disney in New York where

she worked on *The Lion King* and on a workshop for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. On *Hunchback*, she was the personal assistant to Oscar winners Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz. The two shared an Academy Award in 1996 for *Pocahontas* and were nominated in 1997 for their work on *Hunchback*.

"Being able to sit in the room—just the three of us—while they created this award-winning music was amazing," Birge said.

Following graduate school, Birge worked with Williford in New York on the off-Broadway show *Pera Palas*. Then she spent three years in Orlando with Disney before returning to New York in 2001 to work with Williford again at the Lark Play Development Center. Through the years, she has been production stage manager for a number of shows at the Lark.

Working with Garry Marshall

In 2005, she was involved in a workshop in New York with writer and director Garry Marshall. In 2006, she got a call to come to Los Angeles to work on his stage adaptation of the television show *Happy Days*. It played at Marshall's Falcon Theatre in Burbank. Birge also worked with Paul Williams, who wrote the music.

"The coolest thing happened one night when I was working late," Birge said. "Garry came into the theatre. He handed me a mitt and we pitched softball. We talked about how the show was going."

She became close with Marshall's sister, Ronny, who worked on the show. "I learned a lot about the shooting of *A League of Their Own*," said Birge, who was an extra for one day during the

1991 filming in Southwestern Indiana. Another Marshall sibling, Penny, directed the movie.

Doing what she needs to do

Birge taught stage management in fall 2006 at Trinity University in San Antonio. She also has mentored student stage managers at Princeton University.

She worked for five years as an operations manager with the Tribeca Film Festival and has served since 2007 as stage manager for the Parade of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, she was stage manager for the European Tour of Cirque du Soleil's show *Delirium*.

"I flew to Amsterdam and met them," she said. "That night I was rehearsing with people flying through the air. It was a whole new world."

In four months, she visited 26 cities in 13 countries with Cirque du Soleil.

In 2008, Birge helped open a new theatre facility at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University. She began as a contractor and then accepted a full-time job as performance and cultural facilities administrator. The flexible theatre space accommodates from 108 to 275 people. Her staff includes a technical assistant and five student workers.

In late 2008, Birge traveled with Glenn Beck as production stage manager on a national tour of his show *The Christmas Sweater*.

Reflecting on her career, Birge expressed appreciation that the theatre program at USI steered her into stage management.

"I know I'm doing what I need to be doing," she said.

Read more alumni success stories online



PATENT ISSUED TO ENGINEERING PROFESSOR

Paul Kuban's innovation improves access between wired and wireless networks

A University of Southern Indiana faculty member in engineering has been granted a patent for an innovation which relates to improved technology for access between wired and wireless networks. The patent is the first issued to a faculty member working with USI's Center for Applied Research.

U.S. Patent No. 7,991,351 was issued on August 2. USI President Linda L. M. Bennett made the announcement.

Dr. Paul A. Kuban, associate professor of engineering, is the inventor of an interface that makes the fixed networks found in automotive networks, medical instrumentation consoles, and factory automation systems accessible to the latest standard in wireless networks, incorporating access control, encryption, mesh networking, and other features.

Catalyst for innovation

"One of the growing roles of the University is to drive innovation as well as education in the region," Bennett said. "As our internationally accredited engineering program has grown, we have increased faculty and applied research, providing novel solutions to real problems that will help our region thrive economically. We are pleased that Paul Kuban's innovation has been recognized with a patent."

The technology in Kuban's invention can be applied in many scenarios. For instance, it would allow diagnostic codes from an automobile to be translated directly to a mechanic's computer without having to connect the car to the computer. In a medical setting, the technology would allow continuous monitoring of a patient who is being wheeled from a patient-care room to the operating room.

"The wireless network is secure," Kuban said, "and would automatically track the patient as he is moved from one room to another. There would be no need to disconnect anything."

CAN-Bee Interface

The product is called the CAN-Bee Interface, the name reflecting the creation of the Controller Area Network (CAN) to ZigBee Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN) interface. The interface integrates conventional hardware components and custom firmware.

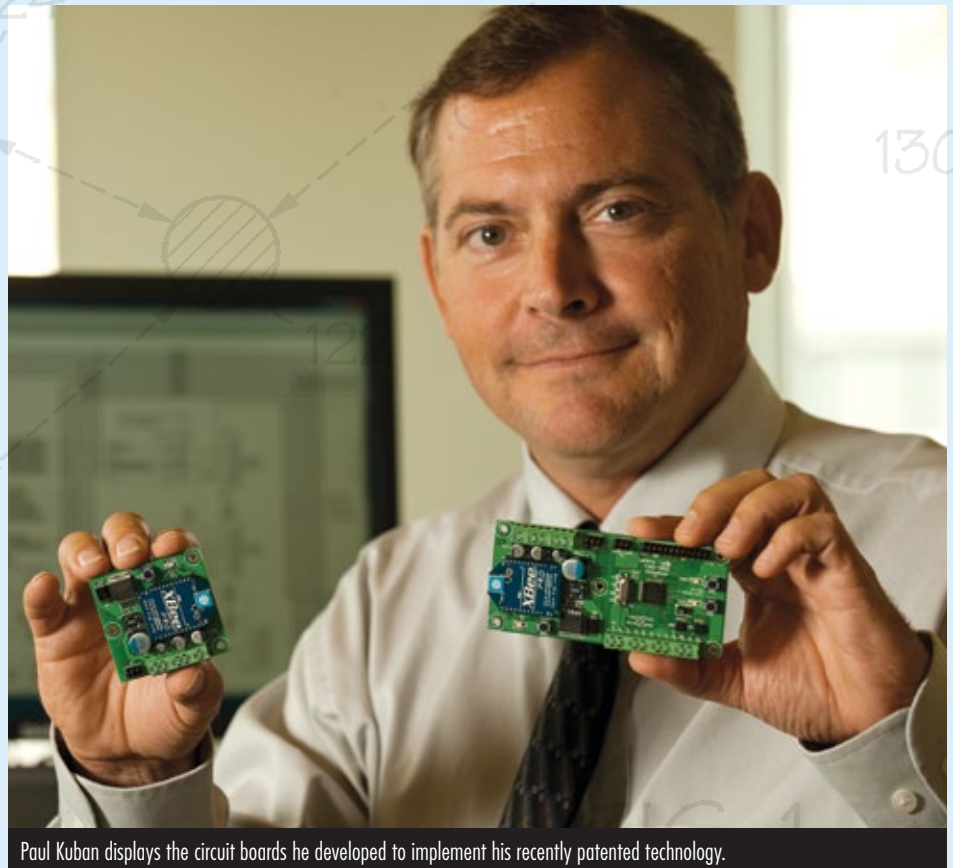
The Controller Area Network is used worldwide as the fixed network in

automobiles, medical instruments, and factory automation systems. It has been in use since the 1980s. Kuban said the installed base of this wired network is vast and continues to grow.

The IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers) established in 2003 the wireless standard 802.15.4 which forms the foundation for the growing ZigBee WPAN platform.

The CAN-Bee Interface is low cost, low power, efficient, and secure.

Kuban said the manufacturing cost is approximately 5 percent of the present sales price of existing products with similar capability.



Paul Kuban displays the circuit boards he developed to implement his recently patented technology.

“The CAN-Bee Interface combines the power of the installed CAN infrastructure with the simplicity, compatibility, portability, and multi-faceted feature set of the latest wireless standard, enabling easy ZigBee accessibility to hundred of millions of existing CAN nodes,” he said.

Potential applications include low-cost control system penetration through factory firewalls; multipoint, cable-free vibration analysis of heavy machinery; integrated vehicle and household automation systems; and secure, reliable, re-configurable hospital patient-monitoring systems.

The interface has been tested successfully in a factory automation environment and on board heavy-duty earth-moving equipment. It is available for demonstration to prospective licensees.

Partnership with IURTC

Dr. Susan J. Ellspermann, director of the USI Center for Applied Research, said the University pursued the patent in partnership with the Indiana University Research and Technology Corporation (IURTC), which assists researchers in realizing the commercial potential of their discoveries. A non-profit agency that operates through IU’s Office of Engagement, IURTC has the expertise to facilitate the process with the patent office, patent attorneys, and other resources.

Dr. Bill L. Brizzard, director of technology transfer for IURTC, managed the process for USI through a memorandum of understanding. “It’s quite an accomplishment to receive a patent,” Brizzard said. “We already have had some interest in this invention, and we are confident of its prospects for development into a commercial product.”

The CAN-Bee Interface would allow diagnostic codes from an automobile to be translated directly to a mechanic’s computer without having to connect the car to the computer. In a medical setting, it would allow continuous monitoring of a patient who is being wheeled from a patient-care room to the operating room.

Along with Kuban, representatives from IURTC will present information about the CAN-Bee Interface at technology showcases throughout the region.

Sabbatical research

Prior to joining USI in 1996, Kuban received two patents related to audio processing in cellular telephones. He completed a master’s degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University and a doctorate in computer science and engineering at the University of Louisville.

Kuban conducted research that led to the invention of the CAN-Bee Interface during a sabbatical in 2005 while working toward his doctoral degree. He began working with the Controller Area Network in 2004. After reading about the ZigBee WPAN that was relatively new at that time, he began developing a gateway to enable those two networks to work together.

In addition to teaching, Kuban advises students who compete in the Mini Baja car competition sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. He also is faculty advisor for the USI Wrestling Club.

A guitarist, Kuban is a member of the band Hoosier Daddy, a rhythm and blues group. Using technology based on the CAN-Bee Interface, he has devised a wireless switching system for synthesizers and amplifiers he uses while playing in the band.



Making the grade

**GPA average for student athletes – 3.1;
107 honored by GLVC with 3.3 GPA or better**

The Screaming Eagles are best known for their success on the courts, courses, and fields, but now they are celebrating another victory: academic achievement.

The Eagles flew to new heights in the classroom during 2010-11 with the student athletes earning a combined cumulative grade point average of 3.1. More than 40 percent of the 260 student athletes had a GPA of 3.3 or better, while close to 30 percent posted GPAs of 3.5 or better.

“The academic success of our student athletes starts in the recruiting process,” said USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall. “Our coaches have done an outstanding job of bringing in students who have proven they are capable of succeeding in the classroom.

“Once students are at USI, they are put into a culture of academic success. Our staff in Academic Skills has done a great job of mentoring and assisting student athletes as they strive to perform at a high level in the classroom. The University administration also is committed to our student athletes’ academic success.”

In 2010-11, USI had 107 Academic All-GLVC honorees. They were led by eight Capital One Academic All-District V award winners: (baseball - Justin Blinn and Tyler Choate; softball - Amanda Brendel and Katherine Belsito; women’s soccer - Susan Ellsperman; men’s tennis - Ben Boesing; men’s track and field - Brendan Devine; and women’s track and field - Jackie Henderson). The Capital One Academic All-District V teams are selected from student athletes who compete in the NCAA Division II, Division III, NAIA, and junior colleges in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and

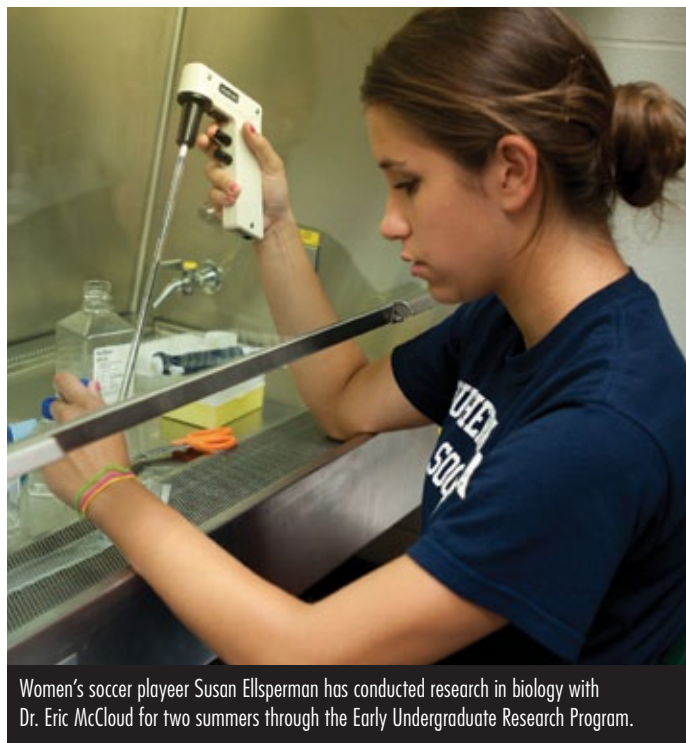
Wisconsin in the United States and Manitoba and Ontario in Canada.

With 107 winners, USI had its highest total since the GLVC increased the qualifying GPA from 3.2 to 3.3. Among the honorees were 54 student athletes with repeat honors. Sixteen Eagles had earned at least four Academic All-GLVC awards.

“It is an honor to be one of these 107 student athletes,” said women’s soccer junior Susan Ellsperman, a Presidential Scholar and new student appointee to the USI Board of Trustees. (See page 7.) “The hard work and dedication required to be a successful collegiate student athlete are often overlooked.

“The fact that so many of USI’s student athletes were able to maintain high GPAs, while also being successful on the field, is a representation of the

**Women’s basketball was ranked 15th
nationally among Division II institutions
by the Women’s Basketball Coaches
Association for team GPA.**



Women’s soccer player Susan Ellsperman has conducted research in biology with Dr. Eric McCloud for two summers through the Early Undergraduate Research Program.

fact that athletes are not only “jocks” but also are committed to their studies,” said the biology/pre-medicine major. “The support received from the USI community has been a tremendous asset to me during my time at USI. Everyone involved should be proud of their part in the student athletes’ academic achievements.”

The GLVC also honored 11 USI seniors with Council of Presidents’ Academic Excellence Awards. The award goes to seniors who have competed in the GLVC for at least two years, exhausted their eligibility, and maintained a 3.5 GPA.

“Receiving an award of that magnitude means a great deal not only to me, but my family,” said Tyler Choate, a baseball standout who finished his bachelor’s degree in physical education and is now working toward a master’s degree in public administration. “I took great pride in representing

myself as a student first during my three years at USI.

“Succeeding in the classroom is something that takes a great deal of time and hard work,” said Choate. “I believe my success in the classroom came from the faculty, staff, and coaches at USI. The hard work and desire I had to learn was a direct reflection of them and the high standards they set in the classroom.”

As a team, no USI squad performed better academically in 2010-11 than women’s basketball. One of five Eagle teams to be named GLVC All-Academic, women’s basketball, received the Student Athlete Advisory Committee Team GPA Award with a cumulative 3.5 GPA.



Former baseball player Tyler Choate is pursuing a master’s degree in public administration and serving as a graduate assistant coach.

In addition to women’s basketball, women’s cross country, women’s soccer, softball, and volleyball also earned GLVC All-Academic honors.

Women’s basketball also was ranked 15th nationally among Division II institutions by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association for team GPA.

“Our athletic program, as a whole, does a great job of encouraging our student athletes to put just as much effort into their studies as they do into their respective sport,” said Randa Gatling, senior women’s administrator and assistant women’s basketball coach. “For our team to be acknowledged nationally, as well as in the GLVC, is an honor.”

Men’s basketball opens at Purdue

The men’s basketball team tips off the 2011-12 campaign with an exhibition game at the Big 10 Conference’s Purdue University before opening a regular season that includes 15 games at the USI Physical Activities Center.

The exhibition game on November 6 at Purdue marks the second straight year that USI begins the season with a game against a Big 10 team. The Screaming Eagles opened last year at the University of Illinois.

The regular season schedule includes a home-and-home series with NCAA Division II national champion and GLVC rival Bellarmine University, along with the home-and-home series with the rest of the GLVC East Division—Kentucky Wesleyan College, University of Indianapolis, Northern Kentucky University, Saint Joseph’s College, Lewis University, and University of Wisconsin-Parkside.

Cross Country to host GLVC Championships

The University of Southern Indiana men’s and women’s cross country teams will host the 2011 Great Lakes Valley Conference Cross Country Championships at the Broadway Intramural Complex on October 22.

The USI men’s team will be chasing a seventh straight conference title and its 17th overall. The Screaming Eagles men’s squad has won more GLVC championships than any

other team in any sport in the conference. In 2010, the Eagles made their sixth straight appearance in the NCAA Division II National Championships, placing 10th.

The women’s team is hoping to reclaim the top spot in the GLVC for the third time in the last four years. The Eagles placed second in the league last year before finishing seventh at the NCAA II Midwest Regional.

Former players design summer workouts



Kevin Grant, kinesiology, and Jared Rehmel, sport management, developed a summer training program to keep their former teammates in men’s basketball in shape for the coming season. The five-week voluntary training session was designed to work on speed and agility as well as the core muscles (abdominals and chest). See slide show online.



Alumni Council 2011-12

Officers

Jina L. Campbell '01 M'03
President

Mark A. Chandler '01
President Elect

Kyle S. Winger '01
Secretary

Caron J. Leader M'96
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Kevin L. Hammett '90
Immediate Past President

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Louisville Chapter

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Jean M. Blanton '01

Ann M. East '91 M'96

Neil J. Fortwendel '05

Mandi D. Fulton '06 M'10

Charlene F. Kaufman '09

Tina M. Kern '86

Douglas A. Knight '72

Rebecca S. Korba '95

Andy J. Lemon '05

Lauren C. Leshner '04 M'05

Kacheyta K. W. McClellan '10

Bradley D. Morton '92

Cindy L. Ohl '80

Benjamin J. Schmitt '02

Jennifer L. Titzer '00 '08

Eileen M. Weber '98

University Staff

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

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

Deb C. Schmuck
Senior Administrative Assistant

812/464-1924

www.alumni.usi.edu

2011-12 Alumni

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- October 1** Alumni Planning Retreat, Physical Activities Center
- October 18** Return to the Heart of Nursing: Annual Nursing Alumni Society Dinner
5:30 p.m., USI Carter Hall
- October 27** USI Eagle Hour
5 to 7 p.m., Lorenzo's Bistro, Evansville
- November 6** USI Day at the Colts
- November 8** Alumni Council Meeting
5:45 p.m., University Center 206
- November 21** Lighting A Tradition
7 p.m., USI Quad and University Center East
- December 10** Fall Commencement and Luncheon
USI Physical Activities Center/Carter Hall
- January 7** Varsity Club and Alumni Soup and Hot Dog Supper, 5:30 p.m. following basketball games
USI Physical Activities Center
- February 4** Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Pizza Gathering, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. before men's basketball game, University of Indianapolis
Nicoson Hall
- February 10** Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner
6 p.m., USI Carter Hall
- February 11** Homecoming 2012, Alumni Party
5:30 to 7 p.m., USI Physical Activities Center

Visit alumni.usi.edu to see alumni event information

All alumni are invited to attend these events.

1970s

Dennis Woehler '73, social science, an ONB Insurance Group account executive, has received the Registered Health Underwriter designation from The American College for his commitment to educational leadership in the insurance profession. He resides in Evansville.

Timothy Born '77, history, has been named by *Indiana Super Lawyers* magazine as a top attorney in Indiana for 2011. He is a trial lawyer, mediator, arbitrator, and medical-review panel chairman in Evansville at the law offices of Terrell, Baugh, Salmon & Born, LLP.

Cyndi Huff Schneider '77, communications, '98, Master of Science in Education, is the new principal of Memorial High School in Evansville.

Jim Stone '77, business administration/economics, has joined OfficeWare as a customer service representative in Evansville.

Laura Hendrickson Sanders '79, business administration, has received the Allstate Agency Hands in the Community Award for work with the Kiwanis Club of Historic Newburgh in Newburgh, Indiana.

1980s

Dave Cave '80, marketing, is the owner of 3K Machinery Co. in New Albany, Indiana.

Patrick Riley '82, marketing, is a senior consultant at LMI Government Consultants at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

Matthew Myers '83, communications, was a Fulbright Scholar in cinematography for the 2010-11 academic year at the Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts in Aqaba, Jordan.

Alumni and Volunteer Services has moved

Check out the new location
University Center West
Room 116

Italian Lakes and Greek Islands

featuring a 7-night Eastern Mediterranean Cruise

USI Alumni Association trip

June 6–18, 2012

13 days with 26 meals:
11 breakfasts, six lunches,
and nine dinners

Tour operator: Collette
Vacations and Lifestyle Tours

Tour Highlights

Lago Maggiore, Como, Stresa,
Greek Islands, Corfu, Santorini,
Mykonos, Katakolon, Olympia,
Venice, Lake Garda

Tiny Italian resorts and idyllic Greek Islands create the vacation of your dreams on this 13-day journey that includes a seven-night Eastern Mediterranean cruise departing Venice and dropping anchor in ports of the Adriatic and islands of the Aegean Sea. Wonder at the ruins of the Temple of Zeus. Explore breathtaking Santorini, stroll past Mykonos' whitewashed buildings in the evening's glow, and enjoy the Mediterranean pace of life in Italy and Greece.

Please Join Us!

Trip Information Session

October 18, 6:30 p.m. CDT
USI University Center East, Room 2219

Online Trip Webinars

October 24, 6:30 p.m. CDT
October 26, 2 p.m. CDT

RSVP for Trip Information Session and Online Trip Webinars to Nancy Johnson, 812/464-1924 or alumni@usi.edu.

Visit www.alumni.usi.edu. See alumni travel for additional trip information.

Proceeds from alumni travel fund scholarships for USI students.



Dave Mitchell '85, finance/management, has joined German American Bancorp as a senior vice president and trust officer in Evansville.

Melissa Wahl Davis '88, art/psychology, has been promoted to programs, collaborations and partnerships manager for the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library.

Dennis Guthery '88, accounting, has joined Evansville Regional Airport as accounting manager.

Brian Simpson '88, accounting, has been appointed an assistant vice president and community executive for the Fifth Third Banking Center in Vincennes.

Oma Snedecor Rice '89, social work, is a school social worker with the Wabash-Ohio Valley Special Education District in Norris City, Illinois.

1990s

Glenn Kingsbury '90, business administration, has been promoted to manager of Heritage Federal Credit Union's First Avenue Branch in Evansville.

Julie Chipps Morrow '90, marketing, has taken the position of senior business development coordinator at Saint Mary's Health Systems in Evansville.

Dean Happe '91, accounting, has joined Old National Bank as chief procurement officer in Evansville.

Mike McDonough '91, accounting, is an in-house sales associate at Hercules Manufacturing Inc., in Evansville.

Tim Hayden '92, art, '04, post baccalaureate certificate in professional accounting, was promoted to regional director of operations at the *Evansville Courier & Press*.

Rick Jillson '92, communications, has been promoted to corporate communications director for Old National Bank in Evansville.

Laura Layden '92, elementary education, is a Title One reading specialist at Holbrook Unified School District in Holbrook, Arizona.

Tiki Thompson Geer '93, business administration, has joined AlphaGraphics as a strategic marketing and sales professional in Evansville.

Jeff Green '95, Master of Business Administration, has been appointed vice president, senior financial analyst at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville.

Sharon Beckman Shumate '95, communications, has been hired as a commercial print sales executive at Audubon Printers, a subsidiary of the Evansville Courier Company.

Mark Treadway '95, psychology, has been promoted to assistant manager of the Pearl Drive Branch of Heritage Federal Credit Union in Evansville.

Kimberly Rottet Johns '96, business administration, has taken the position of manager of clinical informatics at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Kristin Quakkelaar Peerman '96, computer information systems, has taken the position of systems administrator and Multiple Listing Service coordinator at the Evansville Area Association of Realtors.

Shelley Williams '96, early childhood education, was appointed library director at White Lake Community Library in Whitehall, Michigan.

Jill Ross Dear '97, communications, has joined German American Bank's insurance team as an employee benefits account manager in Evansville.

Chad Gilbert '97, physical education teaching, was named boys' basketball coach at Jeffersonville High School in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He was the NCAA II Great Lakes Regional Most Outstanding Player the year USI won the 1995 NCAA II National Championship. Gilbert was inducted into the USI Athletic Hall of Fame last January.

Chad Harter '97, computer information systems, has joined Keller Schroeder as a senior systems engineer in Evansville.

Marc Hostetter '98, biology, has taken the position of boys' basketball coach at Mount Vernon High School in Mount Vernon, Indiana. He was a point guard on USI's 1995 NCAA Division II national championship team.

Jamaison Schuler '98, communications, is the manager of corporate communications at Dean Foods in Dallas, Texas.

Ryan Kassenbrock '99, accounting, was promoted to director of operations support at Professional Transportation, Inc., in Evansville.

John Minnette '99, Master of Science in Industrial Management, was promoted to technical services manager at the Vectren F.B. Culley generation plant in Newburgh, Indiana.

Carrie Wheeler Newman '99, elementary education, has joined Tracy Zeller jewelry as a sales associate in Evansville.

Matt Rice '99, business administration, '08, Master of Business Administration, has been named manager of market research and analysis for Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Lorry Dewese Rieckers '99, management, has been named vice president, chief operating officer of Custom Staffing Services in Evansville.

2000s

Elizabeth Verkamp Barnes '00, accounting, has taken the position of chief financial officer/human resources director at George Koch Sons in Evansville.

Alvin Basham '00, business administration, has joined German American Bancorp as vice president and trust officer in Evansville.

Jean Cunningham Blanton '01, political science/public relations and advertising, an attorney with Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel and Shoulders in Evansville, has been named a Super Lawyer Rising Star in business litigation by the *Indianapolis Monthly* magazine.

Mike Blume '01, computer information systems, an Edward Jones financial advisor in Evansville, has been honored by the company with a Century Award and with the Jack Phelan Award for outstanding service efforts.

Andrew Freson '01, Master of Business Administration, is a manager of enterprise resource planning systems at Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Nancy Johnson to retire as director of Alumni and Volunteer Services

The USI Alumni Association ranks swelled to more than 30,000 members when 1,200 students graduated in the spring. In the wake of that milestone, Nancy Johnson announced she would retire in 2012. She is the longtime director of Alumni and Volunteer Services.

“USI has been blessed with wonderful leaders who over the years have maintained the institution’s core values—a sense of community, engagement, quality education, and a focus on learning,” said Johnson. “My wish is for USI to retain the same values and to maintain the beauty of the campus.”

Johnson has seen dynamic growth in the USI Alumni Association in her 28 years at the University.

Career steps

With the disclaimer “I know this is not the job you want to do forever,” Sherrienne Standley, vice president emeritus for Advancement, approached Johnson when she was a senior at USI. Standley knew of Johnson’s work as a writer for special sections in the *Mt. Vernon Democrat*, and she needed to fill a position in her office.

“I wanted someone with the writing skills that Nancy had,” Standley said.

And Johnson continued to grow in the job, moving to the Development Office to manage alumni and donor records and oversee electronic software installation. Later the Development Office and Alumni Affairs separated into two units to accommodate growth.

“Nancy worked with the alumni records and the annual alumni telefund, so she was a natural for leading the new alumni office,” Standley said.

As Johnson reminisced about her USI career, she noted the separate state university status USI received in 1985 made a huge impact on alumni. “USI’s position as a comprehensive public university has certainly elevated the value



Nancy Johnson welcomes new graduates into the USI Alumni Association at Commencement.

of alumni degrees,” she said.

The men’s basketball NCAA Division II 1995 national championship game in Louisville ranks high among her awesome times as alumni leader. “I had to quickly arrange food and drinks when over a thousand fans showed up at the victory reception following the game.”

Her first work area at USI, which was converted from a storage closet into an office, remains a vivid memory. “I told everyone I had my first office, my own desk and telephone, and that USI was sending me on a conference to Florida... it doesn’t get any better than that!”

Significant accomplishments

She produced a one-hour documentary for the 30th anniversary of USI. It aired on WNIN-TV and was called “By the People, For the People.” She interviewed many community leaders and founding University administrators about USI’s inception and mission. The documentary remains an important early years’ documentation and is housed in University Archives.

She also provided leadership to create Volunteer USI, an innovative concept to recruit volunteers for higher education. This spring the program reached a milestone one million volunteer service hours to benefit USI and

the community. The program won a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District V gold award. The program was recognized by judges for going beyond “fund raising to incorporate volunteers in meaningful ways” and is a “comprehensive effort from recruitment of volunteers through public acknowledgment of their service.”

Each year Johnson works with Alumni Council members to plan the year’s events and programs. “Our Alumni Council is wonderful and hardworking,” said Jina Campbell, current president of the council, “but the membership

changes. Nancy has been a constant in the office as director. She has led the development of our alumni activities and programs and our growing online community. She is the glue holding these together.”

Johnson established the online community, USI Alumni Online, to keep alumni connected to USI and to former classmates. She said, “The online community allows increased communication to and between alumni, plus we save on printing and postage costs.” She counts it among her favored accomplishments.

Looking ahead

Active alumni chapters in several cities throughout the country and programs that meet the lifelong needs of USI alumni are two initiatives Johnson hopes to see come to fruition in the next 25 years.

Johnson earned an undergraduate degree in 1983 and the Master of Liberal Studies degree in 1995. As an alumna, she will stay active in the Alumni Association as a 50th anniversary committee member. She’ll be the enthusiastic one who will combine hard work, pride, and personal time into making the celebration memorable.

Jina Campbell, Alumni Council president

Campus spirit lives through alumni connections

Jina Hawkins Campbell came to the University of Southern Indiana as a student and loved it so much that she never left.

On July 1 she was promoted to assistant controller of the University. On the same day she became president of the USI Alumni Association's Alumni Council for 2011-12.

Last year, as president elect of the Alumni Council, Campbell served on the USI Foundation board.

"This allowed me to see another side of the University," she said. "We took a tour of campus during board orientation. I've been here every day for years, but this tour looked at campus in a way that was new to me. Seeing all the rooms and structures that were made possible by donors made me realize that we wouldn't have these facilities if it weren't for their generosity. I wish more people could take this tour."

Student worker

A native of Clay City, Indiana, Campbell was introduced to USI by her older brother, Jerome Hawkins '99. Visiting when he was a freshman and coming later to a Southern Hospitality Day, she absorbed the friendly atmosphere, admired the physical beauty of the campus, and learned about the academic programs.

Campbell earned an undergraduate degree in accounting in 2001 and a master's degree in business administration in 2003. She began her USI employment as a student worker in the Travel Office and became an accounting clerk in the Office of Accounting in May 2000. She took on increasingly responsible positions over the years and was manager of accounts payable and chief accountant from January 2010 until her recent promotion.

"Getting exposure to 'real' accounting to supplement and parallel my academic experience was a benefit to me," she said of her student days.

Family involvement

Campbell's husband is John Campbell '00 M'06, assistant director of admission. The two met at USI through their Greek activities. Married in 2002, they are the parents of a son, John, 4, and a daughter, Jaycee, 2. The family lives in Mount Vernon, Indiana. The Campbells are members of the Varsity Club. John is immediate past president.

"Our children love to go to ball games," Jina Campbell said, "and they know we root for the Eagles."



Participation in campus events is a favorite pastime for the Campbell family. Jina and John Campbell are the parents of John, 4, and Jaycee, 2.

Campus pride

This year the Alumni Council will continue to promote connectivity among alumni. The council continuously reevaluates its programming and develops new ways to connect.

The council also wants to continue to increase support for current students. One source of scholarship support is the USI license plate, sporting a new design. Sales are up this year.

Last year Campbell served as alumni liaison to the Student Alumni Association. "We want to build a bridge," she said, "so graduating students become active in the association right away."

USI has 30,000 alumni. The USI Alumni Association is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Because recent graduating classes are larger than early ones, younger alumni represent a large percentage of the group.

Campbell encourages alumni to take advantage of the social interaction, networking, and professional growth opportunities available through the association. Advancing the relationship between the University and its alumni inspires pride and keeps the campus spirit alive for her.

Sarah Klamer '01, public relations and advertising, has joined Tiffany & Co. as an associate sales manager in Indianapolis.

Hans Schneider '01, civil engineering technology, a doctoral student studying urban and regional science at Texas A&M, has received a Fulbright grant to develop a comprehensive regional plan for preserving eight historically significant wooden churches and other historic sites in western Ukraine.

Bradley Clark '02, marketing, has joined Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville as a corporate services coordinator for the Workforce and Economic Development Department.

Kimberly Freeman Parsons '02, dental hygiene, is an assistant professor of dental assisting and dental hygiene in the College of Nursing and Health Professions at USI.

Derek Adams '03, accounting/Spanish, has been promoted to tax manager at BKD, LLP in Evansville.

Jennifer Brickner '03, Master of Business Administration, has been promoted to senior vice president and treasurer at Old National Bank in Evansville.

Linda Trible '03, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, '08, Master of Public Administration, has been appointed associate registrar in the Office of the Registrar at USI.

Kira Crowdus Vaal '03, communication, is a project manager for Daniel Burton Dean in Evansville.

Laura Davis '04, accounting and professional services/finance, has taken the position of financial accountant III for The Women's Hospital in Newburgh, Indiana.

Mitch Happe '04, accounting and professional services, has been promoted to audit supervisor at BKD, LLP in Evansville.

John Havill '04, public relations and advertising, has joined Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn LLP as an associate attorney in Evansville.

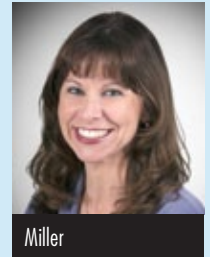
David Milligan '04, accounting, was promoted to vice president of E-services and support operations at Heritage Federal Credit Union in Newburgh, Indiana.

Assistant director of Alumni and Volunteer Services named

Sherri A. Miller has been named assistant director of Alumni and Volunteer Services. She assists in managing operations of the department and developing opportunities for alumni, parents, students, and volunteers to remain connected and involved with USI.

Miller has experience in higher education at Indiana University Purdue University Columbus and served as county extension director for Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. Her County Extension programs received a Regional Award in Leadership and Community Development in 2002, the Indiana Extension Educators Leadership and Community Development Award in 2001, and the National Extension Educators Achievement In Service Award in 2000.

She earned a bachelor's degree in marketing and a master's degree in public affairs from Indiana University, Bloomington.



Miranda Russell Knight '05, public relations and advertising, has joined Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library as a marketing and community relations specialist.

Holly Yowler '05, Master of Science in Nursing, a professor at Ivy Tech Community College in Madison, Indiana, received the Region 11 President's Award for Excellence in Instruction.

Janelle Merkel Byrd '06, psychology, is a client representative at Southern Hills Counseling Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Dave Novak '06, Master of Health Administration, has been appointed director of the Saint Mary's Physician Network of Nephrology and Endocrinology in Evansville.

Amy Siddens '06, sociology, '08, Master of Social Work, has joined Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., as an outpatient therapist in Evansville.

Clint TenBarge '06, finance, has taken the position of mortgage loan originator with Mortgage Masters of Evansville.

Greta Wong '06, computer information systems, has taken the position of office manager for On-Site Computer Solutions in Evansville.

Johnna Benton Denning '07, social work, has been named executive director for the Posey County Community Foundation in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Julia Hunter '07, journalism, is a reporter for the *Rockford Register Star* in Rockford, Illinois.

Jenna Gingerich Sanders '07, biology, is starting her pediatrics residency at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jo Ann Schroeder '07, business administration, is a project manager at Ascension Health Information Services in Evansville.

Natalie Singer '07, theatre arts, has taken the position of box office and business development manager for the Evansville Civic Theatre.

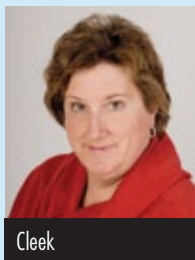
Brian Woods '07, public relations and advertising, has been named commercial lender for Banterra Bank in Evansville.

Dawn Worman '07, nursing, '10, Master of Science in Nursing, has been named director of the cardiopulmonary rehabilitation department at Saint Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

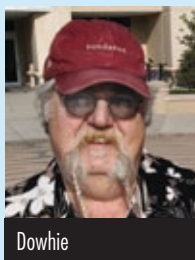
Bradley Dotson '08, political science, has taken the position of student success strategist at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

Alumni Association recognizes four

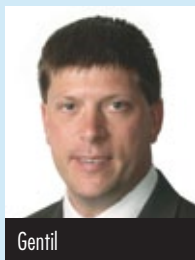
Four distinguished members of the USI community were recognized recently by the USI Alumni Association. The 2011 Alumni Association Award winners are Linda L. Cleek '82 M'00, Special Recognition Award; Leonard E. Dowhie, Faculty Recognition Award; Geoffrey A. Gentil '92, Alumni Service Award; and Eric R. Williams '89, Distinguished Alumni Award.



Cleek



Dowhie



Gentil



Williams



Jaime Hess '08, journalism, is a senior program assistant in the Center for Human Resource Development at USI.

Eric Knight '08, accounting and professional services, has joined the client accounting services department at Umbach & Associates, LLP in Evansville.

Rachel Price '08, sociology, was promoted to a marketing representative at C. Larry Rhodes Insurance Agency in Newburgh, Indiana.

Jessica Dughaish '09, communication studies, has joined Saint Mary's Health System as an internal communications specialist in Evansville.

Arika Mullis '09, radio and television, is a production coordinator for Bennett Innovations in Indianapolis.

2010s

Andrea Boyle '10, marketing, has joined the Saint Mary's Senior Connection as an account specialist in Evansville.

Ann-Marie Dougan '10, industrial supervision, has been named regional sales manager at Vectren Corporation in Evansville.

Courtney McCree '10, Master of Science in Nursing, has joined Ivy Tech Community College as a nursing instructor in Evansville.

Haley Wandtke '10, psychology, was hired as a community resource specialist at Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., in Evansville.

Nancy Ziliak '10, business administration, has been promoted to assistant to the director at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library.

Taylor Dennis '11, management, a right-hander, was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 34th round of the Major League Baseball Draft. He is the eighth USI player to be drafted and the first since 2008.

Marriages

Constance Lueken Messmer '91, elementary education, '98, Master of Science in Education, and Alan Brenner, June 10, 2011

Constance Miles '96, English, and Tom Ferrari, October 24, 2009

Kyle Davis '03, journalism and computer publishing, and Erin Cowling, April 16, 2011

Cassidy Doane Hobbs '03, nursing, and Wade Oliver, August 25, 2010

Chelsea Tenbarge '03, elementary education, and Bruce Shaver, July 10, 2010

Haley Warren '04, public relations and advertising, and Eric O'Neal, September 27, 2010

Kristen Dahnke '06, psychology, and Christopher Vahling, October 30, 2010

Rachard Dennis '06, public relations and advertising, and Kristi Rosbaugh, June 4, 2010

Elizabeth Tetzlaff '06, English, and Travis Mogan, August 28, 2010

Ashley Aber '07, biology, and Cole Perkins '07, radio and television, April 16, 2011

Chastity Boyd '08, psychology, and Jeramy Lay '08, public relations and advertising, September 18, 2010

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

Joshua Bowman '09, health services, and Natalie Bolen '10, elementary education, June 26, 2010

Mackenzie Hudson '10, Spanish/public relations and advertising, and Dustin Stolz '09, geology, January 2, 2010

Melinda Turley '09, elementary education, and Jordan Morris, September 18, 2010

Births and adoptions

Scott Graves '92, business administration, and Rose welcomed Emma Rose, March 22, 2011

Katrina Barber '98, sociology, and Richard Meeks welcomed Severina Iris Azalea Truth, September 11, 2008

Tammy Meece McDaniel '98, dental assisting, and Jason welcomed Colton Ryan, December 7, 2010

Mark Hollis '99, business administration, and Kim welcomed Sophia Marie, February 6, 2011

Jason Kempf '99, accounting, and Jennifer welcomed Jonah Alec, March 4, 2011

Nathan Fry '00, English, and Michele welcomed Parker Joseph, February 10, 2011

Brian Coffey '01, business administration, and Autumn welcomed Tyler James, March 27, 2011

Jared Linn '01, science teaching, and Casey welcomed Rebekah Grace, February 22, 2011

Matthew Schmitt '01, mathematics/mathematics teaching, and Stacy welcomed Claire Rose, March 9, 2011

Douglas Balder '02, physical education teaching, and **Kimberli Orth Balder '00**, elementary education, welcomed Claire Elizabeth, November 20, 2010

Julie Buedel Gansman '02, dental hygiene/health services, and Allen welcomed Libbyanne Elizabeth, January 19, 2011

Sarah Adler Hasenour '03, psychology, and Ryan welcomed Wren Marie, November 23, 2010

Cassie Burris Helfrich '04, elementary education, '07, Master of Science in Education, and Blake welcomed Tucker Thomas, February 21, 2011

Matthew Reffett '05, accounting and professional services, '10, Master of Business Administration, and **Sarah Rietman Reffett '08**, occupational therapy, '09, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, welcomed Layla Ruth, January 11, 2011

Janelle Merkel Byrd '06, psychology, and Cody welcomed Nolan Ray, October 2, 2010

Julie Kinney Burczyk '06, elementary education, '10, Master of Science in Education, and Ryan welcomed Allison Ann, June 20, 2011

Callie Hubbert Krampe '06, radiologic imaging, '08, Master of Health Administration, and **Matthew Krampe '07**, biology, welcomed Kennedy Laurel, January 26, 2011

Jennifer Taylor Davis '07, psychology, and Ryan welcomed Ayden, March 27, 2010

Amelia Jeffirs Hooper '07, journalism and computer publishing, and Todd welcomed Leigh, December 31, 2010

Alumni travelers enjoy Ireland



Alumni and friends sampled the sights of the Emerald Isle during a 10-day trip to Ireland. From left are Kathy Hyduck, Mary Roeder, Bob Roeder '71, Nancy Johnson '83 M'95, Barry Hyduck, and Ken Johnson. The USI Alumni Association sponsored the trip.

Amanda Wilhelm Quick '08, business administration, and **Blake Quick '03**, sociology, welcomed Vincent Ray, February 8, 2011

Amber Cannon Russell '07, social work, '08, Master of Social Work, and Paul welcomed Taylor Dean, June 15, 2011

Paul Austill '09, history, and Lavern welcomed Ilijah Paul, May 30, 2011

Jeff Kinney '10, Master of Business Administration, and Lindsey welcomed Whitney Marie, January 17, 2011

Erin Domeyer Steele '10, management, and Jason welcomed Evan Andrew, May 9, 2011

In Memoriam

Phillip Miller '71, history, of Evansville, died April 12, 2011.

Michael Collier '73, sociology, of Winslow, Indiana, died January 22, 2011. He was a State of Indiana conservation officer.

Patricia Koch '75, elementary education, of Evansville, died February 10, 2011. She was a teacher for 38 years at Saint Joseph Catholic School.

Kathy Bufkin Paine '81, art, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died February 17, 2011. She was an art teacher at Mount Vernon Senior High School for many years. Paine was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Phi Delta Kappa sororities.

Ronald Schuessler '82, general science, of Terre Haute, Indiana, died April 10, 2011. He served in the Air Force for 20 years as a captain and was a substitute teacher for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Catherine Baehl Glass '83, accounting, of Vincennes, Indiana, died March 7, 2011. She was a financial advisor at Good Samaritan Hospital for 21 years.

Marie Sheffer Roberts '87, communications, of Morganfield, Kentucky, died April 24, 2011.

Tracy Deal Reese '88, accounting, of Wadesville, Indiana, died April 24, 2011. She earned certification as a public accountant in 1989 and worked for GFI and most recently the Daughters of Charity as the director of finance.

Michelle Morris Haley '89, social work, of Marietta, Georgia, died April 5, 2011. She was an avid gardener and enjoyed interior design.

Edward Dick '90, industrial management, of Princeton, Indiana, died July 19, 2011. He was a retired engineer from Gibson Generating Station with 34 years of service. Dick was a member of the Princeton Jaycees and the Princeton Wrestling Club where he was president for seven years.

Rita Scheller '93, business, of Newburgh, Indiana, died February 25, 2011. She was retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb's traffic department. Scheller was a member of the Women's Traffic Club and the Central States Transportation Club.

Jacquelyn Oberhausen Fromelius '95, science teaching, '01, occupational therapy assistant, of Newburgh, Indiana, died May 6, 2011. She was a member of Order of Eastern Star, Daughters of the Nile, and Southwestern Indiana Master Gardeners.

Gary Wright '97, post baccalaureate certificate in professional accounting, of Newburgh, Indiana, died June 13, 2011. He was the chief operating officer of the Metro Evansville Chamber of Commerce.

Andrea Stratman Fuquay '99, elementary education, of Evansville, died June 15, 2011. She was vice president of Aching Acres landscaping and taught preschool at Saint James West. A scholarship has been created in the USI Foundation to honor her memory. It will be awarded to a USI student who has experienced the loss of one or both parents and requires financial assistance.

Wanda Baldwin Hay '98, Master of Social Work, of Evansville, died February 20, 2011. She was a retired social worker from Southwestern Indiana Mental Health Center. Hay served as a member of the Peace Corps in Senegal, West Africa, from 1965 to 1967.

Brenda Wargel Will '01, elementary education, of Saint Wendel, Indiana, died March 6, 2011. Brenda had been the director of the preschool program at Christ the King Catholic School.

Nicholas Imes '05, public relations and advertising, of Evansville, died May 18, 2011. He worked at Fifth Third Bank for six years before joining State Farm Insurance as a catastrophe services claim representative.

William Heberling '06, psychology/sociology, of Evansville, died June 4, 2011. Heberling was an ordained deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville and served the communities of St. Agnes, Sacred Heart, and St. Boniface.

Amber Gosch '10, communications, of Fort Worth, Texas, died March 23, 2011. She was a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

Faculty/staff In Memoriam

John M. "Jack" Barnes, assistant professor emeritus of geology and geography, died July 5, 2011, in Evansville. Barnes earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the NCAA championship swim team. Following employment with Carter Oil and Exxon in oil and gas exploration and production in the Michigan and Illinois Basins, he formed his own Mid-States Consulting Corporation in 1959. He joined the USI faculty in 1969 and retired in 1989. Memorial contributions may be made to the Belle McGregor Student Scholarship in Geology, which he established in the USI Foundation, or the YMCA aquatics program to drown-proof Evansville.

Remembering University friends

Wallace Graves, University of Evansville president emeritus

Dr. Wallace B. Graves, president emeritus of the University of Evansville, died August 18, 2011, at age 89. He lived in Evansville. Graves served as president of UE from 1967-87. Under his leadership, the university established what is known today as its British campus at Harlaxton College. His tenure also is recognized for an increasing number of international students attending the Evansville campus, the transition of the athletic program to NCAA Division I, the development of the theatre program, construction of a new library, and many other accomplishments. The University of Southern Indiana presented him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1970 at the dedication of the USI campus.

Donald R. Hazeltine, retired McDonald's franchisee

Donald R. Hazeltine, retired president of Southern Operating Company, Inc., in Evansville, died May 31, 2011, in Sarasota, Florida. He and his business partner, Richard Shepard, were early operators of McDonald's restaurants in Indiana and Kentucky. Hazeltine and his wife, Allene, who survives him, established an endowed Presidential Scholarship and a \$1 million charitable gift annuity in the USI Foundation. He was a past member of the USI Foundation board of directors. The Hazeltines were presented honorary Doctor of Laws degrees at Commencement in 2000.

We want to hear from you!

Do you have professional news about yourself to share with fellow graduates? Have you moved? Do you have a suggestion for a story? Let us know! We value your comments via mail (Alumni and Volunteer Services Office, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712), phone (812/464-1924), FAX (812/464-1956), or email (alumni@usi.edu).

Looking forward to the University's 50th Anniversary

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

Musical ambassadors for a young university

From show tunes to madrigals, these students sang their hearts out



MID AMERICA SINGERS

The Mid America Singers, pictured outside the newly constructed original library building, were a musical performing group in the 1970s. The high-energy troupe featured students with musical talent who sang and danced at University luncheons and dinners, appeared on national television, and represented an enthusiasm that was contagious at the young higher education institution. Their repertoire included show tunes, contemporary titles, ballads, and the song "When I'm 64" by The Beatles. The students transformed into medieval singers for the Madrigal Dinners, an event still held each year during the holiday season. David Deeg, an instructor in music, directed the singers. The group photo was taken by Michael Pugh, a member of the Mid America Singers, who is featured on page 10 of this magazine.



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Questions? Call Adam S. Trinkel '09, 812/461-5473, or email astrinkel@usi.edu.

