

illumine

—University of Southern Indiana—



UNSTOPPABLE | Fall 2018



features

The World According to Gap 18

Five female faculty discuss working in male-dominated fields

Powerball 24

Softball champions who got there the hard way

The Learning Curve 30

A team discovers the key to success

on the cover |

Illustration by Shea Stanley '94. Some things are unstoppable—time, progress and the spirit that lives in USI and its alumni and friends. This issue celebrates that indomitable quality.



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A FITTING TRIBUTE

*I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the article you wrote in the latest issue of *illumine* about Dr. Linda Bennett. The pictures and all the fun facts about her were part of a great story that made me admire and like her even more! She has definitely made her mark on this University, and I will really miss her.*

Good job on the rest of the issue too.

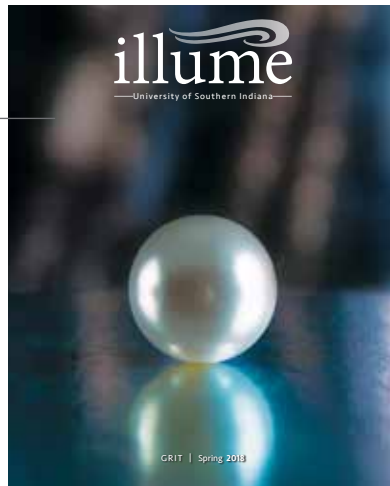
Julie Whorl
Evansville, Indiana



IN THE KNOW

*I'm a USI retiree and *illumine* is a great way to stay in touch. Please keep sending the printed copy to me. Thank you. I love the interesting articles and beautiful setup and want to keep receiving *illumine*!*

Arlene Campbell
Evansville, Indiana



FOND FAREWELL

*I was very happy to read the article in the *illumine* Grit Spring 2018 issue, in which you captured the joyous spirit of our President Linda. Aren't we happy to know her and be part of the growth of the University? The pictures and words you wrote were meaningful and terrific. Thank you.*

Judy Morton '73
Newburgh, Indiana



PAGES WITH PUNCH

This is an EXCELLENT issue! I loved the story on Sara Beth. What an inspirational woman. Keep up the great work you are doing.

Mary Spahn '76
Evansville, Indiana

STORY UPDATE:

UNCOVERING A DONATION

When Jacki Falkenstein '04 and her mother Shari Sherman read "Dead Men Tell No Lies" in *illumine*'s Fall 2017 issue, they were prompted to reach out to USI's Dr. Michael Strezewski, associate professor of anthropology, and offer a skeletal donation of their own.



Strezewski says the incomplete skeleton came from an Odd Fellows Lodge in Terre Haute, Indiana. A relative of Sherman's was helping clean out the building, in the 1970s before it was demolished, when he discovered the relic in the attic and was told he could take it home. Falkenstein and Sherman knew there was a better place for the skeleton than their private home, and donated it to USI. Strezewski says the professionally articulated skeleton will be taken apart and used for bone identification exercises.

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



Deborah Burks

This was absolutely an amazing read. I loved Joyce’s Student POV experiences, how she felt and the different things she encountered. The things that she says about race and how it’s so much different in other countries is good to know because sometimes we only know what we see on television here in America..



Maureen

@mkbarton22

Enjoy this mailbox arrival!

@USledu *illum* publication! Love reading about @USIPrez childhood, congrats to A. Statham (a leader I admire so much), and Kevin Hammett’s quote (wish I had half his intelligence)!!! Thanks, USI for being a role model for our community!



ri

@lil_rils

if you want to be surrounded by professors and faculty who actually care and want the best for you, come to @USledu. seriously.



Larry Bucshon, MD

@RepLarryBucshon

The best & brightest minds are working on the forefront of technology to create the first spacecraft from Southwest Indiana known as a CubeSat. The spacecraft has been designed, built and tested by an all undergraduate student team at @USledu



Nicole Mitchell

I love everything about USI. The students, staff and faculty care about the student experience and have made my time here amazing.

EDITOR

C. L. Stambush

WRITERS

Erik Estep '19

C. L. Stambush

DESIGNERS

Amy Ubelhor

Zach Weigand '02

ILLUSTRATOR

Beth Eversole '18

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Aleisha Jones '17

LaVerne Jones '05

Dan McDonnell

Elizabeth Courtney Randolph

CONTRIBUTORS

Angela Ackerman '18

Jalon Dowell

Shea Stanley '94

Director of University

Communications

John Farless '98

Director of Alumni Relations

and Volunteer USI

Janet Johnson M'05

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AWARDS

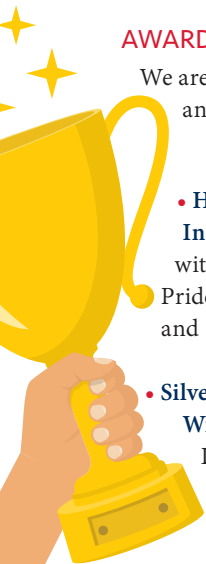
We are proud to let you know that *illum* has recently earned a number of national, regional and local awards.

2017 Perseverance Issue

- **Honorable Mention for Best Alumni/Institution Magazine** for universities with more than 10,000 students from Pride of CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District V
- **Silver Award for Excellence in Feature Writing Series** from Pride of CASE District V

2018 Learning Issue

- **First Place in Graphic Design** from the Association of College & University Printers
- **Silver in Magazine Design** from the American Advertising Federation Greater Evansville (ADDY Award)



President Ronald S. Rochon

Introducing

There is something telling about a man who stops his car in the pouring rain to assist a turtle by lifting it off the road. Add to that scene the fact that he's wearing a suit and the frightened turtle tried to "spray" him, and you start to understand this is a man who knows no bounds when it comes to making a difference.

That image of "lifting" and "assisting" summarizes the essence of President Ronald S. Rochon, USI's fourth institutional leader. Spend a little time with him and you'll discover a multifaceted man with a dynamic personality and a talent for solutions, a gift for storytelling, a contagious laugh and broad smile, a vision, a big-picture perspective, eternal optimism, a life-long desire to educate and much more.

Born and raised on Chicago's south side, Rochon's no stranger to USI, having spent eight years as its provost before being selected

from a national search, of more than 90 candidates, to lead the University into the future. He not only knows the ins and outs of USI, he's loved the campus, its students, faculty and staff from the moment he arrived in 2010, leaving a position as inaugural dean of the School of Education at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York.

An early riser, Rochon starts his day by checking his phone to see if there are any messages from USI informing him of pressing matters. Then he hits the streets with Jaz (Jaz Rochon, a black cockapoo and family member, hence the full name on his tag). "It's just me, my cell and Jaz," he says.

While his educational background is in animal sciences—a bachelor's from Tuskegee University and a master's with a concentration in reproductive physiology from the University of Illinois

(UI), he earned a doctorate in education policy studies from UI, too—Rochon's a people person at heart. Community and relationships are first and foremost, and nothing is dearer to him than his family, especially his wife of 25 years, Lynn, their children, Ayinde and Nia, and his parents. His father impressed upon him an unrelenting work ethic through example, as a career police officer who often held down two additional jobs. And his late mother, whom he idolized, instilled in him the value of sustained relationships and the importance of engaging people with respect and civility.

It's that foundation that fuels his vision for the University of Southern Indiana today. As Rochon looks at the landscape of not only USI's future but also the community surrounding the institution and beyond, his message is that of collaboration and inclusion. "Until we 'break





bread together,' we have no idea who the person sitting next to us is," he says. "This notion of 'look to the left and look to the right, only one third of you will remain,' is not a

message I'm interested in. I want you to look to your left and right and hold on to each other and walk forward. We are more determined and stronger that way."

Through his life experiences and extensive international travels, Rochon understands that people, at their core, share common values that bind us rather than separate and segregate.

"This is part of my calling as an educator and administrator," he says, "to help facilitate amazing discussions about our common-core values, our common objectives, our

common goodness, our common desire to serve this special community."

These are values he shared with Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, emerita president, along with her accessibility practice, as he continues to carry out the five-year strategic plan she implemented in 2016. "People want to know what I'm going to do as the new president," he says. "The number one thing people need to know is that I value them. I'm interested in advancing USP's legacy of collaboration, integrity,

honesty and transparency so our community can understand how all of us can collectively move the University of Southern Indiana forward."

Being able to best serve USP's community (near and far), means narrating the University's successes to policy makers. A natural-born storyteller, Rochon won't lecture legislators but rather reach them through tales of how USI has positively impacted lives through academic scholarships, classes, earned degrees, faculty engagement and





THE INSIDE SCOOP

What do you enjoy most about being on USI's campus?

Interacting with students. It brings me joy to see them eager and excited about self discovery.

What things make you happy?

My wife Lynn and our children. We are a spontaneous family. Lynn and I love taking rides through the community, holding hands and splitting sundaes.

How did you and Lynn meet?

In college. We were friends first then dated for a long time before getting married.

Are you a coffee drinker?

My drink of choice is water, but I adore fresh orange juice.

Do you have a secret vice?

An ice-cold Pepsi, which I don't have too often because I know it's not good for me.

What is your favorite album and why?

Stevie Wonders' *Songs in the Key of Life*. The transformative joy of these songs is forever redemptive. To this day, I celebrate this album.

What do your children's names mean and what do they call you?

My wife Lynn and I chose to give them names that celebrated our African heritage to help remind and instill in them the importance of their ancestors' resilience. Ayinde is from the African-Yoruba language and means, "We gave many praises, and he came." And Nia is Swahili and means "purpose." They call me Baba, which is Swahili for "daddy."


other outstanding mentors. "We will keep talking to those individuals who make decisions about resources for USI," Rochon says. "We want to keep growing and building this institution, so it can always and forever fulfill its mission of transforming lives."

Partnering is a key component to Rochon's presidency; connections and collaborations that fulfill the needs of both community individuals and businesses, as USI has done since its inception in 1965. It is a given that USI will continue to develop academic programs

that are relevant and remain responsive to not only the desires of this community but its international partners as well. "This very real need of the human condition and well-being is something I take into consideration every single day," Rochon says. "Thinking about how this institution can impact those lives in healthy ways is important."

While Rochon, as president, will be the institution's greatest advocate, he sees himself as "one of many," and the role of advocacy as something shared by all. "All of us—faculty, staff, trustees,

students—are recruitment and retention officers. I want USI to be the campus of choice."

Like the turtles that have always been part of Rochon's life (as well as fish, snakes, gerbils, cats, dogs, pigs and more), USI's roots as an institution with the motto *education by the people, education for the people* will be integral to his leadership and legacy. "This campus is a community institution, so the notion of 'town and gown,' from my vantage point, is non-existent," he says. "My office is making sure this University is and always will be the peoples' campus." 



WRIGHT PASSES

The University of Southern Indiana has lost one of its founding officers.

Byron Wright, who served as the first vice president of Business Affairs, died April 27. He came to Evansville in 1967 to guide the business side of USI in its infancy and served the institution until 1995, working alongside the first president, Dr. David L. Rice, as business manager, vice president for Business Affairs, treasurer and senior vice president. Upon his retirement, the Wright Administration Building was named in his honor.

Wright advocated in the legislature for funding for important academic programs and facilities, and oversaw the exacting details of the transition of USI becoming an independent institution. He is a giant in the University's history, and was a friend to many faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as being widely respected in regional and state business and political circles.

Winner Winner

Last fall a contest for new lyrics of USI's fight song and *alma mater* (we've never had one) was launched, inviting alumni, students, current and retired faculty, and staff to submit original lyrics reflecting USI's history and triumphs in the stanzas. New faculty member David O'Neil, assistant professor of English, penned the winning *alma mater* entry and netted the \$1,000 prize. The music was composed by Dan Craig, associate professor of music. The fight song lyrics will be announced at a future date.



Constant, Faithful and True

The University of Southern Indiana Alma Mater

Text: David O'Neil

Music: Daniel R. Craig

Where the North meets the South,
And the East meets the West,
Where roads cross tall fields of grain,
Where Evansville stands on the Ohio's rough sands,
May we evermore hear that refrain.

USI... USI...

Constant, faithful and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.

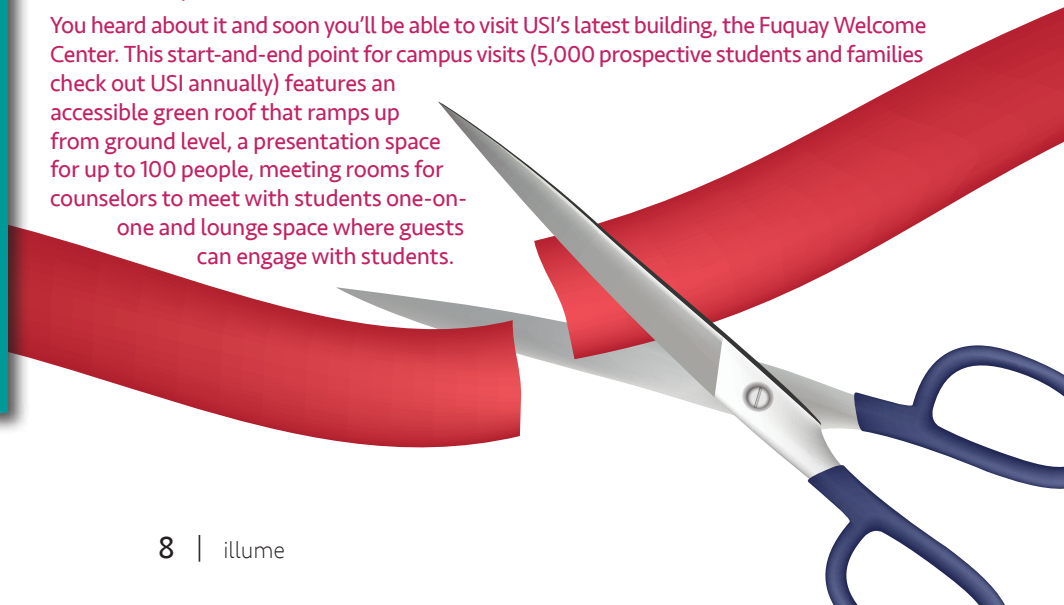
On these grounds by the people,
For the people endowed,
We honor the red, blue and white
And that name we'll hold dear
To the end of our years
As we lift up our voices on high.

USI... USI...

Constant, faithful and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.

NEW HUB

You heard about it and soon you'll be able to visit USI's latest building, the Fuquay Welcome Center. This start-and-end point for campus visits (5,000 prospective students and families check out USI annually) features an accessible green roof that ramps up from ground level, a presentation space for up to 100 people, meeting rooms for counselors to meet with students one-on-one and lounge space where guests can engage with students.





General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) will be the fourth speaker in the University's Romain College of Business Innovative Speaker Series on April 4, 2019. A conversation centered around the title "Leadership: Taking Charge" will take place at 6 p.m. in the new USI Arena, admission open. Previous speakers include T. Boone Pickens, legendary entrepreneur and philanthropist in 2013, Dr. Ben Bernanke, former chairman of the Federal Reserve in 2015, and Dr. Oscar Salazar, founding chief technology officer of Uber in 2017.

HITTING THE HIGHEST NOTE

The University of Southern Indiana Chamber Choir won first place in the Mayo International Choral Festival Premiere Competition in Ireland... for the second year in a row, under the direction of Daniel Craig, associate professor of music. Judges for the competition included choir directors for the BBC, National Chamber Choir of Ireland, World Music Games and universities in Ireland and Norway.



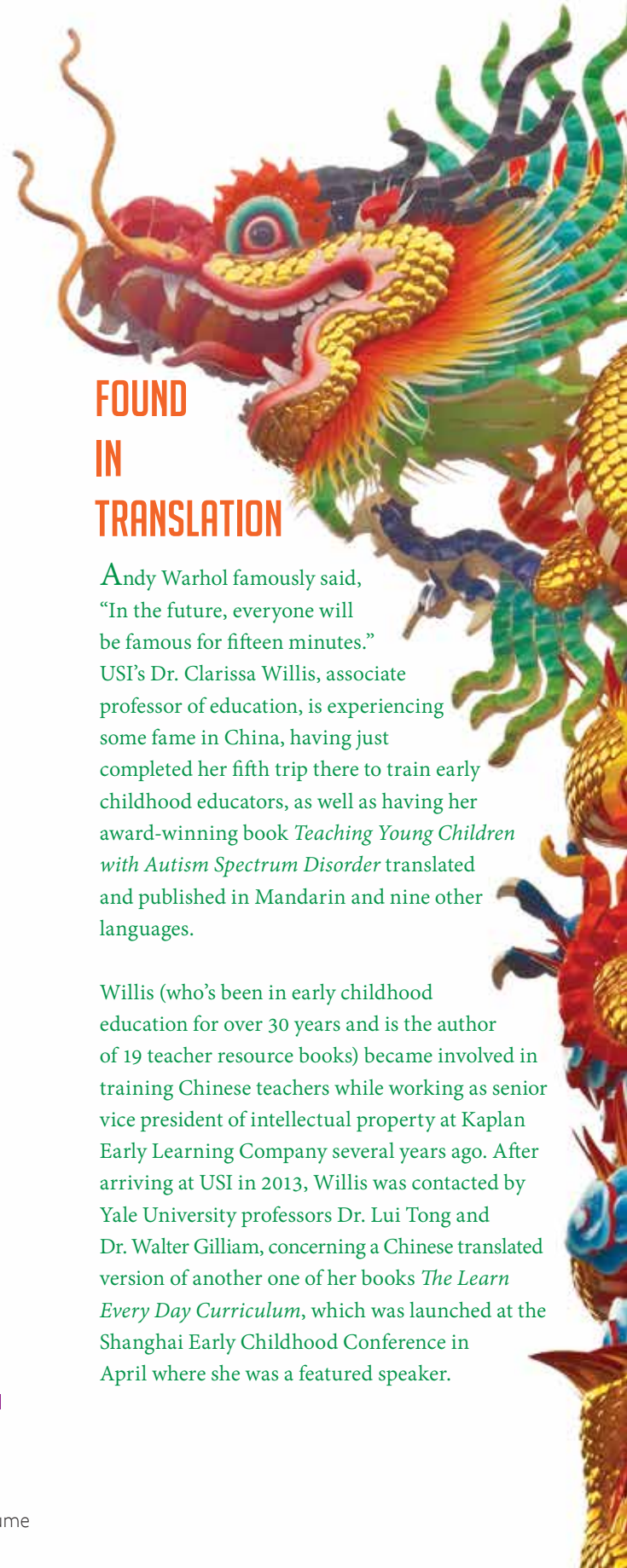
NUMBER ONE!

USI has been rated the number one radio school in Indiana by the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters. Students were honored individually as part of USI's Radio and Television Program and the student-run radio station, 95.7 FM *The Spin*.

FOUND IN TRANSLATION

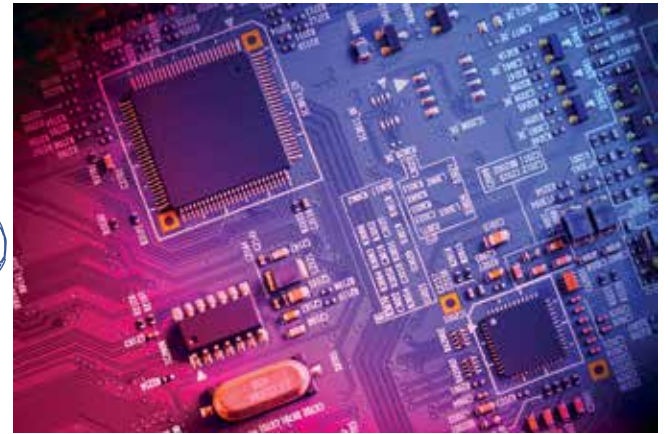
Andy Warhol famously said, "In the future, everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes." USI's Dr. Clarissa Willis, associate professor of education, is experiencing some fame in China, having just completed her fifth trip there to train early childhood educators, as well as having her award-winning book *Teaching Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder* translated and published in Mandarin and nine other languages.

Willis (who's been in early childhood education for over 30 years and is the author of 19 teacher resource books) became involved in training Chinese teachers while working as senior vice president of intellectual property at Kaplan Early Learning Company several years ago. After arriving at USI in 2013, Willis was contacted by Yale University professors Dr. Lui Tong and Dr. Walter Gilliam, concerning a Chinese translated version of another one of her books *The Learn Every Day Curriculum*, which was launched at the Shanghai Early Childhood Conference in April where she was a featured speaker.



of Separation

Degrees



Leading the way in programing in southern Indiana, the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education created an accredited Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Program, offering students hands-on learning experiences, opportunities to participate in co-operative education and internships, and student organizations that participate in national engineering competitions. “Our discipline-specific offerings of mechanical and manufacturing engineering have been tremendously successful,” said Dr. Zane Mitchell, dean of the College. “Graduates from those programs are already having an impact on our local economy. We expect similar results from the Electrical Engineering Program.”

IN A PINCH...

Nervous students facing job interviews with nothing suitable to wear can now dress for success through a new program called **Career Clothes Closet** offered by Career Services and Internships. Since the program began in January 2017, more than 300 students have borrowed—from the 400-plus pieces of clothing—items ranging from suits to socks. All they have to do is clean and return the clothes. “Most of the donations came from professionals in the community, but faculty and staff have contributed significantly to the program; their support is greatly appreciated,” said Phillip Parker, director of Career Services and Internships.

UPDATES ON THE ARENA

The final beam is in place on USI’s new **90,000**-sq-ft arena. It was signed by students, faculty, administrators and staff.

11,745 tons of concrete were used in the construction of the space and its four club rooms, three concession stands, three basketball courts and three volleyball courts.




COMBATING A SOCIAL PLAGUE

A new organization designed to fight human trafficking—Southwest Regional Coalition Against Trafficking (SIRCAT)—was launched last fall by University faculty, local law enforcement and interested community members. Co-chaired by Dr. Melinda Roberts, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Christina Wicks '09, Region 9 coalition coordinator for Indiana Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, SIRCAT's mission is to train people to recognize victims of human trafficking.

"The collaboration between USI and SIRCAT is vital to increasing awareness and an understanding of trafficking, working to identify the number of victims in our community and promoting evidence-based practices in responding to human trafficking," she said.

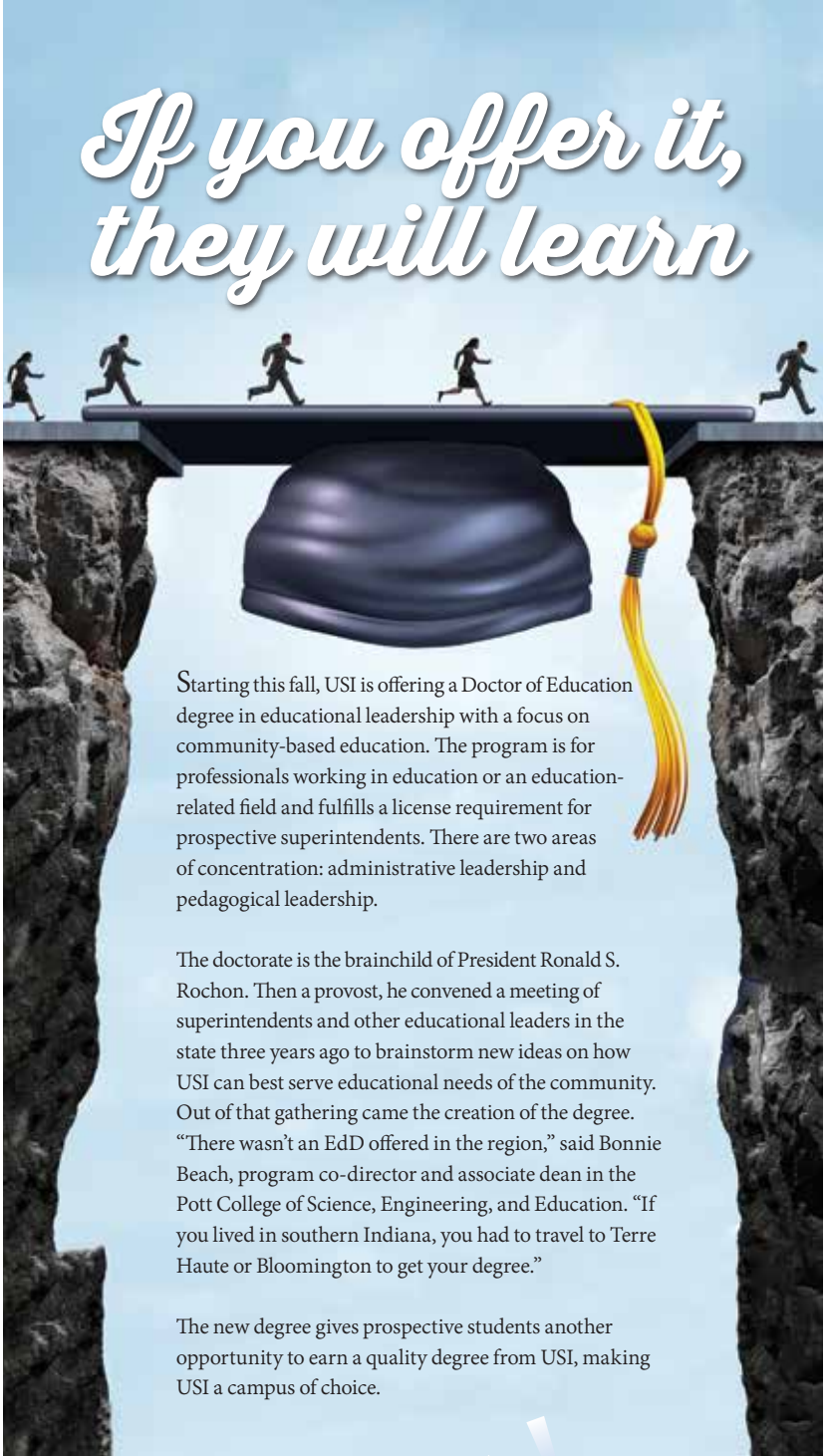
Trafficking is a far-reaching problem with 40.3 million victims globally and 550,000 in the United States. In 2015, 350 children were trafficked in Indiana. One out of six runaways end up being the prey of traffickers. "People in southwest Indiana are becoming aware we have a [human] trafficking issue. It has been invisible for so long," Roberts said. "Now, people are taking the blindfold off."



No matter where you're seated—there are **4,700** seats—fans will easily see the score being displayed on the **173** inch video scoreboard.

If you like curious facts, here are a few more:

30 construction days lost due to snow or rain	12 feet distance from front row to court	4 National Championship trophies housed in the new arena
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If you offer it, they will learn

Starting this fall, USI is offering a Doctor of Education degree in educational leadership with a focus on community-based education. The program is for professionals working in education or an education-related field and fulfills a license requirement for prospective superintendents. There are two areas of concentration: administrative leadership and pedagogical leadership.

The doctorate is the brainchild of President Ronald S. Rochon. Then a provost, he convened a meeting of superintendents and other educational leaders in the state three years ago to brainstorm new ideas on how USI can best serve educational needs of the community. Out of that gathering came the creation of the degree. "There wasn't an EdD offered in the region," said Bonnie Beach, program co-director and associate dean in the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education. "If you lived in southern Indiana, you had to travel to Terre Haute or Bloomington to get your degree."

The new degree gives prospective students another opportunity to earn a quality degree from USI, making USI a campus of choice.

PEACE OUT

"Sulaiman is a kind man. I can't stop praising him," said a faculty member who nominated Sulaiman Okairy '16 M'18 for this year's Peace Ambassador Award. "He is truly a gifted, sincere and dedicated ambassador for Saudi Arabia." Okairy's involvement on campus and in the community has contributed to greater cross-cultural awareness and to increased understanding of the world, its peoples and its traditions.

OUTSTANDING

What makes Tharushi Wattewewa '18 of Sri Lanka and Bastian Grau M'18 of Germany worthy of USI's Outstanding International Graduate Award? "Exceptional leadership," "organized countless events...and fundraisers," "incredible work ethic," and "represented his University at a national level."







The international student population at USI has steadily swelled from a handful to 200-plus, representing young scholars from 52 countries. As a result, the University is educating individuals who may not have had an opportunity for higher ed in their homelands. On campus, they're involved and engaged in not only academics but an array of activities, the most visible being the International Club's Food Expo. Every February, students representing nations from around the world promote fellowship, understanding and friendship by personally preparing native dishes to share with the campus community and public, donating



a portion of the funds to local charities. Dressed in cultural attire, the students break bread with and entertain attendees (there are *hundreds!*) with dancing, drumming and fashion struts. As USI expands its footprint in the world, we can expect to sample more delicious foods from around the globe at future Food Expos.



STUDENT P.O.V.

Khiry Cousert '18 (backrow left)
Sports Management

A New Era

Growing up, the thought of joining a fraternity never crossed my mind due to lack of knowledge and/or lack of interest. But as I got older I found out how complicated life really is, and I realized I couldn't do it all on my own.

By definition, a fraternity is a group of people sharing a common profession or interests. My fraternity—Alpha Phi Alpha (AΦA) and its campus chapter Phi Epsilon—means more than that to both me and the University. AΦA was the first intercollegiate African American Greek lettered organization to bring a large sense of diversity to predominantly white campuses. In a time where ill-equipped political officials discourage diversity and inclusion, it's now that much more important to push for equal opportunity across all platforms.

Joining Alpha has changed my life. It's prepared me as a professional by providing me with opportunities to serve and lead on a broad scale, instilled in me the confidence to address and advocate for issues that have troubled our people and nation for centuries,

and granted me a platform to represent something bigger than myself. Although USI is little more than 50 years old, it's come a long way in a substantially short time.

Being a charter member of the Phi Epsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. has allowed me to participate in improving and evolving this campus. The fraternity has a long history of great men who've paved the way for generations and being in the same class as these extraordinary men spoke volumes to me in terms of who I aspired to be.

This organization emphasizes the importance of selflessness and sacrifice, traits that I've carried with me my entire life. Some might consider an African-American fraternity as tomfoolery or insane, but the founding brothers understood the differences that could be made to many lives.

AΦA has inspired me to achieve and excel, in addition to leaving a legacy for those who come after me. Thanks to the valiant acts of a few, countless lives have been impacted, and

I'm beyond proud to say that I belong to an organization that's truly for the people. We offer community outreach through several initiatives—some in collaboration with other organizations—to aid downtrodden humanity to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status.

For instance, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation collaboratively executed Project Alpha in 1980 to give instruction, inspiration and expertise on responsibilities, relationships, adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases for young males ages 12-16 years, providing young men with current and exact information to avoid teen pregnancies. That is just one of our four advantageous national programs, each promoting betterment to uplift all individuals.

Laconically, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be one of the six founding members of USI's new chapter. I can confidently say we look forward to doing the work of Alpha by serving the Evansville and USI communities.

continue the conversation at [#illumUSI](https://twitter.com/illumUSI)

suggest a subject at magazine@usi.edu

DESK OF...

FROM THE



DR. ETHEL ELKINS
Associate Professor of Health Services

Part of my position as a faculty member in the College of Nursing and Health Professions is to act as a liaison for the College Achievement Program, a dual credit program where high school juniors and seniors can earn college credits. While visiting regional high schools offering biology, anatomy or chemistry—subjects I know little about—I found myself thinking all leaders and administrators can learn so much from the dedicated men and women who teach in our high schools.

1. Teachers have a “presence” that is palpable. They may not have all the answers but they command their students’ attention. *As leaders and administrators, we should have that “presence” too when we engage with others.*
2. Teachers have agendas, generally posted in a large, easy-to-read format on whiteboards—sometimes by day, week, chapter or page number, but it’s always, without fail, clear to everyone. *As leaders and administrators, agendas are essential to help keep groups on track and moving forward.*
3. Teachers have long recognized there is a continuum of learning styles and they address the learning styles of their entire audience, making sure they see it, hear it, read it and write it. *As leaders and administrators, we need to present our material so it’s understood by all in attendance, regardless of their learning style.*
4. Teachers review material with their students—reinforcing yesterday’s learning and perhaps presenting scores from a recent test,

so students know how they compare to their peers and know what needs to be done prior to the next exam. *As leaders and administrators, we must offer transparency to our employees.*

5. Teachers take time to answer questions, ask for input and give their students things to think about, encouraging them to think outside the box. *As leaders and administrators, we must encourage our employees to offer input and we must listen to them.*

6. Teachers try new ideas—such as dissecting pickles (yes, I participated in that one)—to presenting topics in new and engaging ways. *As leaders and administrators, we must embrace change and new ideas if our organizations are going to stay on top of best practices.*

7. Teachers have an “open-door policy” to help students in need. They offer extra sessions over lunch periods and tutoring during study halls. *As leaders and administrators, we must be available and visible to those we lead.*

8. Teachers aren’t afraid to admit they make mistakes and find answers to questions they don’t know, giving appropriate explanations to their students. *As leaders and administrators, we must promote that same culture of excellence and be willing to work hand-in-hand with our employees.*

9. Teachers have empathy for and an awareness of group dynamics in their classes. They notice when a student or group of students are struggling, whether from illness or other personal issues. They “know” their kids. *As leaders and administrators, our employees need to know we care about them.*

10. Teachers are passionate and their positive attitudes show on their faces. They’re not perfect, they have bad days and their own issues, but overall, they care about their students’ success. *As leaders and administrators, it’s our duty to encourage our employees to keep the passions that brought them to our industries, and support them at every turn.*

Why am I telling you this? Because it’s important to remember there are lessons to be learned everywhere we go.

Ethel Elkins



score | BOARD



Aiming High

When the late Women's Head Golf Coach Don Bisesi took over the team in 2000 (five years after USI organized the team), he had only three players—not enough to make a team. Undaunted by that fact, the former professional golfer built the women's program into a super contender, and took USI to 10 NCAA Division II East Super Regionals between 2004 and 2015. Under him, the Eagles either qualified as a team or had an individual qualify for the NCAA post-season for 13 straight years.

Today's student athletes continue to shatter records as Taylor Howerton '18 broke the team's previous single season and career record score in 2017, then broke her own record in 2018, scoring a strokes-per-round average of 77.3. With setups like that, the program's future is bright with birdies.

Where are they | **NOW?**



Career minor leaguer Jeremy Kehrt '08, marketing, credits his success playing professional baseball to his time at USI as a pitcher. "It was really the start of where I ended up in baseball," Kehrt said, noting 2007 was a very special year. "We went from a losing record the year before to playing in the Division II College World Series."

Kehrt, the starter for USI during the regional championship game, has since pitched at all levels of minor league baseball, from rookie ball to AAA, during his 10-year career. One of his highlights was pitching at the Alamodome in 2015 for the Los Angeles Dodgers, during spring training, where one of his outs was future major league star Joey Gallo. "It was like



MILESTONES: TOP STUDENT ATHLETES AND COACHES

3

**MAJOR HITTING RECORDS
BROKEN** by three-time
baseball All-American
Drake McNamara '18

0

HITS GIVEN UP by
Jennifer Leonhardt '20
in USI's first ever
post-season no-hitter;

**PLUS, A NEW SINGLE-SEASON
STRIKEOUT RECORD OF 277**

25

**GLVC COACH
OF THE YEAR
WINS** for Mike
Hillyard (Men's
Cross Country)

3

**GLVC COACH OF
THE YEAR AWARDS**
for Rick Stein
(Women's Basketball);
two were back-to-back

5

**REGION COACH OF
THE YEAR AWARDS**
for Tracy Archuleta
(Baseball)

pitching against Andre the Giant; Gallo is huge," Kehrert said.

After hanging up his cleats last year, Kehrert wanted to stay in baseball, so he sent out his resume to all 30 major league teams before being snapped up

by the Arizona Diamondbacks, who offered him a job as a scout for Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky. Based in Indianapolis, Kehrert is now on a schedule similar to his playing days: busy seven days a week during baseball season but has some time off in the winter.



THE WORLD

ACCORDING
TO

GAP

A CONVERSATION WITH
WOMEN WORKING IN
MALE-DOMINATED FIELDS

by C. L. STAMBUSH

It's mid-morning in late April. Five are seated at the table: brainy, richly educated and steeped in experiences that pertain to their fields of expertise, ranging from chemistry to economics, with finance, engineering and physics filling in the gaps. They've gathered to talk about an age-old issue that still plagues our society: gender inequality, an ill that results in women earning less than men doing the same job, receiving less support from senior leaders, being treated as if they are not competent and being turned down for jobs. This roundtable discussion explores the challenges women face working in male-dominated fields, and provides insights and solutions to leveling the field for all.

As educators, USI's faculty are charged with preparing students for their future careers. That requires more than textbook knowledge, as faculties' personal experiences play a large role in the transference too. When those faculty are female professors, however, the knowledge they have to impart can teach us all a lesson.

At the table—ranging in age, experience and culture—are Dr. Daria Sevastianova (**DS**), associate professor of economics, Dr. Priyadarshine Hewavitharanage (**PH**), associate professor of chemistry, Dr. Amy Chan Hilton (**ACH**), professor of engineering, Dr. Jenna Kloosterman (**JK**), assistant professor of engineering and physics, and Dr. Manfen Chen (**MC**), associate professor of finance. For space and simplicity sake, they are identified by their first and last initials in this feature*.



ONLY 6.4%
OF FORTUNE
500 CEOs
ARE WOMEN

WOMEN ARE
PAID 80 CENTS
FOR EVERY
DOLLAR A MAN
EARNS

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN YOUR FIELDS?

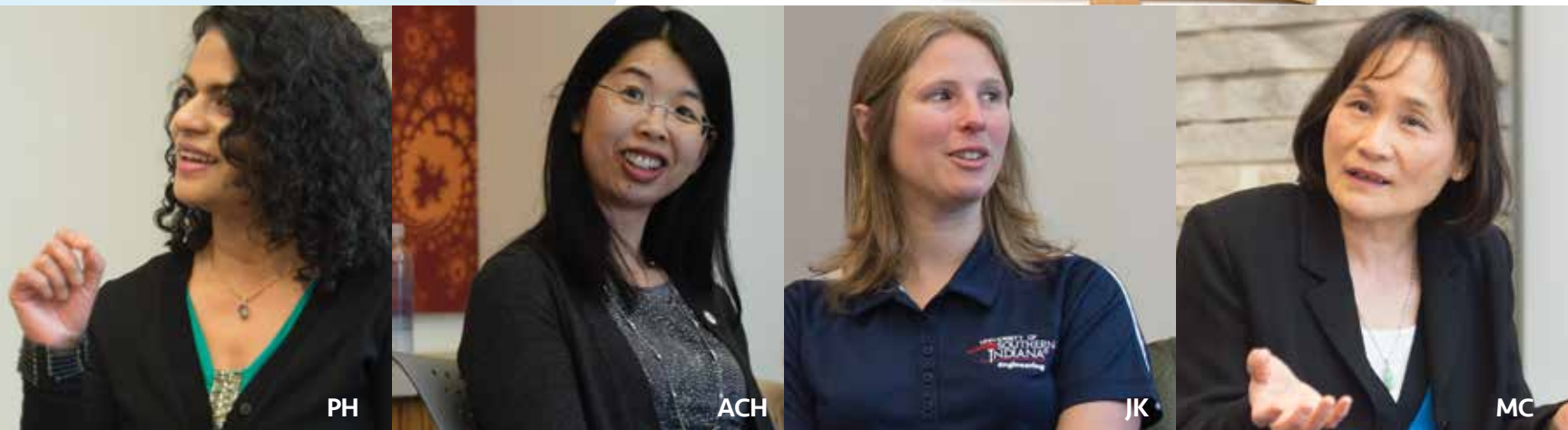
ACH: It was through a college event—hosted by the Society of Women Engineers—that invited high school girls to come over and learn more about the field. I was passionate about the environment and wanted to do something that was a positive contribution, and there was a new area called environmental engineering, so that is what I chose to pursue.

PH: I grew up on an island with lots of trees and plants and was very close to my grandparents. I used to go out and find herbs for their medicine, and was always wondering, "What's in this?" Initially, I thought I'd pursue botany, but later I became more interested in chemistry and wanted to know about properties of chemicals and how to make new chemicals.

DS: I was born and raised in Eastern Europe in the Soviet days. My mom is a philosophy professor and my dad is a mechanical engineer. My father thought that engineering was the route to go, and my mom said, "You're a girl; you should consider the humanities." I struck what I thought was a compromise and went to the State Linguistic University to major in languages and minor in economics. I won a year's scholarship to study in the U.S. Later, I came back to finish my bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. I had very inspiring professors in political science and economics.

JK: I got interested as a young child when my dad—a math educator—would come home with all the cool new math toys and encourage me and my younger brother to play with them. We had blocks, Legos, Pipeworks to build and create with. He told me 'If you go into STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics], that will guarantee you'll have a job and be secure.'

*The text has been excerpted and edited from a longer conversation.



PH

ACH

JK

MC

MC: I don't feel that when we choose our careers we focus on whether it's male-dominated or female-dominated. You base it on what you are good at—your passions. I studied library science and I took computer science-related classes, then came to the United States to get my master's degree in computer science. The U.S. gives such good opportunities if you want to learn something, whereas in my country, you take an entrance test and, based on your score, are assigned a major or to university.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WORKING WOMEN FACE THAT DIFFER FROM MOST MEN?

DS: Women raise families. They are mothers. Every child is like a full-time job. Our decisions depend on how we choose to raise our children, and how we juggle that with our professional responsibilities. That's what makes it so complicated.

MC: The pressure we have is more than our male counterparts, because we have all these different types of responsibilities. When I was working on my doctoral degree, I was teaching full time, taking a full load of courses to complete my degree sooner and taking care of two kids. I didn't want to just work hard to fulfill my own dream, but also wanted to be a good teacher while still be able to take good care of my family.

JK: I've made a lot of sacrifices in my personal life to be here and one of them has been a family. Time is running out for me. I hope I do have kids, but...

PH: Women in chemistry face unique challenges. During grad school, I wanted to have another child but because I was working with harmful chemicals I did not want to get pregnant, so I had to wait. I know many women chemists who sacrifice their career to take care of their family. I sometimes felt like I did not take enough care of myself, but I wanted to make sure my kids were okay.

DS: There was an interesting article recently published comparing students' evaluations of female vs male faculty. [Researchers] found this very systematic bias that women were being evaluated, for the most part, based on their politeness/ manners and appearance. Men were evaluated on their professionalism. This goes to show how women are perceived in our society. That's a big problem. I'm not sure how that can be overturned, but I think it reveals a deep underlying problem.

DESCRIBE SOME OF THE BIASES ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR CAREERS?

ACH: In my first university position (not here) I had colleagues say off-handed remarks that were very explicit, in terms of my gender. Fortunately, I had other people in the room hear those things. These are colleagues who pointed out that because of my gender, I ought to do this or I am good at that, such as, 'be nice; be organized; take good notes.' Things which might be true, but women are much more than that. It is not the only essence of us.

WOMEN HOLD
JUST 19.6 % OF
THE SEATS IN
CONGRESS



PH: I had to overcome many obstacles throughout my career. Some people went out of their way to help me and some people went out of their way to stop me. When you know this is intentional, then it is hard.

MC: Sometimes things are said as “jokes” but when it gets to a point where every time you see some people you know they are going to bring certain things up....

ACH: Those micro aggressions can add up.

DS: It is harder for women to publish. On average, in economics, it's six months longer for women to publish a paper, and reviewers have stricter requirements. They expect more quality improvement in every round of revision than they do from our male counterparts. Having a co-author makes women look weaker when they go for tenure, whereas for men it doesn't matter.

JK: There is a somewhat now notorious professor at UC Berkeley, who I had but is no longer there, who got away with his treatment of women for so long. You knew there was a huge power imbalance. That just feeds an imposter syndrome... makes some women think, 'The only reason I'm here is because so and so wrote me a letter of recommendation. The only reason I got that letter of recommendation is because he didn't want me to talk.'

ACH: Female colleagues can sometimes be the obstacles too. At my first position, there were two other women and their attitude was, 'I faced these things and you should have to go through it,' rather than find a way so no other women had to experience it.

MC: I think for women and minorities, we have to be strong and firm about what we can do. The obstacles are there, it's how you deal with them. You can change the obstacles to become opportunities if you approach them in another way.

DS: It's tough because we are supposed to be kind and soft-spoken, and at the same time speak up? Stand tall? Ask for leadership? These are fundamentally not feminine qualities.

PH: I think that is why I sometimes feel like my voice is not heard. Sometimes, when a female is soft-spoken and kind, some people misunderstand it as a weakness. This has happened to me. I'm a kind, soft-spoken person and some people take it as a weakness. But, they don't know me. [Laughter]

JK: There are a lot of obstacles and a culture that says it's welcoming to women, but that's only skin deep sometimes.

ACH: For a lot of us, we are hardest on ourselves. The pressure is there, but we put a lot of it on ourselves too.

AS MENTORS AND ROLE MODELS, HOW DO YOU ENCOURAGE FEMALE STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR CAREER PASSIONS?

MC: The first day of class, I introduce myself and tell them I'm from Taiwan, have a liberal arts background and came to the United States to get a computer science degree. Now, I have a doctorate in finance and am teaching it. I think telling students what we've been through is a good way to communicate, especially to our female students, what they can do in their futures.

PH: I do the same, tell them my story to motivate them. I find that when students do undergraduate research they are more likely to pursue Ph.D programs. If we can find a way to encourage them to do research, get them paid with grants, there is a better chance they will become even more successful.

ACH: I teach a first-year engineering section and tell those who intend to major in engineering the story of me wanting and pursuing an engineering career. How some friends and family friends told me, 'You don't want to be an engineer. Women can't be good engineers. They are nice to have around, but they are never going to be good [engineers].' I never listened to them, and my parents dismissed them as well.

DS: I remember interviewing for jobs at conferences and there were very few women to be found. The average economics professor [in the United States] is a middle-aged white male. How can women feel they can go into this line of work if they never see a female in that capacity? Because it's difficult to find

WOMEN PAY 42%
MORE FOR PRODUCTS
LIKE DEODORANT
THAN MEN

professionally accomplished women in economics, I actively seek role models for my students. I took a group of young ladies to the Federal Reserve in St. Louis for the Women in Economics Symposium. It was in stark contrast to what I [normally] see in my profession...all these females in the main room of the Federal Reserve Bank!

JK: It's important to emphasize to students that just because they study a field in college doesn't mean that's where they'll end up in their career. It's especially true to let women know that it's okay to be well-rounded. I had a nonlinear path. First it was physics, then astronomy, then engineering. I think all that comes together to make me a more well-rounded engineer.

WHAT INSIGHTS AND ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER FOR SUCCESS?

DS: ...success...it's a work in progress.

ACH: Knowing what your absolute values are helps you move through some of the challenges one might encounter, whether it's these infrequent ones or more systemic ones, to just hold true to that, so if you do encounter things that are inappropriate and barriers, either first brush it off, counter it or be part of how you can help change that, and not relent if it is something that has a lot of personal value to you.

JK: Stubbornness. [Laughter.] Be respectful, nice, and do favors for other people and they'll do favors for you. All this goes to building your networks that can enhance your career and be mutually beneficial for everyone. At USI, I feel like its family. That's something I haven't felt before. It's been really nice at USI because nobody seems to doubt me. It was a fresh start coming here.

DS: I'm willing to work super hard because I come from a lot of hardship in my background. That drives me: ambition and adversity are good ingredients for gratitude, but also a good life.

MC: Look for opportunities to learn new things. I wasn't afraid to change fields and start a new degree. I told my kids that after I retire I'm going to go get a bachelor's degree in math. They called me crazy. [Laughter.] I think for female students, we need to let them know they can do it, as long as they know what they are doing. To be strong and get their ideas across.

PH: Be enthusiastic and take challenges as motivational factors. When I see a challenge, I want to overcome it.

WHAT CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE TO BALANCE THE POWER BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?


ACH: If there are only a few women in the field there is only so much support, and if the majority are not women, then you need the support and the buy-in from the majority that it's actually beneficial for all. Whether it's policies or the culture of who gets invited or not, or whether its explicit or implicit.

DS: The problem is really systemic [in the United States]. If you look at the more equitable gender societies, Scandinavian countries mainly, these problems don't exist. We need more women on executive boards and in top-rank government positions and businesses; you have to have policies to support that. They have maternity and paternity leave, equal pay laws and affordable and accessible child care. These are the things I think would empower women to pursue meaningful careers and be successful.

ACH: Policy change can be difficult. How can our language, our approach to interacting with others, be more inclusive, aware and sensitive?

PH: Recruiting women and providing the resources and support they need to be successful.

ACH: It's important to advocate for other women in the profession, which also helps advocate for our students and mentees. In addition to exposing girls and women to all the opportunities that are out there, creating a culture where everybody, regardless of their gender or other types of attributes, is supportive of everybody.

DS: We have to talk to our daughters and empower them. We have to reach out to our students. We have to make sure they are exposed to the type of information that inspires them to consider career options. I was the only mom not on the school bus for a field trip and my daughter said, 'Where were you Mommy?' That was hard to hear. She knows my work is important to both me and our family, and she enjoys the benefits of it too. So I said, 'I was at work. Let's have this conversation.' 




P



Overball

A TALE OF VICTORY

by C. L. Stambush



Nobody knows exactly what pulled USI's promising pre-season softball team out of a downward spiral to become the first softball team in the state of Indiana to win an NCAA national championship.

Some players say it was Potter Power—they relentlessly watched Harry Potter movies on bus trips to games to ensure wins after watching one the night before they broke a losing streak. Others think it was the motto their team adopted early in the season: “ope,” a Midwest expression of surprise. Many might think it was a combination of both, seasoned with a few other mojo-moves, such as batting order, hair-braiding and Red Bull consumption. While fun to joke about, the fact is no magic or motto is responsible for the team's Phoenix rise and historic win. That resulted from pure grit, character, integrity, determination and the faith they had in each other.

Entering the season ranked sixth in the nation, the team's skills were there from the start but it took time for the talent to cohere while players got to know each other. “We struggled consistently throughout the season, but somehow we figured out a way to better ourselves,” said outfielder Caitlyn Bradley '19, a junior who'd played on USI's 2017 NCAA Division II Midwest Region title-winning team. Head coach Sue Kunkle (17 years at USI and 500 wins) and her staff (NCAA II Coaching Staff of the Year winners) knew from the beginning they had “a World Series team, but we were going to get there in a very different way.”

(Continued on page 28)

Our Season Pictures



I think the big things that helped us throughout this wild and crazy season were the bonding moments and team-building opportunities. We even played a whiffle ball tournament against each other in Illinois after we played SIU Carbondale in the fall. We cooked s'mores and grilled hotdogs. It was a day I will never forget.

Lindsey Barr '19 - #6 Catcher
Elementary Education (Mathematics)
Junior from Whitesville, Kentucky



My USI ceramics professor Al Holen came to our celebration after we won the national championship. I had her for one class my sophomore year, and after that she has continuously cheered for me and our team. I was so happy to see her, I almost cried!

Mena Fulton '18 - #22 Third Base

in



It's camaraderie and togetherness that make a team a national championship team. The ability to overcome adversity in the rough of our season says it all. This whole post season was crazy, fun and exciting; the perfect words to describe my team.

Claire Johnson '19 - #11 Second Base
Exercise Science/Kinesiology
Junior from Pittsboro, Indiana



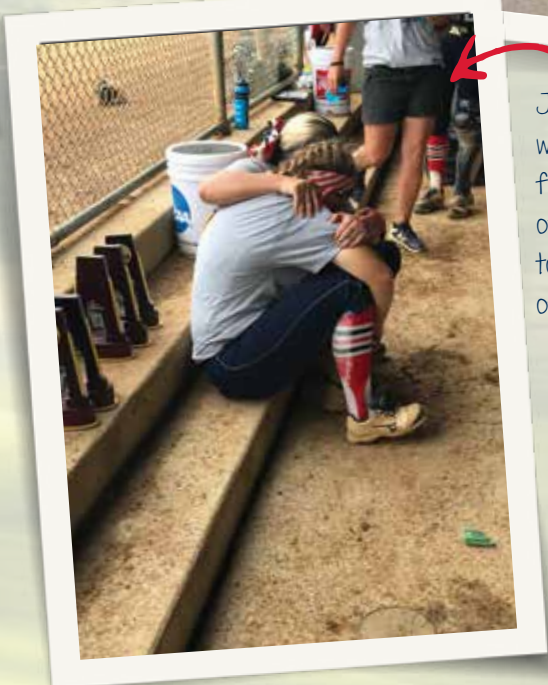
Coach Kunkle would do anything to make us happy and push us to be better.

Taylor Ricketts '20 - #21 Shortstop
Pre-Early Childhood Education
Georgetown, Kentucky



My girlfriend brought my dog Jase all the way to Peoria to watch our championship game. When softball, school and my internship were creating a lot of stress in my life, Jase was always happy to see me.

Mena Fulton '18 - #22 Third Base



Jennifer consoling me after we won. While I was ready to retire from the sport, it was still overwhelmingly emotional for me to know I was taking my cleats off for the last time.

Mena Fulton '18 - #22 Third Base
Accounting and Professional Services/
Computer Information Systems
Bloomington, Indiana



To relieve stress when finals were going on and conference tournament was about to start, Allison Schubert and I colored!

Lindsey Barr '19 - #6 Catcher



I'd been playing in cleats with a hole in them throughout post season, so my teammate Mena Fulton told me to take them off and wear hers for the remainder of the season.

Jennifer Leonhardt '20 - #3 Pitcher
Biology (Pre-Dentistry)
Louisville, Kentucky

Jennifer Leonhardt and I getting in the mood—Potter Power style—before our first championship game.

Lindsey Barr '19 – #6 Catcher



Dubbed the Cinderella team late in the season, their early games weren't pretty, as players battled injuries alongside bruised spirits as the team tumbled to 16th, then plunged off the charts and out of the top 25 within weeks. "We had A LOT of bumps and bruises this season," said catcher Lindsey Barr '19, a junior from Whitesville, Kentucky. "Many of us didn't know if we would be able to pull through."

Players confidence faltered, frustrations rose and tears flowed, despite the coaches' assurances that skill wasn't the problem. "It's not physical ability. Not glove work. Not swings," Kunkle said. "It's all in their heads at this point. Once you make a mistake, then you make two more and start to feel..."

Having tried every tactic, and out of inspirational ideas, the coaches told the players to "Go play ball. Enjoy yourselves," Kunkle said. "Stop thinking about everyone asking you, 'Why aren't you doing well?'"

By the end of regular season, the team's record was 27-22 overall, and 15-13 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC)—far from rock-star status as they eked their way into the GLVC Tournament. That's when the wins started popping like champagne corks as they steadily toppled teams, sweeping their way to the GLVC title, a first for USI in 20 years, before winning the Midwest Region #1 Tournament, beating teams with superior rankings.

On the road from February to May, the team bounced between Alabama, Indiana, Florida, Illinois and Michigan before rolling into the NCAA Division II Championship in Salem, Virginia, as an unstoppable, united force that refused to lose, capturing the Division title and making history. "Who does that?" Kunkle said. "Who does what we did?"

Teams who support each other, have fun together, endure trying moments as one and believe in their hearts that anything is possible. "Most people think of 'learning years' as a down season or a season that isn't as successful as others," said sophomore pitcher Jennifer Leonhardt '20, a Louisville native and NCAA II Softball Championship Most Outstanding Player, "but I think our success in the post season made this season a learning year. It showed us what we can do, and that anything can happen at tournament time!"



We spent pretty much every occasion together—Super Bowl, Halloween—we even went out to the field to watch the solar eclipse. Being student athletes, our schedules between school and ball can get tedious, so we always look forward to stuff like this!

Jennifer Leonhardt '20 – Pitcher



My family wasn't able to come to many games, but we did go to Disney World together on our off day during spring break in Florida.

Jennifer Leonhardt '20 – Pitcher

How Jennifer (Leonhardt, right) takes study breaks on the bus, and how Caitlyn (Bradley) spends her bus rides.

Haley Shouse '21 - #24 First Base
Business Administration
Borden, Indiana

USI's student athletes spend hours on the bus, missing classes and tests, yet 95% of this team maintains a 3.3 GPA.



Allison Schubert signing a ball.

Allison Schubert '20 - #5 Outfielder
Health Services
Nicholasville, Kentucky



When you realize you're about to head to the championship game of the GLVC tournament.

Olivia Clark-Kittleson '18 - #2 Outfielder
Kinesiology
Carbondale, Illinois



No pain, no gain, no natty, right? I'm not sure how our team would've survived this season without our amazing trainer Joey Silva.

Lindsey Barr '19 - #6 Catcher



I cross my fingers when our lineup is being announced. I always do this because it is what I did in high school with my team. It's a humbling reminder of where I came from and the process of getting to where I am now.

Lindsey Barr '19 - #6 Catcher



My teammates' faces, excitement and adrenaline rushes are crystal-clear in this picture, and I'm taken back to that moment and how it felt to break the 0-0 tie. I've learned that this game isn't all about winning, but when you are that close to a national championship title, you can't help but feel that extra sense of urgency to capture the win.

Caitlyn Bradley '19 - #4 Outfielder
Exercise Science/Kinesiology
Forest, Indiana



We were 17-16 at one point in our season, but if you ask any of the seniors, we BELIEVED in our team. We BELIEVED as long as we had fun and played carefree, things would be okay. We wanted to end our season, however it ended, in a positive way! Look at us now. I'm still in shock about being a national champion. I will always say a team with a lot of passion, grit and determination makes things happen.

Marleah Fossett '18 - #7 First Base
Pre-Occupational Therapy
Brownsville, Indiana

We traveled all the way up to Wisconsin to play in 20-degree weather... the number of layers we had on was one for the record books.

Olivia Clark-Kittleson '18 - #2 Outfielder



The Learning Curve: Factoring in the Human Equation

by C. L. Stambush (contributing
interviews from Angela St. Clair M'99)

Dr. Gabriela Mustata Wilson knew it was an opportunity for her Master of Health Administration (MHA) students to participate as a team in an inter-professional research project she couldn't let slip by. A medical device company in Chicago had developed an intravenous catheter stabilizer—what it hoped was an industry game-changer—and needed to partner with two teams: one to conduct clinical research in a hospital setting on the product's effectiveness, and another to collect data recorded from the hospital's electronic health records (HER), analyze it and present the findings to its corporate team. "This was a great opportunity for my students because they would be working with professionals, learning how to access electronic records and see how fragmented that information can be," Wilson said.

Chair of the health informatics and information management program, Wilson is an astute relationship builder who'd honed her leadership skills working as a scientist and researcher, in the pharmaceutical industry and two renowned academic research institutions, before joining USI in 2011. When she heard about the research project through one of her connections at St. Vincent Evansville hospital, she

understood the value such collaborative research with professionals could have for students and set out to develop a team to mine and analyze the data. "Research is very important for students," she said. "It has to be, for them to be employable."

Wilson hand-picked an eclectic quartet of curious-minded, diversely-skilled young professionals eager to participate in the project based on their individual aptitudes. She knew their distinct outlooks would benefit the project and that friendship would be central to the team's success.

Three were from the College of Nursing and Health Professions' MHA online course and one from its 4+1 program, which allows students to obtain a bachelor and master's degree in five years while attending classes on campus. Of the four, two were international students—Bhumika Gandhi '18 from India and Ru Jia '18 from China—while Terilea Patton '18 lived in Evansville and Debra Silberberg '18 resided in Indianapolis. They were single, married, married with children, fulltime working professionals and students with different perspectives and life experiences. The only common language they shared was a fluency in their desire to help others and their passion for the project—traits

they'd rely on as they faced personal and project-related challenges and conflicts.

In January 2017, the group met with representatives from the company (PrimeGuard) and St. Vincent to discuss the project's parameters and data extraction process. At the time, it was believed the project would take six months and the information could be retrieved via a "data dump" accessed remotely. "But guess what?" Wilson said. "That wasn't the case." Instead, the data had to be collected on site at night and on weekends, manually extracting it from the EHRs into a database the students created in order to analyze what they collected.

As the team built a baseline of information, learned how the nurses did their clinical assessments and documented their observations, they discovered some missing data from the EHRs which would render the project valueless. "The students analyzed the data and determined what else was



missing and found other problems,” Wilson said. “Based on our recommendations, and discussions with the company from Chicago, St. Vincent implemented our proposed modifications to the clinical study.”

Focusing on the project’s technical aspects while adapting to its shifting terrain as other hurdles appeared—such as, not being able to shadow the nurses as they collected data—the students grappled to find their groove as they worked out communication kinks and scheduling conflicts. “In the beginning, everything worked fine because everyone was excited about the project,” Wilson said. “But then

play with my kids, then read it again. It had a whole new meaning then.”

To build their relationships, Wilson arranged meetings at Starbucks and other locations to talk about the project in a relaxed environment or just hang out. “I wanted them to get to know each other,” she said, “because exchanging information through emails is not teamwork.”

Seven months into the data collection, however, she discovered new wrinkles in the team’s sinew that concerned her. “This was a research project, but most of all it was a leadership project,” Wilson said. “If you’re the leader of a team you are the one who needs to find the strengths and weaknesses of each member and how they communicate with each other, extracting the best from each regardless of their personality or style. I told them, ‘The only person you can change is yourself.’”

Wilson encouraged each one to embrace their role and draw on each other’s strengths. Patton shined as the “glue” and mediator, communicating next steps to the others based on the project’s needs; Gandhi excelled in the statistical analysis portion of the project and its organization for the presentation; Jia dominated when it came to calculations and identifying mistakes; and, Silberberg’s genius in coming up with a plan early-on that color-coded the information recorded in the database, made it easy for everyone to organize and understand the data.

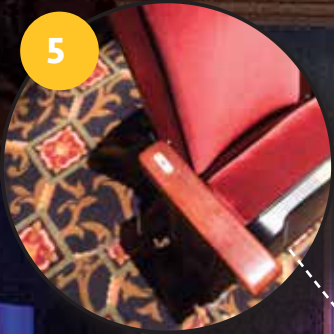
we ran into some language barriers and cultural misunderstandings.”

The problems they experienced were rooted in communication, both technological and psychological. Not everyone’s phone texting applications synced, creating a gap within the group’s initial communications, so they switched to emails. Tones, however, were sometimes viewed as terse, especially at the end of a long day. “A bad day at work could affect how emails were perceived,” said Patton. “I had to learn that if I was upset about an email I had to step away, have a cup of coffee or

Over the course of the project’s 18 months, the team surpassed their client’s expectations with their analysis of the data. “Everyone was always willing to offer to do things and help each other out if needed,” Silberberg said. But there was much more to the project. It allowed them to pioneer deeper relationships and understandings of each other, growing their capacity for empathy, patience, acceptance and trust that’s imperative for all successful teams, while improving their ability to comprehend complex data based on another’s opinion and perspective. But mostly, they became friends. “I never knew friendship was a skill,” Patton said, “until now.”



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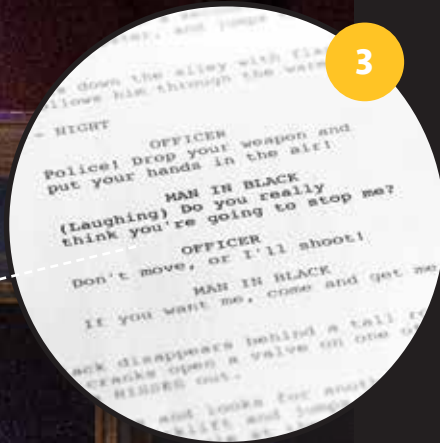
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BEHIND THE SCENE

3



Built in 1914, Murphy Auditorium—home to USI's New Harmony Theatre in New Harmony, Indiana—was likely constructed to host lectures and chamber concerts, and not as a stage for professional and chamber concerts, and not as a stage for professional actors from New York City and elsewhere.

area actors but, since 2001, the theatre has been committed to attracting the highest quality performers for its summer productions, including many Broadway veterans. It's now the only Actors Equity (the union of professional actors and stage managers) stage within 100 miles.

In 1988, armed with USI's mission to enrich cultural life in southwest Indiana, the late Jim Blevins, emeritus dean of USI's College of Liberal Arts (CoLA), was charged with creating a "truly professional theatre." Initially, the number of Broadway-esque actors on stage was one or two, with the remaining roles played by

Today, USI's New Harmony Theatre has emerged as a Mecca for seasoned theatre professionals from LA to NYC seeking a highly-reputable platform to display their talents in both building the sets of and performing in Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning plays.

1. The realistic appearance of each play's set is in the magic of their creation. The moulding in the set of *Born Yesterday* appears as solid wood but instead is carved from foam. The set is constructed at CoLA's scene shop on campus and then transported and assembled in New Harmony. The 1,000 feet of moulding required in this play must align perfectly with adjoining panels, otherwise the audience's experience suffers.
2. Eight hundred-plus hours go into constructing sets such as *Born Yesterday*. The crews, consisting of construction, paint, electrical and prop experts, converge on the tiny town from across the nation, working in rotating shifts throughout the day and night to ensure the sets are perfect.
3. In the early years, mostly classic plays—with a focus on works by Tennessee Williams—were produced, but audiences prefer a sampling of diverse shows, so each season offers a drama, a comedy and a musical, or possibly a thriller.
4. Prior to Elliot Wasserman, professor of theatre and artistic director of New Harmony Theatre, traveling to New York City annually for four days to cast all the parts in the season's plays, he sorts through hundreds of submissions from actors and agents. For instance, more than 600 actors vied for each of the three lead roles in *Born Yesterday*. Actors' Equity Association actors Kristin Wetherington and Michael McKenzie.
5. The acoustics in Murphy Auditorium are so pitch-perfect, theatre goers in the back rows can hear actors whisper on stage.

4





HOW TO BE POLITICAL AND STILL BE CIVIL

Engaging in political conversations can be tense at times (to say the least) or downright volatile. Yet the importance of such exchanges, when civil, is vital to our political understanding. Faculty experts have some insights when it comes to these conversations.

"The key to engaging in productive political conversations is to remember that every political issue involves facts and values. The question as to whether legalized abortion or restricted immigration reduces crimes has an objective, fact-based answer. Good political conversations evaluate the facts to make informed decisions. At the same time, agreement on the facts isn't the only thing that matters in policy. Even if capital punishment lowers crime rates, the likelihood of someone changing their perspective is minimal. Thus, the second goal of political discussion is perspective-taking, which requires authentic listening to understand why others believe what they do."

DR. TRENT ENGBERS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I think you work backward. Start with the person. You get to know their personality, what makes them tick, their interests and their story. Once you get around to talking politics, you can see how all of that translates into whatever their views are. If you start with politics, and the most important fact is "this person supports Trump/Clinton," it poisons everything else, including personal relationships and productive conversations about current events. Last, remain humble. I don't know everything—and it's a complicated world—so I'm not surprised or offended when people come to a different conclusion than I do."

DR. NICHOLAS LAROWE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

THE SOUND OF SERENDIPITY

Daniel Craig doesn't believe in serendipity, but it might be working to convince him otherwise. The associate professor of music and loyal listener to *Adventures in Good Music with Karl Haas*, the longest airing hour-long classical music program in American radio history, says he often pulled to the side of the road as a student to absorb Haas' insights into a particular composer's musical strategies. Years later, after Haas died and his voice no longer whispered into Craig's ear, he felt the void. "He brought out the central points in classical music in such a manner that the uninitiated could appreciate it."

Serendipity crept into Craig's life when he joined USI's faculty in 2000 and met Dr. Jane Johansen, professor emerita of business communication. "She'd been Haas' executive producer and still possessed many master tapes of his program on reel-to-reels," Craig says.

Knowing reel-to-reels eventually degrade—as the magnetic particles containing sound break down—Craig and Johansen undertook a mission to preserve Haas' programs and make them accessible to the public for years. "Unless digitalized," Craig says, "they will be of no use to anyone."

Saving the music required recovering the reels' magnetic binders and finding obsolete reel-to-reel tape players for the digitalization-transfer process. Researching ways to restore, Craig discovered food dehydrators proved most effective, in

particular the Snack Master 4000, which he happened to have sitting unused in his basement.

Discovering the University owned one reel-to-reel, Craig borrowed four more from Johansen, public radio WNIN and USI's station, WSWI. But even with access to the recorders, the process is protracted and the reinitialization of the soundtracks iffy. "They can last two to three days or two to three months," Craig says, who estimates the project will take five years to complete, even with the help of students.

Once digitalized and catalogued, Haas' edification of classical music will revert to a global audience once again, when Johansen donates the project to the Library of Congress, USI's Rice Library and fellow faculty to incorporate into their courses.



A LIFELINE FOR THOSE DROWNING IN TECH-SATURATED WORLDS BY JASON FERTIG

I can usually control my splurging at all-you-can-eat food buffets, but not so much at the all-you-can-eat information buffets available to me on the internet. The pull to browse can be so strong at times that it's a battle to remain productive. However, as a management professor, I'm interested in developing personal effectiveness, and one of the largest obstacles faced by many people is learning to manage technology before it manages us.

Professor Cal Newport, author of *Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World*, argues that to achieve periods of focused, uninterrupted work, we should be meticulous about the technology we allow into our worlds. Newport advises only adopting a new technology after a conscious evaluation of whether that technology is a net gain. This assertion is why I made a decision to downgrade to a flip phone, and why I urge you not to ditch all of your screens, but to get real with how they affect your daily life.

The cameras and maps alone are an incredible convenience that make smartphones highly attractive purchases. However, there is a dark side amidst all of our clicking and swiping. More than a few people sleep next to their phones, use them in bed before falling asleep or reach for them out of compulsion because it beeped. As a result, we have a population of people

who are detached, sleep-deprived and distracted. Seeing one new like or reading one small tidbit of new information provides a small, addictive hit of dopamine that keeps users hooked like the "Bet you can't eat just one" potato chip truism. There is no end of the internet.



I urge you to be proactive with the entities competing for your attention. To aid you in this endeavor, consider two strategies I amassed through my reading on the best practices in self-management.

Plan for a digital sabbath once a week. Schedule a time when you will access digital technologies only in an emergency. A day allows for a deeper mental reboot (or feel free to take a whole weekend), but

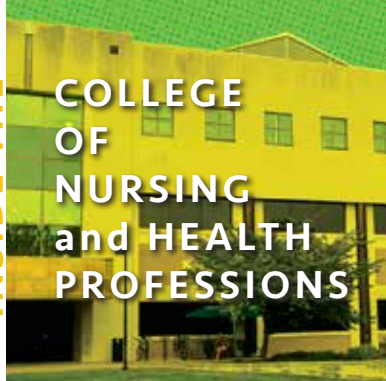
for some, an hour or two may be more realistic. Whatever timeframe you choose, use it to connect with others, your hobbies, nature or to just space out.

Process your emails at a few selected times per day. While many businesses communicate internally with instant messages, email is still widely employed and time usurping. When considering our electronic communication of choice, we want to process it, not scan it. Every time you scan your emails without action on them, you create what productivity guru David Allen calls "open loops" that reduce your willpower. To free yourself, block off a few periods throughout the day to reply, delete and file. If you feel that your company culture expects instant email responses, there may be a culture problem to confront.

Don't take my two suggestions for granted. Common sense is not common practice. If you can successfully implement a Digital Sabbath and achieve Inbox Zero over the long-term, you'll amaze yourself at what you can achieve with your newfound freedom.



Dr. Jason Fertig is a USI associate professor of management who teaches various management and human resource courses in the Romain College of Business. His research interests include millennials in the workplace and personal productivity. He loves spending time with his wife, son and three cats, and enjoys various forms of fitness: weightlifting, Aikido, Yoga and playing golf poorly. In his spare time, he tries to get work done.



THE LOWDOWN ON GETTING THE CARE YOU NEED *By Amy Pierce*

I suffered with chronic pain for almost a year before I received the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. The physical pain led me to question my mental and spiritual care as I lay awake in bed crying. I saw multiple health care providers, went through various diagnostic tests and was prescribed several different types of medications, which did not relieve or reduce the pain. I would have benefited from a referral for palliative care—health care services aimed toward improving the quality of life for those living with chronic conditions—but I didn't know about such services, nor were they offered to me. Knowing first-hand how crucial such care is, as a USI nursing instructor, I'm eager to educate my students and *illumine* readers alike.

Since chronic illness requires medical treatments, long-term medications, frequent medical appointments and lifestyle changes, receiving palliative care early in the management of a chronic illness benefits the individual and their family. Unfortunately, it is not often prescribed during the early management stages due to our culture's focus on curative treatments instead of the prevention and maintenance of chronic diseases, and patients' lack of awareness to ask their doctors for referrals to get it. Additionally, lack of resources to make it available in your area and insurance coverage restrict access as well. In these cases, collaboration with a health care institutions' social services department may be beneficial. As a result of the lack of palliative care, millions of people in

our country live without many services that would improve their lives.

During that difficult year, prior to being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, had I known to ask my doctor for a palliative care referral, I would not have felt so alone and helpless. Which is why I'm so passionate to educate everyone about palliative care and how such services can improve their quality of life. If you know someone living with a chronic illness, I encourage you to talk to them about palliative care, so he/she can talk to their physician and improve their life.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PALLIATIVE CARE:

1. Individuals diagnosed with a chronic and life-threatening disease such as diabetes, congestive heart failure, obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer, arthritis or kidney disease can receive palliative-care referrals.
2. Palliative care can be instituted at any time after the diagnosis of a chronic disease, regardless of a person's age.
3. Palliative care can be utilized while individuals are receiving medical therapy, unlike hospice care, which is instituted when an individual has a life expectancy of less than six months.
4. Palliative care teams utilize holistic treatments addressing the physical, psychological, social, and

spiritual needs of individuals and their families.

- a. Palliative care treats physical symptoms associated with chronic illness including but not limited to pain, appetite, nausea, shortness of breath, constipation, diarrhea, confusion and irritability.
- b. Psychologically, palliative care services aid in the treatment of anxiety, depression and fear.
- c. Socially, palliative care teams discuss the individuals and families' goals for care, financial concerns and caregiver strain.
- d. Palliative care providers use counseling, deep listening, presence, realistic perspective and compassion for all individuals diagnosed with chronic diseases.

5. Palliative care providers can prepare the individual and family for death, and assists families through bereavement processes.

6. Health care prescribers must order a palliative care consult for individuals with chronic diseases to benefit from inpatient and outpatient palliative care services.



Amy Pierce is a USI instructor in nursing and practices as a registered nurse for the Comprehensive Pain Management Center at the Deaconess Gateway Campus. She's pleased to let readers know the College instituted a new course in fall 2018 that focuses on caring for individuals and families with chronic disease, which encompasses palliative care.

THE BENEFITS OF EXPOSING STUDENTS TO UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Recognized for its community engagement by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching—it's one of only 157 universities nationwide to earn the distinction twice—USI's ongoing collaboration with the Tri-state community begins on campus with students and faculty.

Across disciplines within the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, faculty mentors involve students in their research initiatives that provide hands-on learning, allow them to explore career opportunities, build transferable skills and enhance resumes, while teaching them to publicly advocate for and defend their work. It also gives them a leg up on graduate or professional school, contributes to their knowledge while impacting the world, and develops curious and inquisitive minds.

“Through geology and physics research, students deepen their understanding of a subject, and collect and interpret real-world data while being engaged with faculty members and other students conducting the research. Most importantly, they share the results of their research at regional or national conferences, and in some cases, co-author a journal article with a faculty member while building students' confidence.”

DR. WILLIAM ELLIOT
CHAIR, ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY



“Undergraduate research is so important that it's a required part of chemistry and biochemistry degrees at USI. Understanding research methodology in turn enhances students' classroom learning experiences by showing them the process by which discoveries are made. The instrumentation and materials that are used allow them to see chemistry and biochemistry in a real-world setting. The excitement of a new research discovery and involvement in research often leads students to graduate school studies and beyond.”

DR. KEN WALSH
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
CHEMISTRY

“Their knowledge is greatly enhanced by attaining research experience early in their academic tenures. Regardless of the type of research, there are commonalities that students benefit from. First, they develop creativity, problem-solving, intellectual independence, oral/written and critical thinking skills that are valuable when pursuing a career or graduate school. Second, students acquire hands-on experiences through the opportunity to integrate theory and practice to become professionals within their discipline. Finally, it provides an opportunity to work alongside a professor in providing an understanding of the research process.”

DR. GLENNA BOWER '95
ASSOCIATE DEAN, PROFESSOR
OF KINESIOLOGY AND SPORT

Born in the Middle East, Hasan Odeh '10 M'13, electrical engineering and industrial management, immigrated to the United States with his family at the age of 3, a life change that instilled in him the ability to adapt to new realms, places and adventures. A quiet kid who liked trying different things, he was content to play alone, and immersed himself in Legos and later video games—foundational experiences that contributed to his career today at Tesla.

How

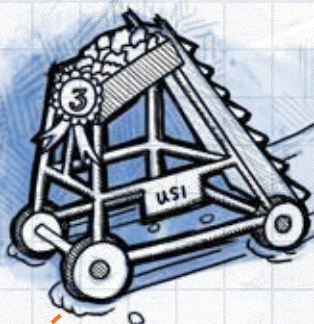
2006-2010

I came to USI to be close to my brother, who lived in Evansville, and fell for the campus. My love of Legos was revived when I built a seeing-eye robot out of Legos in an intro to engineering course. I got the bug for engineering and robotics. My senior project competed in NASA's First Annual Robotics Mining Competition and won third place.



USI provided me with two internship opportunities at GE Plastics (SABIC) in technology and engineering during my sophomore and junior summers. It's vital for students to gain industry experience in their fields early on so they can get a feel for what they'll be doing.

The amazing engineering faculty at USI helped me interface with businesses through class projects and encouraged me to think about how engineering can tie into manufacturing.



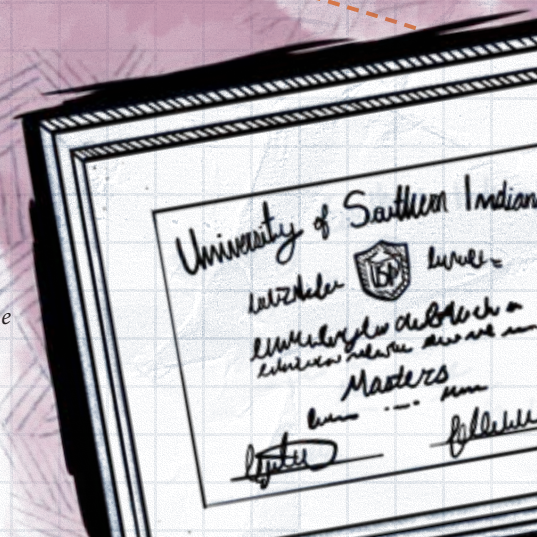
Hasan

2010-2012

My first job was as a continuous improvement engineer for Paoli, Inc., in Paoli, Indiana, a high-end business furniture company. There I learned the valuable lesson that respect is earned through hard work, regardless of where you are within an organization or your degree.



I enjoyed the work but was ready for a new challenge and wanted to grow my education as I grew my career. I returned to USI for my master's degree and took a full time engineering position at SRG Global in Evansville, which manufactures chrome grills for much of the auto industry.



Illustrated by Beth Eversole '18



2016-now

I started thinking of the next cool thing to do, and was intrigued with Tesla's mission of sustainable energy throughout the world, but especially in vehicles. With some encouragement from my brother, I decided to apply online after Tesla revealed its Model 3.



Initially, I worked on the electrical battery pack of Models S/X 100 KWh launch—the fastest acceleration production car ever made—before moving into a manufacturing engineering position.

The soft skills I gained as an RA at USI—how to approach people, solve problems, constantly improve things, coach people—are used in what I do today.

I'm connected to Tesla's mission and have great job satisfaction, which keeps me wanting to overcome obstacles and help accelerate its mission. One day, however, I want to become an entrepreneur and help humanity with a great product that I invent myself; to create the next big opportunity for others.



Got

2012-2016

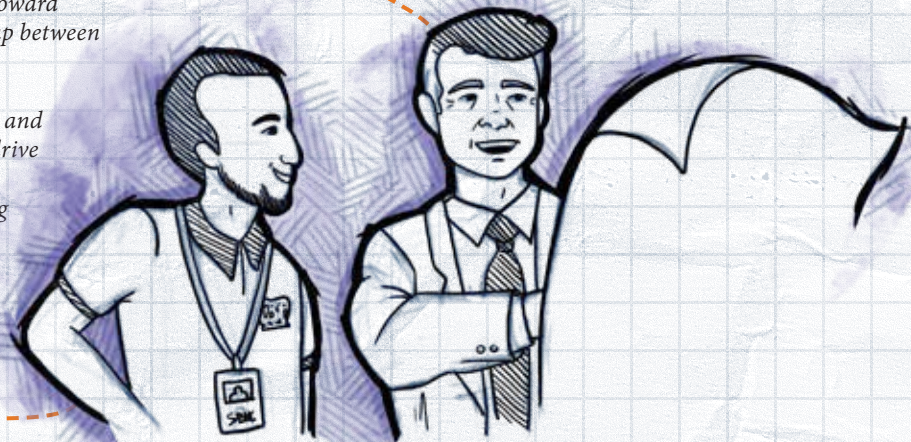
I faced new challenges at SRG, and my interest in the automotive sector took off due to the high automation and robotics in the industry. My career veered more toward manufacturing engineering, which bridges the gap between design and mass production of parts.

I was fortunate to have strong, seasoned mentors and industry veterans who taught me the value and drive of tenacity to complete tasks, and supported my pursuit of an advanced degree. It was an amazing opportunity to be able to learn something in a class one night and put that knowledge to work at SRG the next day.

Here

TAKEAWAY:

Get out of your comfort zone, because that's where you'll find the next big thing in your life.





As you embark on this new journey as USI's president, always keep the opinions and concerns of faculty and students in mind and treat them with sincerity. Pleased students and faculty equal a happy campus and a happy campus equals a satisfied president. Remember what Calvin Coolidge said, "We cannot do everything at once but one can do something at once."

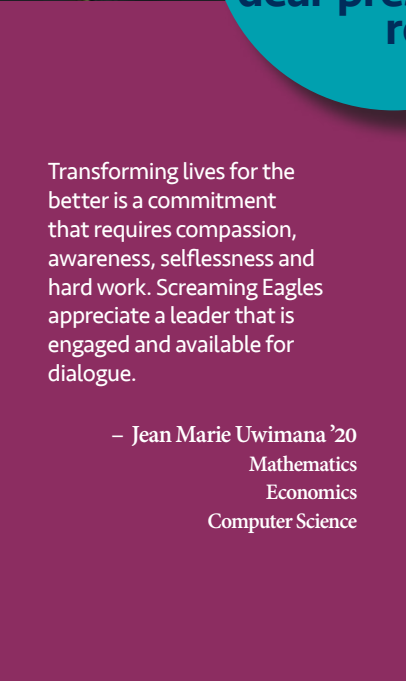
– Erica Richardson '18
Criminal Justice

Open Dialogue
dear president rochon



Never stop asking questions. The students here always have something they wish could be changed, tweaked or added to our campus community to help improve our University; they just need to see that the person who can help them make the changes is interested and cares what they have to say.

– Shane Shelton '18
Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education



Transforming lives for the better is a commitment that requires compassion, awareness, selflessness and hard work. Screaming Eagles appreciate a leader that is engaged and available for dialogue.

– Jean Marie Uwimana '20
Mathematics
Economics
Computer Science



Embrace USI's innovative culture. Know that listening is as critical as being heard. Remember what got you here and embrace your strengths. Aspire to touch the lives of those around you. Lead like someone you would be proud to follow.

– Olivia Wilde '19
Mechanical Engineering



We have witnessed your passion for education and commitment to this University. May one of your main goals be not to grow a specific group in this University or even the University overall, but to grow people in this community.

–Nohemi Chumacero Mancilla '21
Philosophy
Management



As you venture into your demanding new career as University president, always remember to maintain a friendly and approachable attitude. It is important to provide students with a trustworthy, honest and sincere leader who strives to include the student body in all decision-making processes.

– Eric Tatum M'20
Nursing

“WHEN YOU FIRST START USING, *drug addiction* IS LIKE THE LOVE OF A GREAT ROMANCE.”

LISA SEIF | adjunct instructor in the Social Work Department, speaking on social work at the College of Liberal Arts Colloquium



“THE MOST EFFECTIVE FORM OF ORGANIZING IS HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH SOMEONE; IT MAKES IT 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WILL, WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY, *take action on an issue.*”

TIA OSLO | director of impact at Revolve Impact, presenting keynote address at the University of Southern Indiana's 2018 Nelson Mandela Social Justice Day

“Remember THIS – YOU ARE HERE TODAY ONLY BECAUSE PEOPLE IN THIS *community* BROUGHT THEIR GIFTS TOGETHER MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO TO CREATE A PUBLIC *university* IN SOUTHWEST INDIANA. THEY BELIEVED IN THAT *dream* AND SPENT YEARS APPLYING THEIR SUPERPOWERS OF PERSISTENCE, NETWORKING, PERSUASION AND GENEROSITY TO *make it happen.*”

PATTY AVERY | financial empowerment program specialist at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington, D.C., College of Liberal Arts Spring Commencement Speaker

“*Laws* INTRODUCED TO PROTECT PREGNANT WOMEN ARE BEING USED TO *punish pregnant women.*”

DR. GRACE HOWARD | assistant professor of gender studies, in a presentation titled, “A Problem that needs a Scalpel and all I’ve got is a Machete: Pregnancy, Drugs and the Limits of Law”

“*Homelessness* IS A DISEASE AND IT IS *spreading* RAPIDLY.”

TERRI “DETROIT” HUGHES | homeless activist, speaking at the Annual USI Homelessness Symposium

“HOW WE *adapt shapes* NOT ONLY THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES, BUT ALSO THE *environment* FOR THOSE *around us*. IF WE DO NOT LEARN AND ADAPT, WE FACE THE PROSPECT OF IRRELEVANCE OR EXTINCTION.”

DR. LINDA L. M. BENNETT | president emerita of the University of Southern Indiana, addressing the 2018 graduating class at commencement

“*Racism* IS NOT JUST A FEELING, IT IS *the institutionalization* OF THAT FEELING.”

DR. ANDY HINES | assistant professor of English, speaking at the public screening of Raoul Peck’s film I Am Not Your Negro presented by USI’s Department of English (using Major as Home Departmental Grants funds)

“I HAVE THIS PRECIOUS LIFE. ONE DAY IT WILL END. IF I AM *connected to those around me*, AND THOSE AFAR, HOW WILL I SPEND MY TIME? I CAN ACT TO INCREASE SUFFERING IN THIS WORLD, OR TO DECREASE IT.”

KIRT PAGE '98 | dean of academic affairs at Connect University in Yangon, Myanmar, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education Spring Commencement speaker

“I LEFT MY FAMILY’S FOUR-GENERATION BUSINESS WHEN I WAS 27 YEARS OLD AND I HAVE HAD *15 careers* SINCE THEN. EACH STEP ON THAT CAREER PATH HAS BEEN *influenced by my internal barometer.*”

ANDREW NEWMAN | author and entrepreneur, Romain College of Business’ Entrepreneur’s Perspective Speaker Series



TRAVELING: A MIND, BODY EXPERIENCE

While a USI student, Henderson, Kentucky, native Elle Floyd '18, economics, traveled to seven countries for cultural and academic exchanges—six times to Myanmar to volunteer in orphanages, work with a restoration center for survivors of human trafficking and assist with microfinance lending initiatives, and twice to Osnabrück, Germany, with Romain College of Business faculty Dr. Daria Sevastianova, associate professor of economics. Floyd, the 2018 Distinguished Trustees Merit Award winner, has learned a lot along the way, and shares her thoughts.



My time at USI **OPENED MY MIND** to the world around me, especially in my economics classes, even in an academic setting. I learned just how closely we are all connected—yes, even through economics. USI challenged me to develop critical thinking skills, analyze gripping social issues, and consider cultural and ethical perspectives.



The experience expanded my worldview in huge ways. I gained many valuable skills that will allow me to analyze and solve real-world problems, pursue lifelong learning, cultivate emotional intelligence and pursue cultural sensitivity.



There are well over 500 orphans in the network of orphanages in Myanmar that I've served. While I'm not sure I've **HUGGED EVERY SINGLE CHILD**, it often feels like it when I'm smothered with the warmest, tightest, most loving hugs each time I return "home" to these sweet kiddos.

On trips to Myanmar, I've **EATEN DELICIOUS MEALS** of various vegetables and spices with rice for every meal. In Germany, I had a pizza the size of a tire and gelato that was out of this world! In France, the tastiest little macarons—rose, pistachio and lavender flavored. In London, fish and chips to die for!



Since January 2017, I've **SAT ON** more than 30 planes, six train rides, and countless buses and motorbikes throughout Myanmar and Europe.



My feet have **TAKEN ME MANY MILES** through Myanmar (Yangon, Kalaymyo, Mandalay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Bagan); Europe—the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Germany (Osnabrück, Berlin), France (Paris), Spain (Barcelona), Italy (Rome, Venice), Switzerland (Lucerne, Basel) and the U.K. (London).



My love for Myanmar, for traveling, for the world and for people is rooted in my faith and religion. Through my travels, the **GOALS OF MY HEART** are to spread love of diversity instead of hate, open-mindedness instead of bigotry and hope instead of fear.

To pay for my travels, I've served more cups of coffee than I can even count, and filled pages and pages of journal entries that reflect on the trips. In Myanmar, I usually have at least five kids clinging to my hands when I go to the orphanages. I love **HOLDING THEIR TINY HANDS**, and wouldn't trade that experience for the world.





Class Notes

STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL us
at alumni@usi.edu.

UPDATE your information
and send photos
via the form
at
usi.edu/AlumniUpdate.

*Class notes may be edited
for length or clarity.
We regret that
we may not
be able to use all
submitted photos, and
reserve the right to select
which ones are included.*

1970s

After **Wendell Crim '75**, biophysics, retired from Eli Lilly in 2010, he started a second career driving tour buses based in Seattle, Washington, specializing in winter mountain travel in 45-foot motor coaches. Now he's retired from that and has taken to racing sailing yachts in Puget Sound and hiking the Olympic Mountains. [1]

Daniel Neufelder '79, accounting, has been named president of the West Central Region, including Indiana University Health Arnett, Frankfort and White Memorial and the IU Health Arnett Physician Group, by IU Health, Indianapolis, Indiana.

1980s

Tom Lilly '80, communications, was named president of the Owensboro Catholic Schools by the Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

John Schutz '82, business administration, a wealth-advisor with Hilliard Lyons in Evansville, was named in the *Financial Times* "400 Top Financial Advisors" for 2018.

Evansville Living Magazine voted **Emily Gartner '84**, art, "Artist of the Year." The talented alumna has a line of wearable art featuring images of historical landmarks, local neighborhoods, nature and abstract art.

Travel is a passion of **Lori (Goodman) Kissinger '84**, marketing. "I enjoy collecting states and countries. When I was younger, a goal of mine was to hit all 50 states before I was 30, which I achieved. I've also been to 20 countries and 37 of our national parks." [2]

Connie Wellmeyer '84, accounting, was an ATHENA Awards of Evansville finalist for 2018.

1990s

Tim Hayden '92, art, was named vice president and chief operating officer of the Southwest Indiana Chamber in Evansville.

After a stint in the Navy, **Doug Watson '94**, business administration, completed his studies at USI and moved back east. "I called Atlanta home for 12 years and then made a big move to the Philippines, where I stayed from 2004 to 2016. My mom is in her 90s and needs help, so I left the Philippines (a place I love and miss) and am going to make the best of it here in Jasper, Indiana."

Jon Carl '95, social science (teaching), **M'99**, secondary education, history teacher at F. J. Reitz High School, Evansville, was named one of four 2018 Outstanding Educators of Vanderburgh County.

Jena (Knopfmeir) Wessel '95, elementary education, and **Shane Wessel '99**, general science, have been married 23 years. "We've known each other

since the seventh grade and fell in love during our years at USI. After 19 years at PepsiCo, I recently changed companies and started at Monster Energy as the team lead for National Specialty Retail Accounts. Jena is in her 14th year as director of pre-school at St. Benedict Cathedral School in Evansville". [3]

Lori (Dow) Sutton '96, accounting, was an ATHENA Awards of Evansville finalist for 2018.

William R. Walz IV '97, psychology and business administration, was appointed to the LaGrange County Circuit Court by Governor Eric Holcomb.

Amy Word-Smith '97, elementary education, was an ATHENA Awards of Evansville finalist for 2018.

Brandon Cooper '99, business administration, was promoted to president with The Newburgh Group, in Newburgh, Indiana.

Sara (Steinkamp) Guth '99, elementary education, was named principal of Owensboro Catholic Middle School, Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky.

Joseph Potts '99, general science, geology and physics, was named utilities superintendent of Blucher Poole Wastewater Treatment Plant, Bloomington, Indiana.

2000s

Derek Archer '00, social science (teaching), is an assistant football coach



with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Martina (Wiedrich) Abell '01, elementary education, is a Wee Care lead instructor with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Clay Fritz '01, marketing, was made new territory leader with Duke Energy in Indiana's south region, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Brad Gonyer '01, elementary education, was named Scott/Oak Hill's principal intern with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Ben Joergens '02, marketing, is director of financial empowerment, vice president with Old National Bank in Evansville.

Stephanie (Johns) Mikulski '04, engineering technology, is a data asset specialist with Vectren, in Evansville.

Tyler Bunch '05, engineering technology, is a global research and development operations manager-employee development and training with Cook Medical in Bloomington, Indiana.

Angie (Toth) Phillips M'05, social work, was made partner with Rain Tree Consulting, LLC in Vincennes, Indiana.

Rebecca Trapp '05, psychology, is a social emotional learning specialist with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Ryan Baehl '06, engineering, was promoted to vice president of global project management with Covance in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Lori Buttram '06, early childhood education, is a Wee Care lead instructor with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Danyelle Granger M'06, public administration, was an ATHENA Awards of Evansville finalist for 2018.

Ellen (Boardman) Knapp '06, accounting, was named vice president and chief financial officer of the Southwest Indiana Chamber.

Michael LaGrange '06, engineering, is operations director with SIGMA Equipment, Inc. in Evansville.

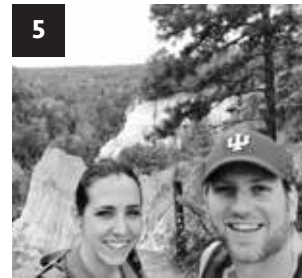
Nick Mayhall '06, chemistry, is in the process of developing new computational methods of modeling complex molecules with his National Science Foundation CAREER Award at Virginia Tech College of Science.

Jason Rucker '06, radio and television, is an assistant football coach with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Kelly (Garrett) Whittaker '06, elementary education, is the first female principal with Ottawa High School in Ottawa, Kansas.

Semise (Harrison-Gary) Daley '07 nursing, M'09, family nurse practitioner, traveled to Jeremie, Haiti, last spring on a mission trip to visit the hospital and orphanage, and conducted a three-day women's conference. [4]

Aaron Megal '07, engineering technology, is a senior application engineer with Flanders in Evansville.



Casey (Alexander) Thorbeck '07, finance, was promoted to senior import/export specialist, OTC regional process lead with Mead Johnson Nutritional, in Evansville.

Michele Branson-Bopp M'08, elementary education, principal of Washington Middle School, in Evansville, was named one of four 2018 Outstanding Educators of Vanderburgh County.

Sam Tolen '08, engineering, is the resource manager with Rieth-Riley Construction Co. Inc., in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Ryan Botsch '09, accounting and professional services, was made chief executive officer with Illuminent in Laguna Hills, California.

Mandy (Brodie) Chinn '09, accounting and professional studies, was promoted to assistant controller with Regency Properties in Evansville.

Whitney (Hood) Thompson '09, radiologic and imaging sciences, is the lead ultrasound technologist with Indiana Vein Specialists in Carmel, Indiana.

Adam Trinkel '09, political science and public relations and advertising, was hired as events and marketing manager with Downtown Evansville Economic Improvement District.

Kendra Vanzo M'09, business administration, was an ATHENA Awards of Evansville finalist for 2018.



Brandon Wilson '09, health services, is the financial navigator with Indiana University Health North in Carmel, Indiana.

2010s

Hasan Odeh '10, engineering, M'14, industrial management, is a senior manufacturing engineer-power electronics engineer with Tesla in Palo Alto, California.

Daniel Bullock '11, accounting and professional services, was appointed as the new chief executive officer with Sterling United Federal Credit Union in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Kurt Hagenmaier '11, business administration, was promoted to financial officer with Edward Jones in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jami (Terwiske) Englert '12, early childhood, is a Wee Care lead instructor with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Dylan Melling '12, political science, is the district director of Boy Scouts of America, Miami Valley Council in Dayton, Ohio.

Jordan Lorenzo '13, history, is the deputy prosecutor with the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's Office in Lafayette, Indiana.

Jonathan Moynahan '13, political science, is the deputy director of Constituent Services in the Office of the Governor in Maine.



Lindsey (Robertson) Neukam '13, health services, M'15, health administration, is the practice administrator at St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville.

Robert "Cody" Parrent '13, marketing, M'14, business administration, was named director of e-sports operations with the Indiana Pacers and Pacers Sports and Entertainment in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Eric Zink '13, accounting and professional services, was promoted to chief financial officer with Hoosier Uplands, Mitchell, Indiana.

Casey Bartlett '14, early childhood education and elementary education, was promoted to director with Kindergate Child Care in Evansville.

Marissa Curry '14, criminal justice and sociology, is a clinical supervisor with Ireland Home Based Services in Evansville.

Karla (Knust) Gilles '14, occupational therapy assistant, along with her hiking buddy, best friend, husband and so much more, Brent, took a leap of faith and moved to Carrollton, Georgia, where they hiked the Providence Canyon State Park, also known as the "Little Grand Canyon." [5]

Karnesha (Blanton) March '14, early childhood, is a special education assistant with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Nicholas Hartsaw '15, individual studies, was hired by the Odon Police Department as a new reserve officer in Odon, Indiana.

Clay Meyer '15, exercise science, was appointed territory manager of Apria Healthcare in Evansville.

Jamie Wiggins '15, early childhood education, is the fourth and fifth grade teacher with Lincoln Elementary in Evansville.

Zachery Wimpelberg '15, history, is an assistant football coach with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Brook Kilian '16, management, is the human resources coordinator with Atlas Van Lines in Evansville.

Erika McCormick '16, exercise science, was appointed human resource generalist of Tri-State Orthopaedic Surgeons in Evansville.

Ibrahim Al Riman '16, computer information systems, was made the business system analyst with Al Safa Poultry Company in Najran, Saudi Arabia.

Sarah Stoltz '16, early childhood education, teaches kindergarten at Highland Elementary in Evansville. "The first week of school we did a Pete the Cat theme, and all of the teachers wore matching Pete the Cat shirts." [6]

Hannah DeWeese '17, individualized studies, is a human resources specialist with SRG Global in Evansville.

Brock Edwards '17, special education and elementary education, is a special education teacher with Highland Elementary School in Evansville.

Sadie Foster '17, exercise science and kinesiology, is an instrument technician with Hendricks Regional Health in Danville, Indiana.

Alexis Giannini '17, public relations and advertising, is a merchandiser with Shoe Carnival in Evansville.

Sarah Reed '18, nursing, is a special education mild intervention teacher with Scott Elementary in Evansville.

Corbin Sollman '18, engineering, is a project engineer with Powers Engineering in Evansville.

Joshua Stieler '18, mathematics, is a seventh-grade math teacher with Washington Middle School in Evansville.

Marriages

Timothy Goad '79, chemistry, and Vita Amick, January 6, 2018.

Matthew Kimmick '01, economics and finance, and Jennifer Hess, June 17, 2017.

Jeff Polding '06, management, and Mary Hamera, September 23, 2017. Here they are in Belize, atop Xunantunich, an ancient Mayan ruin. [7]

Lauren (Finn) Montgomery '09, finance, and John Montgomery, July 15, 2015.

Michelle (Swan) Louzon '10, elementary education, and Nick Louzon, June 3, 2017. [8]

Kurt Hagenmaier '11, business administration, and Heather McMillan, August 6, 2016.

Hanna (Hosterman) Bryant '13, kinesiology, and Chris Bryant, May 14, 2018, at Mt. Princeton Hot Springs Resort in Nathrop, Colorado. [9]

Jessica Neeb-Smith '13, English, and **Robert Smith '14**, art, September 30, 2017. They met on campus in 2010 as sophomores. "We were just friends for a couple years, eating lunch together almost every day in the Starbucks lounge in Rice Library. We started dating during our senior year. I'm a children's librarian and he's a graphic designer living in Plainfield, Indiana. It was important to us that we have photos taken in the place where it all started." [10]

Megan (Kraemer) Hamilton '14, exercise science, and Austin Hamilton, October 21, 2017.

Aireca (Rich) Smith '15, nursing, and **Ryan Smith '15**, accounting and professional services, September 23, 2017, in Neu Chapel. They currently live and work in Louisville, Kentucky, where he is a CPA for BKD and she works as an emergency room nurse at Baptist Health Hospital. [11]

Kaitlin (Clawson) Sanders '16, exercise science, and **Nate Sanders '17**, radiologic and imaging sciences, June 25, 2016.

Erika (Vermillion) Lechleidner '16, health services, and Dereck Lechleidner, October 7, 2017.

Stephanie (Jacobi) Willis '16, social work, and Jared Willis, September 15, 2017. "We are so excited to embark on our journey together as husband and wife. Jared finished his degree in secondary education to become a history/social studies



teacher in May, and I have been a juvenile probation officer in Harrison County (Indiana) for about a year and a half. We adopted a rambunctious but very loving kitten named Sherlock in October. We are enjoying married life and the little family we've started." [12]

Births and Adoptions

Tashika Garrett '04, communication studies, welcomed Rocco on March 13, 2017. He was a preemie, debuting five weeks early, but he didn't spend one night in NICU. [13]

Chad Harrell '04, political science, and Abby Curren Harrell, welcomed Eliza May on July 2, 2018.

Laura (Davis) Reidford '04, accounting and professional services and finance, and Ryan Reidford, welcomed Nolan Grant on January 15, 2018.

Miranda (Bender) Meeks '06, radio and television, and **Nicholas Meeks '10**, history, welcomed Rory Edward on May 7, 2018.

Eric Harris '07, English (teaching), and **Myra (Wheatley) Harris '11, M'12**, social work, welcomed Evelyn on May 19, 2017. [14]

Rachel (Mann) Swenson '07, accounting and professional services, and Darrell

Swenson, welcomed Zane Marsh on April 20, 2017. [15]

Trayce Lawson Dixon '08, nursing, M'11, nursing education, and **Shaun Dixon '08**, sociology, welcomed Levi Jackson, December 12, 2017. Levi is pictured with his older siblings, six-year-old Andrew and three-year-old Ataleaha. The family lives in Louisville, Kentucky. [16]

Emily (Risch) Kirchmann '09, English, and Dan Kirchmann, welcomed Isaac Christopher on April 17, 2017.

Lauren (Finn) Montgomery '09, finance, and John Montgomery, welcomed Madison Ann on May 15, 2018.

Stephanie Durbin Strouse '09, health services, '10 nursing, M'14 nursing, adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, and **Ryan Strouse '12**, computer information systems, welcomed their first child Emma Lenora, September 8, 2017. [17]

Cristina (Bonales) Chenoweth '10 health services, '12 nursing, '13, Spanish Studies, and Adam Chenoweth, welcomed Kenzi on October 26, 2017.

William Colbert '11, marketing, and **Kiara (Porter) Colbert '12**, radio and television, welcomed Harper David, February 16, 2018.

Krystal (Knust) Furman '11, elementary education, and **Mark Furman '13**, elementary education, welcomed Camden James on May 14, 2018.

Hallie (Denstorff) Scheu M'12, elementary education, and **Ryan Scheu '04**, mathematics, welcomed Patrick Ryan on January 24, 2018.

Brooke (Biddle) Hill '14, radio and television, and husband Drew Hill and daughter Isla welcomed Eden, January 5, 2018. [18]

In Memoriam

George 'Rusty' Davidson '75, elementary education, of Evansville, died April 20, 2018. He retired in 2005 from Union County, Kentucky Middle School where he taught and coached basketball and football.

Marcia Lynn (Puckett) Osborne '75, elementary education, of Evansville, died March 11, 2018. She owned and operated the Educational Recovery Clinic which provides one of the largest services for The No Child Left Behind program throughout Indiana and the Midwest.

Robert Gray, Jr. '76, elementary education, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died April 1, 2018. He was an intelligence specialist with the 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam with the United States Army.

Gary Pack '76, business administration, of Hemlock, Michigan, died March 18, 2017. He was a car enthusiast, a voracious reader and enjoyed history.

Kenneth 'Kenny' Kae Klippel '77, business administration, of Boonville, Indiana, died February 19, 2018.

Margaret (Toole) Russell '77, business education and management, of Evansville, died February 16, 2018.

Norman Davenport '79, business administration and marketing, of Evansville, died May 17, 2018. He was a Vietnam era Navy Veteran who served on the USS Tattnell and the USS Carpenter.

Robert Lloyd Dye, Jr. '80, elementary education, of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, died April 19, 2018. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War as a gunner's mate on the USS Independence, and then as an electrician on the USS Manley. For over 20 years he was in management as a baker with Donut Bank.

Charles Anthony Evans '80, elementary education, of Henderson, Kentucky, died October 28, 2016. He served as a teacher and coach in the Henderson County School System for over 25 years. During which he coached the South Junior High's 7th grade boys' basketball team to six undefeated seasons.

Penny Igleheart '81, management, of Evansville, died April 4, 2018. She enjoyed camping, hiking and the outdoors.

Tammy (Vickers) Roney '82, business administration and management, of Akron, Ohio, died June 1, 2018.



Linda (Key) Heard '85, elementary education, of Evansville, died February 7, 2018.

Bradley Burris '89, chemistry, of Evansville, died February 20, 2018.

Amy Christine McMahel '89, respiratory therapy, of Evansville, died February 19, 2018.

Yvonne Theresa (Lonier) Reine '90, health services, of Newburgh, Indiana, died May 15, 2018. She was with St. Mary's Hospital for 35 years.

Linda Lou (Roberts) Young '90, management, marketing and business, of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, died July 12, 2018. She had a big heart and loved helping people. She selflessly started "Linda's Free Stuff," which provides items to people in need.

Kay (Alldredge) Henderson '91, English, of Vincennes, Indiana, died April 10, 2018.

Patrick John Kelly '91, psychology, of Evansville, died February 17, 2018.

Sue Ann (Bischoff) DeMoss '93, teacher education, of Evansville, died September 25, 2017. She was a person of many gifts and talents and a friend to many.

Lisa Gaye Alexander '94, nursing, M'97, family nurse practitioner, of Evansville, died February 4, 2018.

Jon Michael Arendt '99, physical education (teaching), of Evansville, died

April 27, 2018. He was an avid golfer and had extensive knowledge of sports trivia.

Mary (Emrich) Hale '99, sociology, of Evansville, died June 18, 2018.

Matthew Elliott Childs '00, economics and finance, of Crofton, Kentucky, died July 14, 2018. He loved fishing, hunting, raising Vizsla dogs, traveling, sports and wintering in Florida.

Jamie (Powers) McDonald '00, health services, of Evansville, died May 1, 2018.

Seth Clark '02, geology, M'05, secondary education, of Leopold, Indiana, died May 6, 2018. He loved the outdoors, camping and bow fishing.

Eric Elder '02, exercise science, of Tell City, Indiana, died January 26, 2018. He loved playing music and was a lead guitarist and manager of a regional rock band.

Keith Reynolds M'06, business administration, of Columbia, Missouri, died February 1, 2018. He loved playing golf and was a fan of sprint car racing.

Hannah (White) Rudisill '06, elementary education, of Boonville, Indiana, died May 3, 2018.

Phillip Lee Hutchinson '07, biology, of Wadesville, Indiana, died May 11, 2018. He loved being outdoors camping,

fishing, hunting, shooting and trail riding motorcycles.

Austin Charles Schall '13, public relations and advertising, of Evansville, died February 8, 2018.

Trevor Scarlett '16, elementary education, of Evansville, died May 30, 2018. He enjoyed teaching special education at Scott Elementary, where he'd just finished his first year of teaching.

USI FAMILY Retiring

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Joan DeJong, assistant dean and professor of art

18 years

Allen Helmstetter, contract assistant professor of English

12 years

POTT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ENGINEERING, AND SCIENCES

Charles Leigh, instructor in math

28 years

Marilyn Hurst, instructor in chemistry

13 years

ADMINISTRATION

Linda L. M. Bennett, president and professor of political science

15 years

In Memoriam

Phyllis Toy, associate professor emerita of English and founding director of USI's Honor Program, died March 11, 2018.

Pamela Wade, retired accounting associate and administrative clerk in Foundation Accounting, died April 8, 2018.

Pauline Schuler, retired library clerk in David L. Rice Library, died May 12, 2018.

Stephen Elsfelder, retired custodial worker in Facility Operations and Planning, died May 13, 2018.

Carol Jean Kent Hermes, retired instructor and director for the Health Services Program, died May 18, 2018.

Larry Rogers, dispatcher in the Office of Public Safety, died June 7, 2018.

Dolores Jochim McCartt, retired secretary in the Counseling Center, died July 28, 2018.

TAILfeather | Dr. Jeff Seyler

Took up model trains as a hobby he could enjoy with his four grandchildren.



With a passion for teaching that was inspired by his high school chemistry teacher (who was his uncle), Dr. Jeffery Seyler, professor of chemistry, joined USI's faculty in 1993 because the campus "felt like home." (He's from a small farming community in Iowa). He arrived shortly after a post-doc position at the University of Utah, having earned his doctorate from Purdue University and his bachelor's from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, both in chemistry. Defined as a role model by his students, he makes chemistry exciting when he blows up trash cans or ignites the "balloon of death" for students, fetes that have earned him accolades and awards as an excellent teacher.

What does your current research focus on? I'm researching ways to convert carbon dioxide (CO_2) back into fuels. The research examines metal catalysts that can reduce CO_2 to carbon monoxide (CO)

using electricity and light (electrochemistry and photochemistry).

Other technology can be used to combine CO and hydrogen to produce carbon-based fuels. Provided solar energy is used to generate

the electricity, this approach can provide a carbon neutral footprint.

What myths surrounding chemistry need to be dispelled?

MYTH 1: YOU CAN LEAD A CHEMISTRY-FREE LIFE. Because all the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe involve chemicals, this is impossible. Perhaps we can attempt to avoid unnatural chemicals (additives), but that's a challenge in today's world.

MYTH 2: MAN-MADE CHEMICALS ARE BAD FOR YOU. Whether a substance is manufactured or extracted directly from nature doesn't tell us about its properties and whether it is dangerous or not. Often it is the quantity consumed that can be the difference between bad and good, take aspirin as an example.

What book should everyone read, and why? I'm not a book reader, but I do recommend browsing science or nature magazines. They provide great, "easy" reading on current science topics, and the impacts they have on our lives.

What are the best and worst traits students can possess? Best trait-taking ownership of learning; worst trait-procrastination.

Describe your teaching style and its impact on students. I engage students through questions that relate the content to their experiences and observations. For example, asking them to explain the chemistry behind wearing a light-colored shirt on a hot, sunny summer day instead of a dark one. Also, when appropriate, I demonstrate chemistry visually. My favorite is the combustion of a hydrogen balloon with the added oxidizer, strontium nitrate.

How would you like students to remember you? I'd like them to remember the passion I bring to teaching them, and the effort I put into helping every student gain some understanding and appreciation of chemistry.



What words sum you up? Easy going.

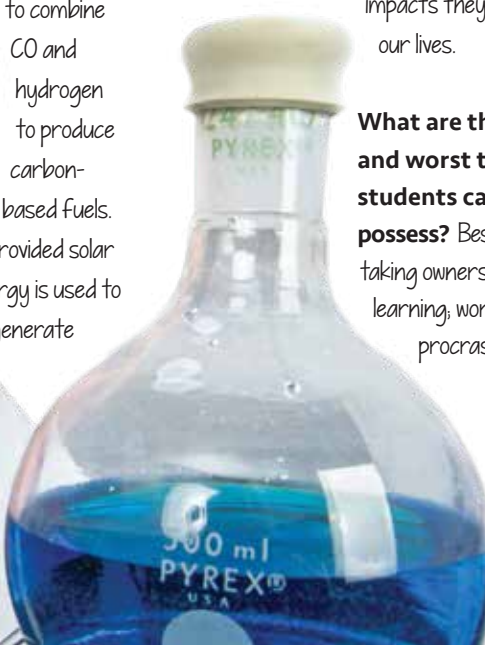
What one lesson do you hope to leave with students? I have two: the value in regaining the curiosity they likely had as children, and the importance of being a life long learner.

What one lesson have you learned from students? The adage about being able to 'lead a horse to water but not make it drink' is true of students too. They have to want to learn.

.....Joined the Army Reserves and did his boot camp training in the summer between his junior and senior year of high school.

HAVE A FAVORITE PROFESSOR YOU'D LIKE TO SEE FEATURED HERE? Let us know at magazine@usi.edu.

Enjoys lake fishing!



Without you,
the picture is incomplete...



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usi.edu/onlinegiving

Spirit and Heart of USI



"I've been to Belize twice, once as a student in the Tropical Biology course in 2016, and as a research student this past summer. It's hard to put into words the feeling and experience of learning about local marine wildlife through PowerPoints and books, and then getting to see, interact and, in some cases, touch those same creatures. The excitement and sense of family with the students was electrifying, especially when a turtle, stingray or shark appeared and everyone chased after it. This experience is quite a privilege for students. It leaves lasting memories and really brings lectures to life."

Luke Parker '18, biology and philosophy from Boonville, Indiana

Visit USI.edu/spiritheart for student submission guidelines.