



*Magazine*

**Linda Bennett**  
USI's third president



### Our new leader

Shortly before you received this issue of *USI Magazine*, the University's third president will have taken office. Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett began her appointment on July 1.

USI graduates have a special invitation to meet our new leader during an Alumni Reception at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 11. She will greet alumni in the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries in the Liberal Arts Center.

The reception is among several activities during a weeklong celebration of inaugural events that also will introduce Bennett to students, parents, and friends of the University and its outreach programs.

Not new to USI, Bennett has been provost and vice president for Academic Affairs since 2003. Members of the presidential search committee were impressed with her wealth of experience in higher education and her proven leadership ability when they chose her for the presidency. We eagerly look forward to this new chapter in USI history.

Read about our new president and see the inaugural week calendar in the story that begins on page 10.

Betty R. Vawter



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### ON THE COVER

Linda Bennett assumed the USI presidency on July 1. The University community will be invited to several special events in October to mark her inauguration. See page 10.

## Campus celebrates topping off and groundbreaking

The campus community recently celebrated two construction milestones.

During a topping off ceremony, the last steel girder was hoisted in place on top of the Business and Engineering Center. Afterwards, a groundbreaking for the University Center expansion took place across the quad. Representatives from USI student organizations helped turn the first dirt.

The new Business and Engineering Center will provide dedicated and shared classroom and laboratory space for the Department of Engineering and the College of Business. It will open in fall 2010.

The University Center expansion will include a redesign of the original library building, demolition of the University Conference Center link between the former library and the current University Center, and construction of a large conical-shaped tower to serve as entrance to the new facility. The expanded University Center is expected to be complete in spring 2011.

Construction also is in progress to convert the entrance intersection at University Boulevard and Clarke Lane to a roundabout interchange.

Expansion of the Recreation and Fitness Center is nearing completion. A 44,000-square-foot addition doubling the facility's space will open in the fall.



Construction workers guide the beam topping off the new Business and Engineering Center into place.



A conical-shaped tower will serve as entrance to the expanded University Center.

## USI named Radio School of the Year



The University of Southern Indiana was named Radio School of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters (IASB) at its 2009 College Radio Competition. USI's WSWI AM 820 "The Edge" beat out 16 member colleges to claim the prize and took top awards in six of nine categories.

Ben Weber won first place and Kelly Orsby second place for radio spot production, Andrew Bolin and Orsby won first place for radio air personality, Monica Wathen won third place for radio newscast, and Joe Barniak won second and Orsby third for radio copywriting. The station also took first place for radio imaging.

John Morris, instructor in radio and television and faculty advisor/general manager for WSWI, said, "These students are not 'playing radio.' They take it very seriously. They take pride in the work they've done and truly deserve the honor."

Weber, the outgoing production director at WSWI, also recently placed in a national competition, taking third place for public service announcement, promo or commercial from the Broadcast Education Association for a PSA he produced for Academic Skills.

## McGinnis receives Fulbright grant to teach in Spain

Leah McGinnis, a 2009 graduate with a double major in elementary education and Spanish, has been awarded an English Teaching Assistantship for 2009-10 by the prestigious Fulbright Program.

McGinnis will teach English at the elementary-school level in Madrid, Spain.

The Fulbright's English Teaching Assistantship program places U.S. students in 43 countries. Teaching assistants help students in other countries improve their language skills and increase their knowledge of the United States. At the same time, the U.S. students improve their language abilities and knowledge of the host country.

"Living in other countries makes me who I am," McGinnis said. Born in Kenya, she lived in Tanzania and Nigeria before moving to Costa Rica with her missionary parents when she was in fifth grade. She completed high school in Costa Rica.

McGinnis began school in Costa Rica without knowing Spanish. "I probably could have said 'hello' and that's about it," she said.

Being required to use Spanish in classroom presentations and other settings helped her learn the language.

Her experiences in international living also have helped her in interaction with people. "No matter what environment I'm put in, I've learned to adapt to that situation. I can feel comfortable being with any group of people," she said.

English teaching assistants spend about 20 hours in the classroom each week. McGinnis is researching opportunities to volunteer at a library in Madrid during her free time. She also plans to explore the linguistic differences between Spanish in Costa Rica and Spain.



McGinnis

After completing the assistantship, McGinnis is considering several options. Her interests include mission work, a teaching career, and pursuing a doctorate. She recently was named an Outstanding Future Educator by the Indiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Fulbright grants provide funds for international transportation, a living stipend, a small book/research allowance, and medical insurance.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools worldwide.

## New degree programs approved in biochemistry, communications

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees has approved a graduate degree program in communications and an undergraduate degree in biochemistry. The programs are expected to begin in 2010.

The new Masters of Arts in Communication will be offered as a two-year program for full-time students or a three- to four-year program for part-time students.

It was listed as the second most highly needed graduate program in the USI service region in the 2007 President's Taskforce on Workforce and Economic Development. The program will require completion of 36 semester hours and is expected to begin in fall 2010. Individuals earning the degree can pursue careers in advertising/public relations management, human resources, communication in healthcare and business organizations, media management, communication training, and communication consulting.

The baccalaureate degree in biochemistry, expected to be offered in spring 2010, will include existing courses and one new course. Requiring a minimum of 124 semester hours, the program will prepare biochemists for scientific careers in biotechnology, pharmacology, and environmental chemistry, or graduate study or professional school in medicine, pharmacy, and related fields.

Both programs will be submitted to the Indiana Higher Education Commission for review and approval.

## Symposium at Smithsonian highlights ties to New Harmony

A symposium at the Smithsonian Institution recently highlighted the influence of two early New Harmony, Indiana, residents on the founding of the world's largest museum complex and research organization.

Robert Dale Owen, U.S. congressman, and David Dale Owen, geologist, were sons of Robert Owen, who bought the town of New Harmony from the Harmonists in 1825 to establish an intellectual society.

Dr. Donald E. Pitzer explains the significance of the symposium in March and the Smithsonian's New Harmony connection:

"It was an honor to be invited to this once-in-a-lifetime event at the Smithsonian — commemorating the contributions of Robert Dale Owen and David Dale Owen to the founding and architecture of the institution as a disseminator of knowledge to the people of America and the world. At first, some had wanted it to be a library or laboratory. But the Owen brothers' grounding in the egalitarian dream of their father's New Harmony, Indiana, brought them to insist that it be designed to benefit the general public, an educational outreach for the people.

"Robert Dale Owen, as a congressman, drafted the legislation in 1845 for this use of Englishman James Smithson's gift to the United States. He also consulted with his brother on the architecture of the first building. Their unique touch has given the Smithsonian a daily global impact with an eternal link to the utopian legacy of New Harmony."

Pitzer is USI professor emeritus of history and director emeritus of the USI Center for Communal Studies.

At the symposium, Brown University visiting scholar John Sears, who has conducted research in New Harmony, delivered a lecture titled "How the Devil It Got There: The Politics of Form and Function in the Smithsonian Castle." He examined the influence of

the Owen brothers on the creation of the institution and the design of its first home, the "Castle."

Panelists included Sharon Parks, associate director, Smithsonian Institution Architectural History and Historic Preservation; Cynthia R. Field, Smithsonian Institution architectural historian emeritus; and Richard E. Stamm, keeper of the Castle Collection.

The audience included more than 60 individuals with a New Harmony or USI connection. Jane Owen of New Harmony and other members of the Owen family from throughout the country traveled to Washington for the event.

Representing USI were Ira G. Boots, trustee; Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; Cynthia S. Brinker, vice president for Government and University Relations; Dr. M. Edward Jones, vice provost for Outreach and dean of Extended Services; Mark Rozewski, vice president for Business Affairs and

treasurer; and Connie Weinzapfel, director of Historic New Harmony.

A reception in the Castle's Great Hall following the program honored Patricia Q. Stonesifer, an Indiana native who became chair of the Smithsonian Board of Regents in January.

Weinzapfel said Andrew S. Potts, an attorney in Washington, D.C., was instrumental in helping to develop plans for the symposium. An Indiana native, Potts is active in public policy issues related to historic preservation and affordable housing. He toured Historic New Harmony with Weinzapfel in 2007.

Sponsors included the Smithsonian Institution, the Indiana Society of Washington, the University of Southern Indiana/New Harmony Foundation, the Indiana University Foundation, and the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation.

Historic New Harmony is an outreach program of the University of Southern Indiana.



U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar attended the symposium highlighting the connection between New Harmony's Owen family and the Smithsonian Institution. From left are Jane Owen, Senator Lugar, Connie Weinzapfel, and Patricia Stonesifer.

## Kevin Valadares named Distinguished Professor

Dr. Kevin J. Valadares, associate professor of health services/administration, is the 2009 recipient of the Integra Distinguished Professor Award recognizing significant achievement in teaching, leadership, and service.



Valadares

A faculty member since 2001, Valadares is program director of the undergraduate program in health services and the Master of Science in Health Administration program.

His highly interactive teaching style and commitment to advising are well known on campus. He has been a leader in using technology to enhance student learning activities on campus and online. Valadares employs service-learning activities in his teaching.

## Iris Phillips receives Berger Award for service

Dr. Iris Phillips, associate professor of social work, has received the 2009 Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award.

Since joining the University in 2001, Phillips has engaged in community service with more than 36 social service agencies as friend, consultant, and advocate for improving the delivery of social services.

She has targeted a wide range of social problems, investigating causes and providing tangible solutions to community leaders. She involves her students in the community through service learning projects.

Some projects her students have engaged in include placing more than 1,000 phone calls in two days to collect data for the 10-year strategic plan to end homelessness; raising \$1,300 to provide landscaping at Kennedy and Buckner Tower senior housing and holding a

cookout for residents when the work was complete; and writing grants for learning centers at Carver Community Organization. She serves on the board of directors of the Carver Community Organization, where she has assisted with grant proposals and helped with the Adult Day Service program, among other contributions.

The Berger Award was presented in the spring during Honors Week. It is made possible by the Bergers' son Charles and his wife Leslie.

Selected by the USI Faculty and Academic Affairs committee, the award winner receives a plaque and a stipend.



Phillips

## Jamie Johnson wins President's Medal

Jamie L. Johnson, a *summa cum laude* graduate, received the President's Medal in recognition of her leadership in student activities, her service to the University, and her academic work in the Pott College of Science and Engineering.



Johnson

Over the last two years she has served as the student member of the USI Board of Trustees, appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels. She also served as associate vice president of Academic Affairs for the Student Government Association (SGA) and president of the Pre-Professional Health Club, an organization she helped establish.

She was among college students nationwide to be named a 2008 Goldwater Scholar for academic merit.

A graduate of Castle High School in Newburgh, Indiana, Johnson will attend Indiana University School of Medicine in the fall. Her interests outside the classroom include running, reading, and attending theatrical and musical productions.

The President's Medal is the highest award given to a graduating senior at USI.

It is a USI tradition to recognize a student for academic excellence and a commendable record of University service.

**Marlene Shaw**

**Challenging students to accomplish more than they think they can**

While the former students of Dr. Marlene Shaw have assumed many different careers in scientific fields, they all agree that her enthusiasm for science and each new scientific advance continues to inspire them.

Dr. Joey V. Barnett '81 said, "She gets people excited about the subject, and then she challenges them to go the extra mile. And she combines that with high standards."

A professor of biology, Shaw has been a member of the University of Southern Indiana faculty since 1973. She retired June 30 from a career that is notable for teaching as well as service to the University and the profession.

Shaw's lab at USI was the first in which Barnett worked. Today he is vice chair and director of graduate studies in pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. His research related to discovering the genes and signaling pathways that build the developing heart and its blood vessels is known internationally. It could one day lead to growing replacement heart valves.

Barnett attended his first professional meeting, a symposium on genetics and the law, when he was a USI student. Years later he learned that Shaw wrote the check that funded his participation.

"The experience at USI opened up new vistas for me," he said.

Jan Esker '06, a student in the College of Medicine at Ohio State University, also said that Shaw encouraged her to pursue opportunities in science. Esker completed two terms of research with Shaw and a research summer at Vanderbilt. She received a one-year fellowship at the National Institutes of Health to develop a new vaccine.

**Leading edge**

Shaw said, "The courses that I taught were exciting to me—always on the leading edge of genetics, molecular and cell biology, and metabolism—and frequently based on the work of Nobel Prize recipients. It was a continual race to remain current."

"The University enabled me to remain updated by supporting my participation in top-notch short courses, workshops, and annual meetings where I learned the newest information to incorporate into my lecture courses and teaching laboratories."

A highly regarded educational program that Shaw developed for USI was a lecture series called *Biology at the Interface*. It brought top scholars to the USI campus. In 1982, she worked with students to develop a 15-part exhibit called "DNA: The Blueprint of Life" for the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science.

Tom Klausmeier '82 helped with the exhibit. Its high quality and the interesting and informal way the information was presented "exemplified the qualities that make Marlene an excellent teacher," he said. Klausmeier is a pediatrician and pediatric rheumatologist at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

Dawn Dycus '04 described Shaw as an exceptional and engaging teacher with a teaching style "relaxed, yet still formal." A 2008 graduate of Indiana University School of Medicine, Dycus is completing a residency in pediatrics at Vanderbilt.



Marlene Shaw, right, retired in June after 36 years with the University.

Shaw was a visiting scholar at Vanderbilt during 1983-84 and again for three summers in the '90s.

In 1991, she attended a National Science Foundation Faculty Enhancement Program at Boston University. The following year she received an NSF grant that was matched by University funds. The grant funded the purchase of molecular biology equipment that provided new hands-on opportunities for students in teaching labs and research.

**Believing in students**

Bonnie Overton '88 teaches at Ivy Tech Community College in Bloomington, Indiana. As a work-study student, she prepped labs for several semesters. "Dr. Shaw was always available to help or explain if we had problems with anything. But she never 'over supervised' us. Her faith in us made us want to do well."

Jay Winters '01 '05 completed a degree in sociology and then re-enrolled. "I went back to school while I was

working full time to finish a biology degree. Dr. Shaw really inspired me to keep at it and get it done," said Winters, a forensic scientist in the Metro-East Forensic Science Laboratory, Forensic Biology/DNA Section, for the Illinois State Police.

Rich (Mosby) Bennett '01 said Shaw was encouraging to him when, as he put it, "there was no evidence that she should be." He recalls talking to her after Joey Barnett visited the class to discuss the value of graduate school to a career in the sciences.

"She encouraged me to apply," he said. Bennett earned a doctorate in cellular and molecular biology in 2007 at the University of Cincinnati and is a postdoctoral fellow with the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory. His work in biodefense focuses on anthrax toxicity and radiation biology.

Dr. Timothy T. Dick '81 has considered Shaw his mentor and friend since his first class with her in 1977. "I believe my professional success is due in large part to the influence of my mentor," he said. Dick has received several teaching awards and is a longtime member of the Institutional Review Board at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Shaw was named USI Distinguished Professor in 1991. She is a member of the Information and Education committee of the American Society of Human Genetics.

In retirement Shaw's quest to expand her knowledge will continue. She remains interested in advances in genetics and microbiology and is particularly interested in American and European history as it provides context for understanding the development of biology in the 1800s and 1900s. She plans to tour Mendel's garden, Pasteur's labs, and Darwin's Down House. Retirement will include extended visits with family, friends, and a host of alumni.

**New scholarships for adult learners**

A new scholarship program recognizes academic achievement and provides financial assistance to adult learners as they complete their first undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Indiana.

The first 10 Adult Learners Scholarships were awarded for the 2009-10 academic year and will provide partial support for tuition, fees, books, and other educational expenses.

Dr. Ed Jones, vice provost for Outreach and dean of Extended Services, said, "Finding the money to pay tuition and other college expenses is often difficult for adult part-time students, particularly those with family commitments and other financial obligations. Access to financial aid for part-time students is limited, both at USI and from state financial aid programs. While each scholarship is not large, the award may be all that is needed for the student to meet a shortfall in personal finances that will enable him or her to continue their education."

The next application deadline is December 11 for scholarships to be awarded for the 2010-11 academic year. For more information, contact Lee Ann Wambach, academic program manager in Extended Services, at 812/464-1879 or lwambach@usi.edu, or visit [www.usi.edu/extserv/AdultScholarship.asp](http://www.usi.edu/extserv/AdultScholarship.asp).

**Arabic, Chinese added to curriculum**

Courses in beginning Arabic and beginning Chinese will be offered for the first time in the fall. This will bring the total number of languages offered by the University to seven, including French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish.

Dr. Silvia Rode, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, said, "We live in a global community and by offering nonwestern and western language and culture courses we can help students to compete in the world market, to prepare them for graduate school, and to become better citizens of the world."

Rode said the University has received requests from students and the community for classes in Arabic and Chinese, as well as requests for translations.

**Book chronicles history of SIHE**

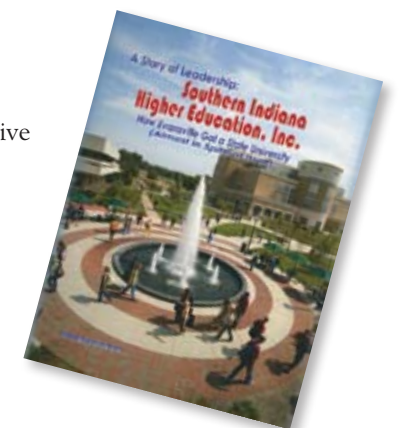
Journalist Roberta Heiman has written a narrative history of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) to recognize the many achievements of the organization's 42 years of giving and guidance. The book is called *A Story of Leadership: Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.*

It is the story, set in the 1960s, of the people who, through a community campaign, raised almost \$1 million to create a public higher education institution.

One reader said, "It's a remarkable story—a tribute to the people who had the vision."

The book introduces the men and women behind the dream for public higher education in Evansville, the biggest city in Indiana without a state college or university in the mid-'60s.

The book was made possible thanks to the dedication of SIHE Directors Rolland Eckels and Chris Melton '72.



## Education majors pioneer internship in Costa Rica

*USI Foundation helps friends, family support experience with tax-deductible gifts*

Two elementary education majors are trailblazing this summer. They are teaching English at an elementary school in Costa Rica and volunteering in an orphanage there.

It's not the typical college experience abroad. Most students take courses during a semester or summer in another country, just as they would at their home university.

But sophomores Ashlee Holland and Keri Larsen were looking for something different. They wanted a program that would allow them to build professional skills while securing a global perspective. They wanted to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children. They also wanted the program to be approved for credit toward their degree requirements.

Through online research, the two students discovered the opportunity in Costa Rica. It is offered by World Endeavors, a Minneapolis-based organization that arranges volunteer, intern, and study-abroad programs in a number of countries. Holland and Larsen worked with USI's offices of International Programs and Services and Career Services and Placement, as well as the Department of Teacher Education, to gain approval for their participation in this service-learning or internship program. Their vision is that their participation will be the start of an ongoing opportunity for aspiring teachers.

*"We believe this internship will encourage future education majors to embrace a multicultural education and take their experiences with them into the classroom as teachers."*

Ashlee Holland and Keri Larsen



Keri Larsen, second from left, and Ashlee Holland, standing, worked with students in the after-school program at Lodge Elementary School in Evansville during spring semester. They are teaching English to elementary school students in Costa Rica this summer during an eight-week service-learning experience.

"We believe this internship will encourage future education majors to embrace a multicultural education and take their experiences with them into the classroom as teachers," they said.

Besides being the first education majors to undertake an international internship, Larsen and Holland have been trailblazers in finding financial support for the trip.

The USI Foundation has developed a procedure for students or

student groups who want to ask family and friends for support. Following a University review and approval process, the Foundation staff works with the students to prepare an information sheet and letter for mailing. Family and friends can make tax-deductible gifts to the USI Foundation designated for the effort.

Holland and Larsen also have received financial support for the program from the Horace and Suzanne A. Nicholson Scholarship and the Margaret C. Korbel Memorial Fund in the USI Foundation.

Larsen is from Speedway, Indiana. Holland comes from Merrillville, Indiana.

## Faculty member establishes scholarship to help students gain world perspective

Spring break 2009 was a time of "firsts" for Megan Halstead, a graduate student in the social work program.

She took her first trip by air. She took her first trip outside the United States. And she did both as the first recipient of the Wendy Turner-Frey Global Social Work Award.

Turner-Frey is director of the Master of Social Work program and assistant professor of social work. She has led undergraduate and graduate students in social work on trips to Jamaica during spring break for five consecutive years.

When she and her husband Leonard Frey were married in summer 2008 at the labyrinth on campus, they asked friends and family to consider—rather than a wedding gift—a gift to the scholarship fund they established in the USI Foundation. Turner-Frey serves on the USI Foundation board of directors.

The scholarship benefits a student participating in the annual trip. The couple presented the first \$500 scholarship to Halstead in the spring.

The 11 students on this year's trip visited two boys' homes and a home for children five years old or less.

Turner-Frey said, "I go with the idea that I want the students to learn about

the world. In one week's time we can't possibly even begin to change the lives of these children.

"My primary goal is to help our students. I want them to gain an appreciation for the privileges we have in the United States. I want them to get out of their comfort zone and to be out of place. Very often this is the first time any of them have been a minority. That is a good experience. I want them to gain some life experience and appreciation for cultural diversity."

Halstead completed an individual assessment on a child at one of the boys' homes and helped present group sessions on topics such as aggression, stealing, and destructiveness.

"All the boys there had been in some type of legal trouble," Halstead said. "Most of them had anger management problems."

"Jamaica is a poor country so their children don't have the chance that ours do. There's not much rehabilitation or counseling. It was something to see what few resources they have and realize what we have in America."



Megan Halstead learned about resources available to children in Jamaican orphanages.

Halstead is interested in a career in school social work.

The travelers saved a day for relaxation. After five nights in Mandeville, they departed for a day and night in Montego Bay. Bargaining for local crafts, seeing the Rastafarian influence, and traveling by van without seat belts on narrow, curvy roads added to the cultural experience.

Turner-Frey and her husband are committed to building the scholarship fund with an annual gift. Several faculty colleagues have given. Turner-Frey also encourages social work alumni who have experienced the trip to consider a gift.



### SGA raises money for Operation Iraqi Children

Volunteers from USI student organizations assembled 350 kits of school supplies destined for delivery to Iraqi school-children by American soldiers. The USI Foundation helped the Student Government Association coordinate fundraising to support Operation Iraqi Children, a nonprofit program founded in 2004 by actor Gary Sinise. Individuals and businesses contributed to the SGA effort. Tax-deductible gifts to the USI Foundation were designated for Operation Iraqi Children. Joseph Giannini, SGA freshman member-at-large from Crown Point, Indiana, spearheaded the activity for the organization's philanthropy committee.



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President Linda L. M. Bennett

# *Leading* USI



*B*oard of Trustees chair John Dunn announced Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett as the third president of the University of Southern Indiana in January 2009.

Amid hearty applause, Bennett responded to the introduction and said, "Being elected to serve an institution as dynamic and of the caliber of the University of Southern Indiana is a singular honor, and it is without question a high point of my career."

Bennett has been at USI since 2003, serving as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. She also is professor of political science and has more than 25 years of teaching experience.

Dunn said, "We look forward to informed and innovative leadership from Dr. Bennett." He chaired the presidential search and screen committee.

Bennett brings a substantial track record to the position. In addition to her teaching career, she has served in higher education administration for more than 11 years.

*Continued on page 12*

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Dr. Linda Bennett meets with students during the annual spring Breakfast with the President.



Dr. Linda Bennett and her husband Dr. Stephen Bennett.

## Community engagement

Last fall the University of Southern Indiana was one of 119 public and private colleges and universities nationwide to receive an institution of community engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an entity that encourages, upholds, and dignifies the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education. USI was recognized for curricular engagement and outreach and partnerships. Leadership for the application came from Bennett.

Bennett explained what the classification means for USI. She said, "This is national recognition of the outstanding work of USI faculty, staff, and students in connecting the learning environment on campus with southwestern Indiana. It affirms that USI takes seriously its mission to support education, social, and economic growth, and civic and cultural awareness in southwestern Indiana.

"The importance of this recognition will be evident as the University seeks grant funding, recruits new faculty and staff, and continues to build on its strong reputation for accountability in public higher education," she said.

## Plans to listen

In response to questions from student leaders, during an April breakfast question-and-answer session, Bennett said her plan is to listen in the next year as she meets with students, faculty, and other USI constituencies.

She said, "I've been provost for six years, but I need to listen again because times are different, and I'm coming from a different vantage point. I want to know the state of the USI campus."

She assured students the USI reputation is growing. "University of Southern Indiana is recognized as a quality institution," she said. "USI is a young university. When external committees come on campus and teams of people come to evaluate our programs from other universities, they tell me,

*Continued on page 14*

## Linda L. M. Bennett

*At a Glance*



She was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio.

She earned undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati.

Her husband is Dr. Stephen E. Bennett, an educator and author. She has two adult stepchildren, Sherri Creighton and Robert Bennett, and two stepgrandchildren. Sherri, her husband Jeff, and their two daughters, Chelsea and Abby, live in Cincinnati. Robert and his partner Brett Warner live in Columbus, Ohio.

Her mother Josephine Mayfield lives in Cincinnati. Her father Wayne Mayfield is deceased, and her brother Jerry Mayfield lives in Methuen, Massachusetts.

While provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at USI, she led initiatives focused on

- enrollment and retention management
- outreach and engagement
- faculty development
- retention of intellectual capital
- accreditation renewal
- long-range planning

In 1999 at Appalachian State University, she became dean of the College of Arts and Science. The college had 16 departments, the Center for Appalachian Studies, and the Appalachian Cultural Museum with a \$21 million budget.

She served as chair of the Department of Political Science at Northern Kentucky University for three years prior to moving to Appalachian State University.

Bennett began her career as visiting assistant professor at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, in 1983. Over a 13-year period, she rose to full professor and chair of the Political Science Department.

She has presented conference papers on topics in political science at national and international conferences.

She has published articles in periodicals including *Academic Leader*, *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and others.

Locally, she chairs the Board of Directors' Development Committee for Southwest Indiana Network for Education.

Bennett is on the Board of Directors for Holly's House, an organization that provides services to victims of abuse.

She is a member of the Southwest Indiana Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.





Dr. Linda Bennett extends a handshake to one of the graduates of the class of 2009.



Former USI presidents Dr. David L. Rice, left, and Dr. H. Ray Hoops, meet with Dr. Linda Bennett.

“You’ve got it right. You are doing a great job.” One visiting accreditation team member said, “I wish I was here.”

### New campus facilities

The Business and Engineering Center and expansion of the University Center will be opening over the next two years. Both will provide ample opportunities for students to learn and lead.

Bennett said the renovations planned for the University Center will be a wonderful starting point for sparking renewed interest in student organizations. “When students see the UC expansion, they will want to be included in the hub of activity there.”

### Warm embrace from the region

“We want to keep alive why the University of Southern Indiana was founded and the core values of that time,” Bennett said. “We want to reaffirm the core values, and add other core values to the mix. The focus of my administration will be on the future and looking ahead will be a goal.

“USI is warmly received by the surrounding region and that is a tremendous advantage. Evidence of our strong institutional ties to the region is in multiple partnerships.

“I plan to be visible on campus. I have taught classes in recent years in order to stay connected to students. In recent weeks, some of those students have stopped to say hello.”

Bennett said, “USI has hard-working students. I see students who care about each other. That sense of community is as important as the brick and mortar.”

### Commencement marks important celebration

As president designate, Bennett presided at the 2009 USI Commencement in May. Prior to the

ceremony Bennett commented about how much she likes the tradition of Commencement. “It is a significant convocation where graduates, faculty, alumni, and distinguished friends gather in celebration to honor the graduates and the purpose of USI,” she said.

“USI alumni are making a difference, every day, in their careers and in their communities.”

In opening comments during the ceremony, she said, “We are grateful for the gathering of this remarkable group of friends and family and the opportunity to mark the achievements of our graduates and to welcome them to the honorable community of educated men and women. Today’s class, when combined with the alumni of record, increases the number of alumni to over 27,500. The impact of our graduates on the region, throughout the state, and across the country is significant. USI alumni are making a difference, every day, in their careers and in their communities.”

Bennett took office July 1 and will be installed as the third USI president in October.

She follows Dr. H. Ray Hoops, who served as president from 1994 to 2009, and Dr. David L. Rice, who served as president for 27 years from 1967 to 1994.

For more on Dr. Bennett, visit [www.usi.edu/president](http://www.usi.edu/president).

## Fall to be wrapped with inaugural events

The installation of Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett as USI’s third president will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2009, in the Physical Activities Center (PAC). Inauguration events are scheduled throughout the week.

- **Parents and Family Weekend**  
**Saturday, October 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
 President Bennett will welcome USI students and parents during a picnic lunch on the quad. (In event of rain, Physical Activities Center)  
*Hosted by USI Parents and Families Association*
- **Alumni Reception**  
**Sunday, October 11, 2 to 4 p.m.**  
 President Bennett will greet alumni during a reception in the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries in the Liberal Arts Center. Art by alumni artists will be on exhibit.  
*Hosted by USI Alumni Association*
- **New Harmony Reception**  
**Tuesday, October 13, 5 to 7 p.m.**  
 President Bennett will meet with donors, patrons, and New Harmony friends at the Atheneum in New Harmony, Indiana.  
*Hosted by Friends of Historic New Harmony*
- **Inauguration Symposium**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 3 p.m.**  
 Carter Hall, University Center  
*Hosted by Faculty Senate*
- **Inauguration Day**  
**Thursday, October 15, Noon**  
 Delegates’ Lunch, Carter Hall, University Center  
*Hosted by USI Board of Trustees*

**Inauguration, 3 p.m.**  
 Physical Activities Center  
 Reception immediately following in Carter Hall, University Center
- **President’s Associates Dinner**  
**Friday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.**  
 President Bennett will greet major donors. Carter Hall, University Center  
*Hosted by USI Foundation*

# The power of engagement

## A Carnegie Foundation Engaged University



For 44 years, the University of Southern Indiana has been a university shaped by the needs of the region. In return, USI helps to mold the region for the future, using its resources to enhance quality of life and to find new and better ways of ensuring an educated workforce, a thriving economy, and vibrant cultural institutions. The University draws exceptional strength from engagement. Partnerships utilize faculty expertise and provide students with the kind of experiential learning that puts them steps ahead as job candidates and valued employees.

The power of engagement has never been more apparent than now. The University has been recognized as one of 119 public and private colleges and universities throughout the country to receive classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as an institution of community engagement. USI was recognized in two

categories: curricular engagement and outreach and partnerships. Only institutions with substantial commitments to both areas receive this distinction.

USI is a powerful partner. Consider the RopeWalk Writers Retreat that has brought writers and aspiring writers together for 20 years in New Harmony, Indiana. Or consider the Habitat for Humanity impact study that involved students and faculty from sociology, social work, physical education, and economics working through the University's Center for Applied Research to assess the impact of home ownership on social status. Or consider the nursing program of the College of Nursing and Health Professions providing health screenings, education, and information to clients at community-service agencies.

In the stories that follow, discover for yourself the power of USI engagement.

## Internships

### Matching employer and student interests

Remo Scalabrin came to USI seeking interns interested in international business and trade to develop projects with him at his start-up business Global Sustainability Partners, located at Innovation Pointe in downtown Evansville.



Bibi

He found a fit, signing on College of Business students Omar Bibi, Michael Patzer, and Louis Gilliam for 10-week internships.

Bibi and Patzer worked together on a project to identify and contact potential North American buyers for used mining equipment from Brazil.

"I was an intern, but the people I talked to didn't know that. I assumed the role of sales representative and consultant," Bibi said.



Patzer

Patzer said tax implications, shipping costs, and other issues had a bearing on the interest of potential buyers. Mining equipment is massive and costly. Countries may have different regulations regarding international trade. During the internship, the recession in the United States gave the students a vantage point for observing the effect of changing economic conditions globally.



Gilliam

"We had to adapt



Remo Scalabrin engaged three USI interns for his start-up business at Innovation Pointe.

very quickly," Bibi said. "It was a tremendous learning experience."

The internship appealed to Patzer as an opportunity to gain experience in international business. He studied in New Zealand and extended his travel to Fiji, Singapore, and Hong Kong, working part-time for a traffic control company during the trip. Patzer graduated in May with a major in finance. He plans to pursue a graduate degree in the physical or medical sciences.

Bibi is completing a double major: biology and business administration with a concentration in small business and entrepreneurship. He plans to earn a Master of Business Administration degree and then go to medical school. His goal is to become a physician and manage his own practice. Before moving to Newburgh, Indiana, Bibi lived with his family in Tunisia.

Gilliam worked directly with Scalabrin, updating and adding to a research proposal for Scalabrin's long-time consulting company, RS Business Consulting and Representation. The project focused on how businesses in the region, especially small- and medium-size companies, can increase their international trade. Gilliam said

he thought his work was most helpful in providing performance data for industries or companies that would be new to Scalabrin's representation.

Gilliam is completing requirements for a major in business administration with a focus on international business. His career goal is to work for a company that deals with businesses in Latin America. He has studied abroad in Honduras, his mother's native country.

Innovation Pointe is an incubator for high-tech businesses. Gene Recker '99, M.B.A. '02, manager of education and entrepreneurial support for USI's Extended Services, is located at Innovation Pointe. He helped Scalabrin develop an intern strategy and introduced him to Janet Johnson of USI's Office of Career Services and Placement. Johnson is liaison for the College of Business. Career Services and Placement coordinates internship and co-operative opportunities for students across the University.

From his interaction with USI, Scalabrin said he believes the University is providing good opportunities to prepare students for the business environment and challenges of international business.

# The power of engagement

A Carnegie Foundation Engaged University

## College Achievement Program

Students up to the challenge earn college credit while in high school

Before Breana Raney attended her first class on the University of Southern Indiana campus last fall, she had earned 25 credit hours toward an undergraduate degree.

As a student at Reitz High School in Evansville, Raney took courses in English, history, Spanish, and math through USI's College Achievement Program, earning high school credit and college credit concurrently. She was the 2008 Reitz valedictorian.

At USI Raney is majoring in mathematics teaching. By spring semester of her freshman year, she had decided to add a minor in Spanish. "Because I have completed most of my core classes, I have some extra time," she said.

USI offered its first concurrent credit course in 1985. Seventy-five students in three high schools completed English 101. In 2008–09, USI partnered with 22 high schools in nine counties to offer 40 different courses taught by 100 approved high school faculty members. CAP enrollments in 2008–09 numbered 1,459.



Breana Raney jump-started her college education by earning high school and college credit concurrently.

The concurrent enrollment program allows qualified high school students to earn college credit. High school instructors teach the courses during the normal school day. Teachers approved to teach in the program must meet the same criteria as adjunct faculty members for the University. USI faculty members present workshops to train the teachers. Each course syllabus is thoroughly reviewed to ensure the course is rigorous and includes all content the student would learn in a similar university course.

USI is engaged at the national level with the concurrent credit program. Ginger Ramsden, director of USI's CAP program, serves on the board of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. NACEP was established in 1999 to serve as a national accrediting body and support member schools by

providing standards of excellence. USI attained NACEP accreditation for the CAP program in 2005 and is one of only 33 colleges in the nation with the distinction. Only three other Indiana colleges (Indiana University, Indiana University - South Bend, and Vincennes University) have attained NACEP accreditation.

New state requirements regarding the availability of dual credit courses at all high schools and new standards for the Academic Honors Diploma have triggered more interest in the CAP program.

The program allowed Raney to make more of her time in high school. "And for \$80 a credit hour, I couldn't pass it up," she said.

The CAP program provides a reduced rate of tuition and is offered free to students who qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program.



Laboratory equipment from the STEM trucks will be available for K-12 teachers to use in their classrooms. Allison Grabert is STEM science coordinator.

## STEM education

Trucks to deliver lab equipment to schools

Sophisticated scientific equipment for use by students and teachers in elementary school through high school will be on the roll in nine counties in the coming months.

Two trucks will be loaded with laboratory equipment worth approximately \$300,000. Teachers may go online to reserve the equipment for checkout. Staff from the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center will deliver it and are available to assist teachers with setup and lab exercises. In addition, workshops this summer will help teachers learn how to incorporate equipment from the trucks into their curriculum.

USI is the lead institution for southwestern Indiana in the statewide consortium to improve STEM education and has established the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center. STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Funding for the trucks and equipment comes from the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) initiative, the Indiana STEM Resource Network, the USI STEM Resource Endowment, and the

USI Pott College of Science and Engineering.

Sara Killebrew, eighth grade science teacher at Castle Junior High School in Newburgh, Indiana, was one of the first to sign up for the middle school STEM truck-training workshop.

"It's very difficult for teachers, especially in this day and age with our economic situation, to find quality materials that are effective with kids," she said. "I'm looking forward to the technology this truck will provide. Textbooks will do only so much."

The trucks will provide technology that students and teachers otherwise might not have available. Spec 20 instruments, gas chromatographs, gel electrophoresis apparatuses, calculators, a variety of probes, microscopes, laptop computers, and many other items will provide opportunities for students in southwest Indiana to use the tools scientists use.

USI STEM initiatives include a number of other programs and activities designed to develop the workforce needed to compete in a technology and science-based economy.

## Community partnerships

These partnerships are representative of recent University outreach and engagement.

- Community health care
- Correctional facilities health care
- Habitat for Humanity impact study
- Archaeology dig at Community House #2 in New Harmony, Indiana
- Elderhostel program—"Where the Past and the Future are Present"
- College Achievement Program
- RopeWalk Writers Retreat
- Connect with Southern Indiana
- STEM initiatives (Resource Center)
- Respiratory care testing and education
- Lincoln Institute for Teachers
- Eagle Math
- Innovation Pointe
- Southern Indiana Japanese School
- SPIRAL program (Science Performance Improving through Reading and Learning)



## Rodney Watson named men's basketball coach

Rodney Watson has been hired as the new men's basketball coach at USI. He becomes the ninth head coach in the history of the program.

"I am honored that Jon Mark Hall, the director of Athletics, and the University of Southern Indiana would trust me to lead the Screaming Eagles basketball program," Watson said. "I am grateful to all the former coaches and student athletes who have built this program's foundation."

Watson takes the helm of the Screaming Eagles after 21 seasons at Southern Illinois University. He has been the associate head coach the last two seasons after spending 19 seasons as an assistant coach under head coaches Rich Herrin, Bruce Weber, Matt Painter, and Chris Lowery.

During Watson's tenure at SIU, the Salukis won 11 Missouri Valley Conference championships and qualified for nine NCAA Tournaments and six National Invitation Tournaments. SIU also compiled a 430-237 record and a .645 winnings percentage.

The Salukis' success was not limited to the basketball court with 23 of the last 24 seniors earning bachelor's

degrees since 2002.

A native of Paris, Illinois, Watson started his coaching career at Coulterville High School, where he guided the Eagles to the program's first regional championship. He moved to Madison High School in Madison, Illinois, in 1984 and led the Trojans to a regional and sectional championship, advancing to the Illinois Elite Eight.

The success at the high school level was a springboard to the college ranks, beginning with a two-year stretch in 1986 at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He moved to SIU in 1988, beginning his 20-plus season association with the Salukis.

"It became evident early in the process that Rodney was well respected in the coaching ranks," Hall said. "He has been a part of many championship teams at SIU, and now it is his time to take over his own program."

Coach Watson and his wife Carol have four children, Ashley, 18, Zachary, 16, and twins, Olivia and Blake, 13.

The hiring followed the resignation of Coach Rick Herdes in May and an announcement by the Athletic Department of five NCAA violations



Watson

by the men's basketball program.

The Department of Athletics reported the violations to the NCAA after a thorough campus investigation, and penalties were self-imposed. The \$9,362 received from the NCAA for participation in the Division II regional will be returned, and last season's 27 victories have been forfeited. Two players have been deemed ineligible. At press time, the Athletic Department was awaiting a reply from the NCAA.

## USI to host 2009 NCAA II Cross Country Championships

### Seeking volunteers to help run national meet in November

For the second time in five years, USI will host the NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships.

The national championship will bring 48 teams and more than 400 student athletes and coaches to USI. The event is scheduled for November 21.

USI hosted the event in 2004. USI Head Coach Mike Hillyard said, "We had a lot of positive feedback from other coaches and athletes and felt it was a tremendous success. It is always

good any time you can have a major event on campus. It puts the University, the administration, yourself, and your kids in the spotlight. It's great for the community and it's great for our student athletes."

Jon Mark Hall, USI director of Athletics, said that hosting the NCAA II National Championships can have a positive economic impact for the Evansville area, especially in terms of lodging and restaurant business.

In 2004, USI had a great volunteer turnout to help run the race and various events associated with the meet. Hall encourages people to volunteer this year as well.

With strong squads coming back in 2009, USI also is looking forward to competing at the national meet. Hillyard said, "With a couple of pretty good teams returning next year, we are definitely excited about the possibility of that happening."

## Ballinger claims national title in steeplechase

Junior All-American Mary Ballinger capped an historic academic year by claiming her first-career national championship at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in San Angelo, Texas, in May.

Ballinger won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a school-record time of 10 minutes, 22.98 seconds, less than three seconds off the NCAA II meet record and nearly 15 seconds faster than the second-place finisher.

Head Coach Mike Hillyard said, "She had her eye on the Division II record all spring. We talked about that being the focus and how it would affect the pace of the competition if she went after the mark."

Ballinger was aggressive from the start of the race, with just one runner keeping pace with her throughout the first 1,200 meters. It was the final lap, however, that was the most challenging. "The last lap was probably the toughest," she said, "but it was thrilling coming toward the finish line, and it was awesome to know that I was going to win my first big race."

The win marks the third time in school history that a female student-athlete has won a national championship and the seventh overall.

The victory capped an amazing season for the Chesterton, Indiana, native. She completed the year with

four All-America awards.

Ballinger earned All-America accolades in cross country after finishing 10th at the NCAA II Championships, the highest placement by a female runner in school history. She went on to earn a pair of All-America honors in indoor track. She finished third in the 5,000 meters and helped USI's distance medley relay team to a fifth-place finish at the NCAA II Indoor Championships.

In addition to Ballinger, juniors Lauren Crick (Evansville, Indiana) and Lacy Williams (Haubstadt, Indiana) as well as senior Christy Dixon (Owensboro, Kentucky) earned All-America honors for their performances on USI's distance medley relay squad at the national meet.

A food and nutrition major, Ballinger was named the 2009 USI/Integra Bank Female Student Athlete of the Year. She also was named the NCAA II Midwest Region Female Athlete of the Year in outdoor track.



Ballinger

## PAC déjà vu in recreation room



Row 10, seats 1 through 70 at chair-rail height, encircles the family room at the home of Miles and Andrea Mann. The honey-colored wood that covers the walls and ceiling is from recycled bleachers removed during renovation of USI's Physical Activities Center, home of the Eagles. Miles Mann, assistant director of Facility Operations, negotiated with the contractor to salvage the materials. Mann's son Jack, 9, and the family dog enjoy the spacious room, that has a feel of a 1950s high school gymnasium. Mann invites visitors to sign the wall, and he ponders that some 500,000 people have sat on the wood in his basement. Nicks and cuts in the bleachers remain in the wood, along with seat numbers and other markings. An official for high school and college basketball and high school, college, and professional baseball for more than 30 years, Mann is a sports fan who lives with USI athletic history.

## Mat Santoro named men's soccer coach

Mat Santoro has been named head coach for men's soccer. Santoro comes to USI from the University of Memphis where he was an assistant coach for one season.

Santoro previously served for four seasons as the women's soccer head coach at Davis and Elkins College. He also has served as the men's assistant coach at Rowan

University in New Jersey. Santoro played collegiately for one season at the University of Maryland before transferring to Rowan where, as a player, he was a member of the 1990 Division III National Championship team. Santoro played professionally in the United States for four years before entering the coaching ranks.



Santoro

## Alumni Council 2009-10

### Officers

H. Alvin Basham '00  
*President*

Kevin L. Hammett '90  
*President Elect*

Mark A. Chandler '01  
*Secretary*

Jina L. Campbell '01, M'03  
*Treasurer*

Jean M. Blanton '01  
*Immediate Past President*

Ronald D. Romain '73  
*Alumni Trustee*

Tarrie Kendall Crist '94  
*Indianapolis Chapter*

Brian E. Pauley '00  
*Louisville Chapter*

Sandra L. Bosse '97

Ann M. East '91, M'96

Tina M. Kern-Raibley '86

Kristie A. Kirsch '79

Rebecca S. Korba '95

Caron J. Leader M'96

Lauren C. Leshner '04, M'05

J. Scott Mullins '00

Cindy L. Ohl '80

Ryan J. Robertson '01, M'07

Benjamin J. Schmitt '02

John M. Schroder '71, '03

Patrick R. Sullivan '86, '90

Sarah M. Wagner '94

Kyle S. Winiger '01

Steven R. Wozniak '97

### University Staff

Nancy L. Johnson '83, M'95

*Director of Alumni and*

*Volunteer Services*

Lisa J. Schaefer '98

*Assistant Director of Alumni*

*and Volunteer Services*

Deb C. Schmuck

*Senior Administrative Assistant*

TEL. 812/464-1924

www.usi.edu/alumni

## Alumni Calendar 2009 of Events

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| July 25       | USI Night with the Otters, 6 p.m. picnic and baseball game, Bosse Field   |
| August 8      | Greater Indianapolis Chapter Alumni and Entering Student Picnic, Indianapolis Indians baseball game, 5:30 p.m., Victory Field |
| August 21     | Greater Indianapolis USI Scholarship Golf Scramble, Noon, Eagle Creek Golf Club, Indianapolis                                 |
| August 29     | USI Day at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, Noon picnic, Santa Claus, Indiana  |
| September 15  | Alumni Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m., USI Foundation   |
| September 13  | USI Day at the Colts, 1 p.m., Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis   |
| September 18  | Alumni Golf Scramble, 11:30 a.m., Helfrich Hills Golf Course, Evansville  |
| October 8     | Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter Gathering, 7 p.m., Scotty's Brew House, Indianapolis                                      |
| October 10-11 | Parents & Families Weekend  |
| October 11    | Alumni Reception for President Linda L. M. Bennett, 2 p.m., USI McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries                           |
| October 20    | Return to the Heart of Nursing: Annual Nursing Alumni Society Dinner, 5:30 p.m., USI Carter Hall                              |
| November 10   | Alumni Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m., USI Foundation   |
| December 5    | Varsity Club and Alumni Soup and Hot Dog Supper, 5:30 p.m. following basketball games, USI Physical Activities Center 200     |
| December 7    | Lighting A Tradition, 7 p.m., USI Rice Library  |
| December 12   | Fall Commencement, USI Physical Activities Center   |

*All alumni are invited to attend these events.*

### 1970s

Stanley M. Campbell '72, art, is the marketing/public relations coordinator for Alexandrian Public Library in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Steven F. Farrell '73, accounting, is a partner with BKD, LLP in Indianapolis.

Albert Strader '76, communication, is the Marion County coordinator at Goodwill Industries in Indianapolis.

### 1980s

Robert A. DeWeese '80, biology, is a doctor of radiology at Columbus Diagnostic Imaging in Columbus, Indiana.

## Meet your new Alumni Council president

### Alvin Basham: 'exciting time to be a part of the University'

If you want to be part of something exciting, become involved in the University of Southern Indiana Alumni Association.

That's the advice of the new president of the Alumni Council. H. Alvin Basham '00 assumed the association's top leadership position on July 1. The annual change in USI Alumni Association leadership took place this year at the same time that Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett assumed the USI presidency at the retirement of Dr. H. Ray Hoops.

"There's not a more exciting time to be a part of the University. The growth that we have seen since Ray Hoops became president is amazing," Basham said, "and I don't think we've seen anything yet. I think Dr. Bennett will do a great job, and we'll continue to see the growth we've been accustomed to."

Basham said attendance at USI basketball games was the primary focus of his continuing connection with the University until he joined the Alumni Council in 2006. Now he devotes time to many alumni activities and encourages other graduates to be a part of events such as the Alumni Fun Golf Scramble, Day at the Zoo, USI Day at Churchill Downs, and the Graduation Celebration Reception and Dinner.

"The University is an integral part of our community," he said. "I work with a lot of USI graduates, and they're some of the smartest people I know. There are many USI graduates who play important roles in our community."

A business administration graduate, Basham was promoted in January to vice president/portfolio manager in the Wealth Management

Division at Integra Bank in Evansville. He recently earned certification as a Certified Financial Planner.

Basham has been on the bank's career ladder since he started working in the mail room at age 17. At that time the bank was known as National City Bank. The name changed to Integra in 2000. During most of his student days at USI, Basham worked part-time as a teller. In 1999, when he accepted a full-time position in the Wealth Management Division, he continued at USI part-time to complete degree requirements.

Since 1999, he has worked in some capacity in portfolio management. "I deal with a diverse group of people," he said. "When I sit in front of a client, every situation is different. I enjoy that aspect of it. My goal is to meet the client's goals and objectives."

Basham's community involvement extends beyond the USI Alumni Association. He serves on the USI Foundation



Basham

board of directors and is vice president of the Reitz Home Preservation Society.

Basham met his wife Tiffany '99, business administration, at USI. They have a son Riley, age 5, whose favorite team is the Eagles, and a daughter Reese, age 2. The family lives in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

*"I work with a lot of USI graduates, and they're some of the smartest people I know.*

*There are many USI graduates who play important roles in our community."*

— Alvin Basham

**Thomas R. Lilly '80**, communications, is the senior vice president for Saint Mary's Medical Center in Evansville.

**Debra Marcoccia Poelhuis '80**, health services, was recently appointed to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology, the professional accrediting body for radiography programs in the United States.

**Daniel R. Wagner '81**, business, has accepted the position of director of registration at Los Alamos Medical Center in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

**Donita F. Wolf '83**, accounting, is a realtor for ERA First Advantage in Evansville. She received the Business Woman of the Year Award in 2008 from the Evansville Women's Council of Realtors.

**Jeanne Nix Bundy '84**, dental laboratory technology, is the senior document coordinator for Mead Johnson Nutritionals in Evansville.

**Barbara L. Butler '85**, health occupations, was elected to the board of directors for A Network of Evansville Women (ANEW) for 2009. Butler is the chief executive officer for Healthsouth Tri-State Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville.

**James "Jim" M. Clayton '86**, computer information systems, has owned Trinity Marketing Group, Inc., since 1996. He is serving as the lead pastor of Journey Church in Franklin, Indiana.

**Jane Baumgart Moon '86**, communications, is a Medicaid waiver case manager at Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

**David L. Pearce '88**, communications, is the owner/publisher of the *Posey County News* in New Harmony, Indiana.

**Tracy Van Zant Zeller '89**, accounting, was elected to the board of directors for A Network of Evansville Women (ANEW) for 2009. Zeller is the owner of Tracy Zeller Enterprises in Evansville.

## 1990s

**Jeffrey E. Somers '90**, economics, has taken the position of cash management officer for Ameriana Bank in Carmel, Indiana.

**Daniel R. Fitzgerald '91**, art, is a master printer and co-founder of Above Ground Printmaking in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Christy McKee Morlock '91**, accounting, is vice president of administration for Environmental Management Consultants, Inc., in Evansville.

**Donald B. Patton '91**, accounting, is the compensation manager for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

**Jamie L. Wicks '91**, business administration, '97, Master of Business Administration, was elected to serve on the board of directors for A Network of Evansville Women (ANEW) for 2009. Wicks is an assistant vice president/trust officer at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville.

**James W. Beck '92**, communications, is the communications leader at Alcoa's Warrick Operations in Newburgh, Indiana.

**Geoff A. Gentil '92**, business education, is a vice president for commercial lending at Integra Bank in Evansville.

**Angela Catt Brawdy '93**, accounting, '99, Master of Business Administration, received the Human Resources Award for Professional Excellence for Human Resources Professionals in the state of Indiana. The award was presented by the Indiana State Council of the Society for Human Resources Management in August 2008.

## Matt Hart and Cathy Kirsch Nelson

### The USI graduates behind two highly successful high school theatre programs

Elliot Wasserman, director of USI Theatre, says graduates Matt Hart '94 and Cathy Kirsch Nelson '96 were "marked for success" from the moment he met them. Highly motivated and exceptionally talented, they loved hard work for its own sake.

Both Hart and Nelson are directors of theatre programs at high schools in Indiana. Both are raising the curtain on sophisticated new performing arts centers at their schools. They continue to grow their theatre programs in size and quality.

Wasserman said, "As a creative process, theatre demands artists who take initiative. Nowhere does that initiative produce more tangible results than in our schools. Cathy and Matt came to USI with the specific ambition to apply their love of theatre to a career in high school teaching. They exemplify what we consider the ideal candidate for theatre study: they are individuals rich in initiative. They could have pursued theatre in any number of ways or applied its discipline and skill set toward other avenues in life, but they chose public school education and have built large and successful programs as a result."

Wasserman also is chair of USI's Performing Arts Department and professor of theatre.

#### State champions

Hart's students at Gibson Southern High School were named champions at the International Thespian Society's Indiana State Conference in March for their performance of *Between Daylight and Boonville*. They traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska, in June to represent the state at the 2009 International Thespian Festival, billed as "the best week of high school theatre in the country."

In his thirteenth year at Gibson Southern, Hart said the time was right for him to stage the play written by Evansville native Matt Williams, creator of television shows "Roseanne" and "Home Improvement." Hart had a group of experienced students who could handle the serious issues, including death, presented in the play. Set in Southwestern Indiana, the drama deals with the coal mining industry and families that work in it.

"We're proud that not only will we be representing Indiana, but we'll be representing our specific region," Hart said,

as he looked forward to the festival where students also would have an opportunity to attend workshops and audition for talent scouts.

A renovation and expansion project will be complete at Gibson Southern in the fall, providing the theatre program with a new 670-seat auditorium as well as a black box theatre. Hart provided input in the design phase. Facilities will include a full fly system and state-of-the-art equipment as well as scene shop, costume shop, and two green rooms/dressing rooms.

Hart said the USI theatre program was a great help to him when he was at the University and continues to be.



Hart



Nelson

Wasserman and USI theatre students have made presentations to Hart's students.

Hart teaches English in addition to the theatre arts class. He will add a technical theatre class next year. He has directed more than 20 plays and musicals at Gibson Southern. He was seen earlier this year as Mitch in Evansville's Civic Theatre production of *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

#### Emotional curtain call

Nelson already is enjoying a new 650-seat performing arts center and the black box theatre that serves as her classroom at Hobart High School in Hobart, Indiana. The school moved to a new campus in January.

Now in her eleventh year at Hobart, Nelson has seen much of the dream list she put together during the planning for the new building come true. "Everything is state-of-the-art," she said.

Facilities include a full fly system, scene shop, dressing rooms, and make-up rooms. The black box has mirrors and bars so it can be used as a dance studio. It also has a mini-lighting system that allows Nelson to teach proper lighting techniques.

The maiden production in the auditorium was this spring's musical *Anything Goes*.

"The students didn't realize the emotion they would feel after the curtain call of that first performance," Nelson said. "I'm usually in the house watching. They wait for me to come backstage and say a few words. This time it was so emotional. We have pretty close to a professional theatre."

Nelson has directed almost 30 productions at Hobart. She teaches English in addition to an acting class, a technical theatre class, and an introductory theatre course. She has made field trips with her students to visit the USI theatre program. Wasserman presented a workshop to 35 students at the high school in February.

A tireless recruiter, Nelson had students this year who planned to audition for performing arts scholarships at USI



Cathy Nelson, front row left, and students presented *Anything Goes* in their school's new theatre.

and others who have enrolled and want to be involved in theatre while majoring in other fields.

A Posey County, Indiana, native, Nelson did not anticipate moving so far from Evansville. She learned of the opening in Hobart, which is near Valparaiso, by calling the USI job hotline and pushing the button to hear about opportunities more than 50 miles from Evansville.

Wasserman said the new facilities at Gibson Southern and Hobart "are directly related to the impact these two outstanding educators have had in their schools."

**William L. Kunkler '93**, mechanical engineering technology, has taken the position of design engineer at Specialty Tooling, Inc., in Evansville.

**Melanie Meador Lee '94**, English, is the assistant director of the Center for Writing Excellence at Ohio University in Athens. She is in her third year of Ph.D work in the Department of English, specializing in rhetoric and composition.

**Marian Giamati Patterson '94**, accounting, is a business manager at Fox 7 WTVW in Evansville.

**Kevin M. Muller '95**, political science, is an enterprise business intelligence administrator for ADESA, Inc., in Carmel, Indiana.

**Nancy V. Sterniak '95**, Spanish education, is an assistant professor at Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica.

**Andrea R. Titzer '95**, French, is a research associate for Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Christy Showalter Cardina '96**, psychology, is the director of training for the Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Angela Martin Hollingsworth '96**, radiologic technology, is a charge/QA technologist at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

**Caron J. Leader '96**, Master of Social Work, was elected to the board of directors for A Network of Evansville Women (ANEW) for 2009. Leader is a partner/psychotherapist at aha! Architects of Human Awareness in Evansville.

**Shelley Dennis Llamas '96**, accounting, is the program integrity manager for Myers and Stauffer, LC in Indianapolis.

**Lori McCammon Hess '97**, social work, has joined the Masonic Home of Louisville as executive director and administrator in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Sherry L. Jones '97**, accounting, is an assistant vice president/senior audit team member at Old National Bank in Evansville.

**Sara Langland Mindell '97**, nursing, is a case manager for the United States Coast Guard in San Pedro, California.

**Jill Shurig DeGraffenreid '98**, elementary education, '06, Master in Science in Education, is a teacher at Fairlawn Elementary in Evansville.

**Cathleen Bryan Tamez '98**, communications, is the executive secretary for the Evansville Fire Department.

**Emily Boofter Byrd '99**, business administration, is an executive assistant for One Southern Indiana in New Albany, Indiana.

**Jake R. Fulcher '99**, political science, is an attorney at Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn in Evansville. He was selected for inclusion in the Indiana Super Lawyers 2009 magazine.

**Angela Kaho Gladish '99**, business education, is the assistant principal at South Spencer High School in Rockport, Indiana.

**Christopher D. Holstein '99**, business administration, is a teacher at Henderson County High School in Henderson, Kentucky.

**Laura Parker Moos '99**, elementary education, a kindergarten teacher, was selected Harrison Parkway Teacher of the Year for 2008. She resides in Greenfield, Indiana.

**Chad A. Smith '99**, social studies teaching, is a teacher/coach at Northview High School in Brazil, Indiana.

## 2000s

**Caroline D. Christmas '00**, biology, is a veterinarian for Epperson Veterinary Services in Evansville.

**Heather C. Ray '00**, sociology, is a sales audit manager for Shoe Carnival, Inc., in Evansville.

**Debra Brendel Wells '00**, business administration, has recently retired from the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

**Jean Cunningham Blanton '01**, political science/public relations and advertising, associate attorney at Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders in Evansville, has been named a Rising Star among Indiana attorneys in the yearly publication of the Indiana Super Lawyer issued by the publishers of *Indianapolis Monthly Magazine*.

**Travis W. Gillison '01**, radio and television, is a usability engineer for Interactive Intelligence in Indianapolis.

**Chad E. Mair '01**, chemistry, is a postdoctoral research associate at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

**Rachel O'Bryan Polazzi '01**, nursing/health services, graduated from California State University-Fullerton in August 2008 with a master's degree in nurse anesthesia.

**Heather Burress Wilson '01**, interpersonal organization, is the assistant to the superintendent at the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

**Melody Yonts Baker '02**, science teaching, is a science department head and teacher at Bosse High School in Evansville.

## Alumni families spend Day at the Zoo



More than 500 alumni and their families attended USI Day at the Zoo at Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville. Children enjoyed a special animal encounter and made animal puppets, masks, and pinecone bird feeders.

**Darren R. Verkamp '02**, business administration, '05, Master of Business Administration, has taken the position of business development manager for AmeriQual Group LLC.

**Courtney Freshour Crowe '03**, elementary education, is a family case manager for the Department of Child Services in Avon, Indiana.

**Travis J. Erny '03**, geology, is a geologist with Quality Environmental Professionals, Inc., in Indianapolis.

**Roberta J. Fugate '03**, journalism and computer publishing, is a reporter for the *New Jersey Herald* in Newton, New Jersey.

**Andrew S. Koors '03**, accounting, is the assistant controller for Midland Powder Company in Evansville.

**Julie Wittman Morrison '03**, public relations and advertising, earned a master's degree in management in 2007 from Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Nathaniel A. Rivers '03**, English/psychology, has completed a doctorate at Purdue University. He will be an assistant professor of English at Georgetown University in the fall.

**Carly L. Walton '03**, geology, is a field inspector for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in Evansville.

**Travis L. Clowers '04**, political science, is a deputy prosecutor for Brown County Prosecutor's Office in Nashville, Indiana.

**Jeremy E. Gallion '04**, accounting and professional services, has been promoted to audit manager at Ernst & Young LLP in Indianapolis.

**Andrea Chapman Gash '04**, communications, is an annual fund associate for the Indiana University Foundation in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Aisha Earle-Smith Havill '04**, public relations and advertising, is a creative services project manager at Old National Bank in Evansville.

**John C. Havill '04**, public relations and advertising, joined Bamberger, Foreman, Oswald & Hahn as an attorney in Evansville.

**Wessley J. Maurer '04**, economics, is a senior analyst/proprietary research at ECG Management Consultants, Inc., in St. Louis, Missouri. He is co-founder of Wellness for Life, an employee wellness and disease management company in Terre Haute, Indiana.

## Alumni Association presents annual awards

The USI Alumni Association honored an administrator, a nursing faculty member, and two alumni with awards in May at the 2009 Graduation Celebration Reception and Dinner.

**Special Recognition Award:** Dr. H. Ray Hoops, president emeritus

**Faculty Recognition Award:** Dr. Ann H. White, assistant dean for nursing, professor of nursing, and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program

**Alumni Service Award:** Stephanie S. Buchanan '97, member of the USI Foundation Board, past president of USI Alumni Association; account executive for Kentucky Data Link

**Distinguished Alumni Award:** W. Kerry Jackson '84, executive vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Shoe Carnival, Inc.

The four awards are presented annually.

## Inductees named for USI Athletic Hall of Fame

The 2009 class of the USI Athletic Hall of Fame includes four former student athletes, two former coaches, and one team.

The following inductees were recognized at an evening ceremony during Homecoming Week in February.

- **Jim Nolan**, men's cross country/track, 1980-84
- **John Hollinden '83**, men's basketball, 1979-81
- **Eileen Weber '98**, women's basketball, 1994-98
- **Elly Rono '99**, men's cross country, 1996-98
- **Jim Brown**, head coach for baseball, men's golf, and women's golf, 1970-2003
- **Chancellor Dugan**, women's basketball head coach, 1991-99
- **1995 Men's Basketball National Championship team**

For information on the accomplishments of these new USI Athletic Hall of Fame members, visit [www.usi.edu/sports](http://www.usi.edu/sports).



### Jon Carl is alumnus in residence for College of Liberal Arts



Jon Carl '95 M.S.E.'98, history teacher at Reitz High School in Evansville, makes a presentation as alumnus in residence for the College of Liberal Arts. Carl and his Reitz students have won a number of awards for their project, Feel the History, a class in which students made documentaries that air on WNIN-TV. His presentation was titled "Hands on History: Transforming Students into Historians by Making Documentaries."

### Louisville Alumni Chapter president speaks on actuarial careers



Brian Pauley '00, second from left, talks with students while on campus to speak on careers in the actuarial profession. He was alumnus in residence for the Pott College of Science and Engineering. Pauley is president of the Greater Louisville Chapter of the USI Alumni Association.

### Brent Auberry named partner in Indianapolis law firm

Brent A. Auberry '95 has been named a partner in the law firm of Baker & Daniels LLP. He is a member of the tax group practicing from Baker & Daniels' downtown Indianapolis office.

Auberry joined the firm in 2001. He earned a bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern Indiana in 1995, majoring in political science and history. He completed a law degree *magna cum laude* from the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis in 1998.



Auberry

Baker & Daniels serves clients in regional, national and international transaction, regulatory, and litigation matters from offices in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Beijing.

Auberry served as student trustee on the USI Board of Trustees from 1993-95. He was a USI Alumni Association Presidential Scholar.

Glenn A. David '05, health services, is a primary care registered nurse for the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Evansville.

Jessica N. Hybarger '05, public relations and advertising, is the assistant director of campus visits for Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in Indianapolis.

Emily Divine Kasparov '05, English, has completed a law degree at Marquette University Law School and Northwestern University Law School. She resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Megan L. Barnhill '06, elementary education, has taken the position of third-grade teacher at Mount Carmel Elementary in Douglasville, Georgia.

Michael D. Dayton '06, finance, is senior commercial analyst for Totem Ocean Trailer Express in Federal Way, Washington.

Ashley Ruggier Hulsey '06, finance, is an organizational development specialist at Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Erlanger, Kentucky.

Jason P. Seifert '06, accounting and professional services/finance, has been promoted to audit senior at Ernst & Young LLP in Indianapolis.

Jayne Schiller Treviño '06, Master of Social Work, is a clinical therapist for Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare in Evansville.

Yauheniya Dubko Highman '07, economics, is a production data analyst for Northwest Pipe in Adelanto, California.

David K. Hurm '07, elementary education, is a sixth-grade teacher/coach at South Spencer Middle School in Rockport, Indiana.

Joshua W. Knotts '07, public relations and advertising, has taken the position of director of marketing management for Sage Harbor IRA Investments in Sherwood, Oregon.

Sarah N. Rader '07, elementary education, is a middle school teacher for Saint James Catholic School in Haubstadt, Indiana.

Christopher M. Robinson '07, economics, is the manager for National Sheet Metal in Evansville.

Abby S. Bauder '08, public relations and advertising, has taken the position of customer service representative for Nussmeier Engraving in Evansville.

Samuel C. Bowles '08, English, is an associate minister at Hillview Christian Church in Marengo, Indiana.

Nichole Vieck Carie '08, radio and television, is a reporter/producer for WVUB-FM and WVUT-TV in Vincennes, Indiana.

Rhonda Young Darnell '08, family nurse practitioner, is a family nurse practitioner for Marshall County Family Medical in Benton, Kentucky. She recently obtained certification from both the Academy of Nurse Practitioners and American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Jelaine Solitario Garrett '08, accounting, is an accounting specialist at Renewable Energy Group, Inc., in Ames, Iowa.

Stacy A. Kasmier '08, biology, is a zoo-keeper for Metro Richmond Zoo in Moseley, Virginia.

Cassie M. Marcum '08, public relations and advertising, is the program director for Anderson Speedway in Anderson, Indiana.

Whitney L. Nash '08, food and nutrition, has joined Floyd Memorial Hospital Weight Management Center in New Albany, Indiana.

Daryl R. Booth '09, art, is a foundation intern for John David Mooney Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

### Marriages

Tamra L. Anderson '87, dental hygiene, and Tim Wanning, August 8, 2008

Jason K. Burchard '99, accounting, and Donja Drury, December 28, 2008

Lindsey M. McGrath '01, business administration, and Alan Knight, October 24, 2008

Allison F. Sutton '02, biology/science teaching, and Andrew Grabert, June 20, 2008

Toni R. Wade '02, business, and Ken Tadlock, April 5, 2008

Stephanie A. Watson '02, exercise science, and Andrew Stewart, November 8, 2008

Britney N. Gentry '03, journalism and computer publishing/sociology, and Christopher M. Orth '06, business administration, November 29, 2008

Nathanael A. Willis '04, applied computer science, and Lindsay N. Satterthwaite '03, public relations and advertising, May 12, 2007

Ryan D. Carroll '05, radio and television, and Lacey A. Gregory '05, psychology, August 9, 2008

Emily J. Hart '06, elementary education, and Erik M. Nelson '07, business administration, October 25, 2008

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**Brandon E. Kneer '06**, business education, and Corrie Strange, May 31, 2008

**Janelle L. Merkel '06**, psychology, and Cody Byrd, September 27, 2008

**Melea J. Pipes '06**, business administration, and Mario Segovia, November 8, 2008

**Rachel A. Beavin '07**, radio and television, and **Nicholas W. Folz '07**, art, March 29, 2008

**Holly A. Van Gorp '07**, management, and Jacob Sobota, June 7, 2008

**Beau M. Brown '08**, elementary education, and **Amber K. Brattain '08**, visual art teaching, December 20, 2008

**Taryn N. Dixon '08**, history, and Matthew Funkhouser, August 14, 2008

**Blake M. Elpers '08**, elementary education, and Abigail Roudebush, January 3, 2009

**Courtney L. Fife '08**, accounting/finance, and Benjamin McNett, December 12, 2008

**Erica L. Lovvorn '08**, elementary education, and **Issac S. Coy '09**, industrial supervision, May 18, 2008

**Isis D. Miller '08**, nursing, and **Anthony F. Spaulding '06**, accounting and professional services, February 14, 2009

**Monica M. Muller '08**, theater arts, and Andrew Gauer, February 21, 2009

**Etta M. Thompson '08**, social work, and Lee Staples, January 21, 2009

## Births

**Kevin L. Hammett '90**, accounting, and **Michelle Clark Hammett '90**, marketing, son, Carter Alan, December 7, 2008

**Michael L. Hulsman '93**, accounting/finance, '01, Master of Business Administration, and **Krista Wallace Hulsman '03**, business administration, daughter, Alexi Renee

**Michael L. Allyn '94**, business administration, and Donna, daughters, Lindsey Nicole and Lacy Marie, January 8, 2009

**Bradley F. Elpers '94**, business education, and **Elizabeth Kuebler Elpers '92**, elementary education, daughter, Catherine Suzanne, July 14, 2008

**Caroline Pugh Staggs '95**, elementary education, and Scott, son, Tate John, October 17, 2008

**Matthew S. Mulherin '96**, computer information systems, and Angela, son, Trenton Matthew, October 23, 2008

**Kara Chapman Alexander '98**, elementary education, and Jon, daughter, Ava Elise, September 23, 2009

**James C. Bigham '98**, biology, and Allyson, son, James Nolan, October 9, 2008

**Lori Ballston Feel '98**, accounting, and **Eric G. Feel '07**, Master of Business Administration, son, Jacob Lee, March 4, 2009

**Melissa Spahn Van Bibber '98**, mathematics, and Kiley, son Drew Richard, November 25, 2008

**Tonya Kirkland Borders '99**, accounting, and Thomas, daughter, Emery Charlotte, January 3, 2009

**James M. Myrick '99**, physical education teaching, and Melodie, son, Zavier Michael, August 13, 2008

**Shawna Lingenfelter Walton '99**, elementary education, and **Tyler R. Walton '01**, elementary education, son, Carter Richard, February 22, 2008

**Angela Mackey Gambill '00**, elementary education, and Aaron, son, Alijah Allon, December 12, 2008

**Ryan W. Graber '00**, accounting, and Amy, son, Carson Wayne, July 1, 2008

**J. Scott Mullins '00**, political science, and **Jamie Gregory Mullins '00**, elementary education, son, Clayton James, January 14, 2009

**Stephanie Perrette Pingsterhaus '00**, health services, and Troy, son, Reed Samuel, June 8, 2008

**Alysia Lamb Rhinefort '00**, public relations and advertising, **Troy A. Rhinefort '00**, journalism and computer publishing, son, Adrian Grant, May 2, 2009

**Franklin S. Jones '01**, computer information systems, and Crystal, son, Christian Scott, November 13, 2008

**Julie Stewart Lovell '01**, elementary education, '06, Master of Science in Education, and Matt, daughter, Mattie Hope, February 3, 2009

**Jeremy D. Melton '01**, radio and television, and **Elizabeth Bucko Melton '00**, biology, twins, Maxwell Dean and Molly Elizabeth, November 9, 2008

**Paula Strange Montgomery '01**, nursing/health services, and Roderick, Ella Anne, December 5, 2008

## Robbie Kent awarded honorary degree

Evansville businessman Robert M. "Robbie" Kent Sr. was awarded an honorary degree at USI Commencement in May.

A member of the first USI Eagles basketball team, Kent built a distinguished career in the automotive industry. He owned and operated 11 automotive franchises. He was chairman and chief executive officer of Kenny Kent Toyota Lexus and Kenny Kent Chevrolet.

Understanding the value of intercollegiate athletics and the challenges of funding these programs, he supported the USI Athletic Department with in-kind gifts to help meet transportation needs of the teams. He is a member of the Varsity Club.

During the University's first capital campaign, Kent served as honorary alumni campaign chair for the College of Business. His generous gift and his work as chair increased scholarship and faculty development opportunities.

His wife Marguerite is a 1972 USI graduate.

USI also honored the leadership of Dr. James W. Murray, who retired in 2007 after 33 years as president of Oakland City University.

Kent and Murray were awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.



Kent

## Tim Putnam appointed president of Batesville hospital

Timothy L. Putnam MBA '00 has been appointed president and chief executive officer of Margaret Mary Community Hospital in Batesville, Indiana. The appointment was effective in January.



Putnam

Putnam was formerly chief executive officer for Mercer County Hospital, a 39-bed critical access facility in Aledo, Illinois. A fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, he is pursuing a doctorate in health administration from the Medical University of South Carolina.

In addition to Mercer County Hospital, Putnam's experience includes director positions in ambulatory care services, emergency services, and advanced surgery at Ascension Health at St. Mary's Medical Center in Evansville, as well as positions at the Georgia Laser Center in Rome, Georgia, and Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. Putnam also has

been active in various community service organizations and economic development initiatives on the local and state levels.

## Rachel Mayes named division controller for Alcoa

Rachel Mayes MBA'97 has been named controller for the Rigid Packaging Division of Alcoa Warrick Operations in Newburgh, Indiana.



Mayes

Mayes was previously manager of operational and business analysis. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, she joined Warrick Operations in 1985 after graduating *magna cum laude* from Hampton University with a degree in accounting. She has held various accounting and production roles at Alcoa Warrick Operations.

From 2000-03, she served as controller of the Primary Metals Division at Alcoa Badin Operations in Badin, North Carolina. She also has been associated with Alcoa Morris Operations in Morris, Illinois.

Rachel serves on the USI Foundation board of directors and is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

## Two named to Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame

Two former men's basketball players—P.K. Falkenstein '89 and Chris Schafer '88—have been named to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. They were recognized in March at the organization's annual men's awards banquet in Indianapolis.

**Ryan J. Robertson '01**, business administration, '07, Master of Business Administration, and Kim, son, Connor Isaiah Dillon, December 5, 2008

**Mariam Mansour Applegate '02**, dental hygiene, and **Stephen T. Applegate '02**, civil engineering technology, daughter, Reese Kay, January 14, 2009

**Erin Smith Watjen '02**, business administration, and Jess, son, Porter Henry, April 17, 2008

**Misty Fauguher Majors '03**, social work, '04, Master of Social Work, and Clint, daughter, Chloe Lynn, November 11, 2008

**Nathan T. Price '03**, French, and **Maggie Poitras Price '05**, English, daughter, Nathalie Grace, January 22, 2009

**Shannon Higginson Schickel '03**, business education, and Shane, son, Carter Joseph, January 9, 2009

**Christopher M. Wilguess '03**, communications, and **Sarah E. Cearlock '03**, occupational therapy, son, Clayton Christopher, December 29, 2008

**Shaun J. Angel '04**, business administration, and Molly, son, Jack Henry, December 12, 2008

**Rebecca Kiesel Mann '04**, biology, and **Jeremy L. Mann '04**, biology, daughter, Meredith Ann, October 3, 2008

**Vicki Coffey Thompson '04**, elementary education, and **Brandon D. Thompson '02**, psychology/social work, son, Lukas James, January 25, 2009

**Tina Carroll Fields '05**, computer information systems/accounting, and Christopher, daughter, Cassidy Grace, February 11, 2009

**Kacie Perigo Whiteley '05**, elementary education, and Christopher, son, Ryland Joseph, February 8, 2008

**Erika Myers-Bromwell Borders '06**, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, and Daniel, daughter, Veda Simone, January 5, 2009

**Aaron M. Wallace '06**, industrial supervision, and Angela, son, Ashton Blake, August 15, 2008

Holly Wimberg Happe '07, nursing, and Matthew, daughter, Hope Rose, January 21, 2009

Amber James Wheeler '07, nursing, '08, health services, and Nickolas, son, Brian Austin, December 9, 2008

## In Memoriam

**Mary Lou Hunt Carpenter '77**, elementary education, of Princeton, Indiana, died November 18, 2008. She was a teacher's aide at Franklin Elementary School. After earning an elementary education degree, she taught fourth grade at Franklin and Baldwin Heights for 17 years, retiring in October 1994.

**Glen Richard "Rick" Hankins '78**, finance, of Evansville, died January 9, 2009. Hankins played baseball for Funkhouser-American Legion and was scouted by the Philadelphia Phillies. He attended USI on a baseball scholarship. He joined the Evansville Fire Department in 1979, serving as an active fire fighter for 29 years before retiring in April 2008. He was an avid golfer and a member of the USI golf team.

**Norman W. Wendholt '80**, civil engineering technology, of Saint Anthony, Indiana, died February 15, 2009. He was a county engineer for the Dubois County Highway Department.

**Kelly Williams '83**, business management, of Peachtree City, Georgia, died May 23, 2009. Williams played basketball for the Screaming Eagles between 1979 and 1983 and helped the Eagles to GLVC championships in 1980 and 1981. Williams still ranks 14th all-time at USI with 1,094 career points and 18th all-time with 445 career rebounds. He worked for the last 20 years in the poly resin supply industry as owner and president of Alliance Polymers Inc. in Peachtree City.

**Nancy Smith Schmidt '85**, elementary education, of Evansville, died April 25, 2009. She was a nontraditional student who began college after her children were in school.

## Connect to University of Southern Indiana

We rely more and more on email communication.

Share your email address with USI to keep current on University and alumni happenings and events.

Send your email address to [alumni@usi.edu](mailto:alumni@usi.edu) or update your information online at [www.usi.edu/alumni/ssl/update.asp](http://www.usi.edu/alumni/ssl/update.asp).



**Glenn A. Myres '88**, psychology, of Hatfield, Indiana, died December 17, 2008.

**Darrell Glenn Mathews '89**, art, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, died November 8, 2008. Mathews was a scout leader for more than 30 years. Known for his volunteer work in the Emergency Response Service, he served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT as well as a Community Emergency Response team trainer. Mathews was a disabled veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

**Eric W. Dornburg '90**, accounting, of Evansville, died February 2, 2009. He owned Tri-State Medical Billing Services for 13 years. Dornburg previously worked at American General Finance.

**Nancy Noble Lehnus '97**, sociology, of Evansville, died April 21, 2009. She was a registered nurse at Welborn Hospital from 1975 to 1981.

**Jason D. Elam '01**, art, of Carmi, Illinois, died February 24, 2009. He was a graphic designer and artist.

**Michael D. Hirshberg '02**, English, of Evansville, died January 13, 2009. He was a sales representative employed with Utility

Pipe of Evansville. Hirshberg enjoyed scuba diving, golf, travel, and music.

**Earl Hartgrove '04**, Master of Business Administration, of Evansville, died January 8, 2009. He retired in October 2008 from Ivy Tech Community College after 10 years of employment. Hartgrove was a program chair and teacher in business construction management and construction technologies programs.

**Karen Kirkwood Steckler '04**, journalism and computer publishing, of Evansville, died April 12, 2009. She was a web designer for Vision Communications. Steckler enjoyed traveling, working in the garden, and reading.

**Heather M. Gill '06**, art, of Jasper, Indiana, died March 21, 2009. She was a graphic designer for B.R. Associates.

**Barb Scott Parman '07**, Master of Social Work, of Monroe City, Indiana, died May 4, 2009. She was a social worker for Willows Intensive Services in Vincennes, Indiana. She loved contemporary Christian music and doing things for children, especially the underprivileged.

## We want to hear from you!

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



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