

USI Magazine

Summer 2014



TRANSITIONS

From the President



How many transitions, adaptations to new conditions or even slight changes in a daily situation have you experienced? Chances are, if you think about it, you will recognize we are all experiencing transitions, large and small, all the time.

Knowledge and experience often help us in our transitions. Sometimes the changes are small, but the accumulated impact over time can be remarkable, much like a coach urging a team to do the small things well. USI Baseball Coach Tracy Archuleta set his

focus on developing a team of young men into champions. The story of our Screaming Eagles and the 2014 NCAA Division II National Championship is a lesson in the power of small changes.

Sometimes what we have learned leads us to help others adapt to a sudden significant change, as shown by USI alumna Ellen Small Billard, who used her knowledge and experience to help Syrian war refugees. Or, by alumnus Sean Little who reaches out to urban adolescents through his Evansville-based Hip-Hop 101: Voice & Choice program. And still other times transformation is thrust upon us, as with the example of recent graduate Ben Trockman, whose life experience with physical limitations inspires him to help others with disabilities transition into new careers.

Adaptation to change is an integral part of USI's history and identity. The truth in our vision statement "shaping the future through learning and innovation" is revealed in these stories—just a few of the many stories of our students and alumni who are guided by the knowledge they've found through their education at USI—Knowledge for Life.

Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett
President

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On the Cover

Sean Little '12, director of communication at IMPACT Ministries, with some of the rappers who have participated in Hip-Hop 101: Voice & Choice, a program that offers a writing-as-a-means-of-self-discovery workshop for at-risk urban males. Story on page 2.

We know our alumni are doing great things, and we want to hear about it. We're eager to share your stories in upcoming issues of *USI Magazine*. Future themes include food, money, partnership and USI's 50th anniversary. If you have a story to tell or a topic to suggest that you think relates to one of these subjects or others, we're all ears. Contact us at usinews@usi.edu.

Thanks,
C. L. Stambush
Editor







LAYING DOWN NEW TRACKS

By C. L. Stambush



At one time, Sean Little's future held the promise of all things bad. Growing up in Cincinnati, in what he describes as a diverse, poor, working-class neighborhood, his environment taught him that to "be the man" meant being hard and cold. When he was eight his parents bitterly divorced, leaving him largely fatherless and with a single mother working multiple jobs. Left to figure life out on his own, he turned to his older brother. "Scott was the most consistent, most present person in my life," said Little. But Scott's life had become one of drugs, promiscuity and theft; of acquisition as an expression of identity.

It would be years before Little explored and understood his identity, and then it would be through an explosion of words, thoughts and beliefs overlain onto a track of steady beats: rap. "Part of hip-hop is to dream to get to a better place," he said. "We act, believe and live based on who we think we are. We don't ask, 'Who am I? Why am I the way I am?'" But he did. And now, as the director of communication at IMPACT Ministries, in downtown Evansville, he's intent on engaging other at-risk males to think critically about their expressions of identity. He's doing this through a program at IMPACT called Hip-Hop 101: Voice & Choice.

The program explores the history, culture and artistic expression of hip-hop and asks participants to consider their identity through writing. The words are then transformed into rap songs and recorded

in IMPACT's studio. "Hip-hop provides tools through writing, recording and performing rap as a means of discovering who you are," Little said. "If you don't have these tools, you can be owned by a society that *tells* you who you are. Everybody should define [for themselves] who they are, but doing so takes effort."

The wake-up call for Little came when his brother died of a drug overdose. He was floating through college at the University of Cincinnati (UC), not connecting with professors or a possible future. "My identity was dovetailed and intertwined with Scott's, and then all of a sudden he was gone." Realizing how short and fragile life is, Little left college to regroup.

Hip-hop has been his conduit to discovery since he was 15 and his mother kicked him out of the house. Forced to live with his father in the suburbs,

**"Life is a transition.
We must learn to
be patient with
ourselves."**

—Sean Little '12





the disengaged and disgruntled teen found a friend—Jay—who wanted to write and record music too. “We were blueprints of each other,” Little said, remembering how they rapped into a recorder on top of Jay’s dresser. But after his brother’s death in 2006, Little was lost. It took months for him to regain traction in life.

He eventually reentered UC, earning a bachelor’s degree in interpersonal communication in 2009. Shortly after that he and his wife (whom he’d married in 2008) moved to Evansville where he went to work at IMPACT and created Hip-Hop 101, a program that had been in his “head and heart for a long time.” Although it was his dream to create something to help others, the dream came with a downside. IMPACT couldn’t pay him a salary and he had to fund his own paycheck out of the money he raised for the program. “It got to be too much,” he said. “I got frustrated.”

Living and working, trying to provide for his family and seeking to get ahead in life, Little decided to earn an English degree and teaching license, and enrolled at USI. He student-taught at Benjamin Bosse High School and graduated from USI in 2012 only to realize his heart wasn’t in the traditional classroom, but still rooted in the work he’d started at IMPACT.

He returned to IMPACT but this time things were different. “I learned through my experience at USI that I had organizational value,” he said. That understanding came from relationships he’d developed with professors such as Dr. Amy Montz, assistant professor of English and Dr. Charles Conway, associate professor of English, with whom Little had long “human conversations.” “I carried that back to IMPACT and proposed a position to fit my knowledge.” The organization didn’t have a director of communication, but created the position expressly for him.



“People will take a chance if they don’t feel their failure will equate to a reduction of their value.”

Little doesn’t want at-risk males to fall into the trap of believing they are the same as those around them, as he once did, and he mentors them, just as he’d once been counseled at a community program. As a troubled teen he was invited to join a youth group, and initially went because there were pretty girls. But he kept returning because he found male role models who cared, and he began to see himself differently. At IMPACT he’s invested in a number of programs to help people learn life skills so they can overcome generational poverty and have options in life. He leads Bible study groups, plays basketball and answers



phone calls and emails at all hours of the day and night to show he cares. "What becomes of us is our choice," he said.

Since Hip-Hop 101's inception in 2010, roughly 70 men have graduated from the one-day, introductory writing-as-a-means-of-self-discovery workshop. For each continued writing project completed, workshop graduates earn recording time in IMPACT's studio. While this may sound simple, people in poverty face a host of problems others don't, mainly the core competencies for successfully operating within society's system. Little wants his participants to be successful, and for that they must learn to show up, look people in the eye, shake their hands and deliver what is promised. "When you have no concept of seeing something through, it can become a paralyzing cycle," he said.


As a rapper, Little's had success recording and producing three albums of his own in the past seven years, plus a tour in Europe in 2012 and another scheduled this fall. The tours are organized

"I see myself
in the people
I work with."

—Sean Little

through the Military Community Youth Ministry to provide in-school character-development presentations and out-of-school concerts for students attending school on United States military bases across Europe.

The promise-of-all-things-bad may have once loomed in Little's future, but he learned to leave it behind and carved a new path. Along the way, he achieved

many firsts—the first in his family to attend college, the first to graduate college and the first to become Christian. When he became a Christian, people said he shouldn't rap, but he didn't see it that way. Formal gospel rap tells people how to live, and Little is quick to make the distinction that he's not a Christian rapper, noting their strict ideologies don't line up with his. Instead, he's exploring his identity through rap in an attempt to help others do the same. "Rap is supposed to be your story. I communicate the story of who I am," he said. "Rap and Jesus are helping me figure out myself. Helping me understand I'm an advocate for the people." 

Brandon Meredith '14 knows the value of education. Within 48 hours of graduating from USI with a degree in criminal justice studies, he gave \$25 to the USI Annual Fund.



Every gift matters.

Every gift makes a difference. Support USI students today through scholarships, research opportunities and study abroad experiences with a gift to the Annual Fund.

[USI.edu/giving](https://www.usi.edu/giving)


From Ordinary to **EXTRAORDINARY** The Making of a Championship Team

By Ray Simmons



USI 2014 NCAA Division II National Championship Team





The outcome is no mystery: USI's baseball team won its second national championship in five seasons last May—the only Indiana Division I, II or III team to win a national title in baseball, and now USI has done it twice. What is a mystery is how they got there.

At the beginning of the season, the Screaming Eagles were unranked nationally and were only picked to finish in the middle of the Great Lakes Valley Conference's East Division. "The players knew from the start that they had to prove themselves in the conference and the region before they could earn respect nationally," said USI Head Coach Tracy Archuleta.

Knowing and doing are not the same, however, and the Eagles sputtered their way through the start of the season. USI was a mere 2-4 through its first six games that included a three-game series against sixth-ranked Grand Valley State University. "We continued to focus on fundamentals and implementing our system...learning from our mistakes and building on our strengths," said Archuleta.

If the team had a secret strength it was Archuleta's overall strategy for rebuilding another championship team by recruiting the best of the Tri-state's athletic talent. He created a team featuring 12 players from the Evansville area for a total of 15 from the Tri-state region, while adding a few talented competitors from across the United States and Canada. The fact that so many were local players—rivals, in fact, when they'd played on opposing high school baseball or football teams—resulted in a camaraderie that few teams could match.



“The Evansville guys have a special bond,” said senior left-fielder Brad Wannemuehler ’13—awarded the prestigious Elite 89 award for highest GPA at the Division II Baseball National Finals. “We have some guys who played against each other in other high school sports.”

After back-to-back setbacks on the road midway through the season, Archuleta’s recruiting strategy began paying off in the second half of the season, especially after the Eagles returned to their home turf, where they reeled off 15 straight wins. The winning streak culminated in USI’s first win over cross-town rival University of Evansville since 1988.

The wins stalled at 15, but the Eagles regained their footing and finished the regular season on a high with a three-game streak that clinched the GLVC East Division crown and included a 16-inning thriller over the University of Indianapolis.

The Eagles soared with the capture of the GLVC East Division championship, but were brought down to earth in the GLVC Tournament, losing in the semifinals. The low didn’t last long as the NCAA gave USI new life with the right to host the Midwest Regional for the third time in the history of the program.

The regional games were a rollercoaster ride, but in the end USI prevailed and stood alone in the Midwest. “There is no better feeling than winning a championship in front of your home crowd,” said Archuleta—of the third regional championship in his career at USI and his second on the home field. “The atmosphere was a huge factor in us winning...and carried us on to winning the national championship.”

There is a time for celebration and a time for work, and the Eagles turned their focus to winning another national championship. Showing them the way were the players who had been there and done that—members of the 2010 USI national championship team. “The 2010 team was a great set of guys and we were in touch throughout the finals,” said senior designated hitter Brent Weinzapfel. “The amount of support we had from those guys is unbelievable.”

During the preseason, the Eagles weren’t on anyone’s radar as a potential winner. Then, five months later, they entered the finals ranked sixth nationally, quickly moving up the charts until they were games away from a national title.

No one ever said being the best was easy, and in 2014, USI had to beat the best to take the title. USI rolled through the first two games of the finals, defeating defending national champion and top-ranked University of Tampa and third-ranked Lander University. The Eagles were grounded with a loss to second-ranked Minnesota State University-Mankato,

“I’ve been on a lot of baseball teams in my career and without a doubt this was the biggest team effort. When everyone on the roster accepts their role, you collectively do amazing things.”

— Tyler Mikrut, junior outfielder



“No athlete or coach likes that empty feeling after falling short of their goals. It made us tougher down the stretch.”


— Coach Archuleta, 2014 NCAA Division II Coach of the Year

but regained flight with a win against the same team the next day. “I told the players to forget that game and focus on what we needed to do to play for a national championship,” Archuleta said. “The guys had done a really good job all year long of not letting one game affect what we were going to do the next day.”

USI did just that in the elimination game, and won—a victory that put them in one of the most exciting championship games in the history of NCAA Division II baseball.

After battling for 12 innings, the USI Screaming Eagles overcame a pair of unearned, third-inning runs to defeat fourth-ranked Colorado University Mesa and capture the NCAA Division II crown. While so many championships come down to a home run or extra base hits, it was the five-pitch walk to senior third baseman/pitcher Matt Bowles '14 that drove in the winning run in the third extra frame. And, just like that, USI was a national champion again.

The team stormed onto the field with a backdrop of fireworks, celebrating an accomplishment they'd dreamed of since the start of practice in September. “This club was able to manufacture runs in many different ways and not depend on one person or one play to do so,” said Archuleta, who was named 2014 NCAA Division II Coach of the Year. “Everyone understood their role on the team and executed their role to perfection. Our guys sacrificed their batting averages in order for the team to win. What more could a coach want?”

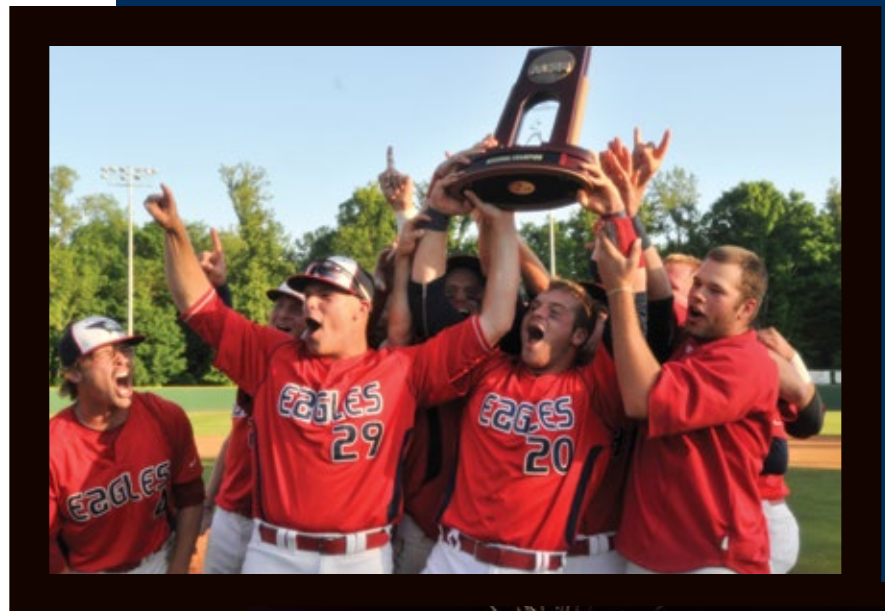
Teamwork that leads to wins is all any coach wants and, in this case, it's what transitioned an ordinary team to an extraordinary team and gave USI baseball its second national title. 

 [Extras at USI.edu/magazine](http://USI.edu/magazine)



“Each win helped us believe more and more that we could win another championship. Our guys didn't get caught up in the moment and did an exceptional job of staying focused on our plan and our team goal.”

— Coach Archuleta



“We had so many local players on this team that exhibited a pride in the city of Evansville and University of Southern Indiana by the way they enjoyed playing the game of baseball together.”

— Coach Archuleta

When Words FAIL

By C. L. Stambush





MANY WORDS describe Ellen Small Billard: confident, articulate, pragmatic and visionary to name a few, but when asked to describe the terror Syrian refugees are suffering due to a civil war she's at a loss for words. She's not, however, at a loss for action.

Billard was living in Tianjin, China, with her husband in 2012, when she watched a documentary on the Syrian civil war. She sat in near catatonic horror as scenes of devastation flashed across the screen. The images of Homs, a city in Western Syria, were unlike any she'd ever witnessed: terrified children, injured elderly, black smoke rising from bombed buildings. For nearly 2,000 years it had been an agricultural trade center; now the nation's third largest city lay in apocalyptic rubble.

“All war is brutal, certainly, but there is a level of brutality and terror in the Syrian conflict that makes it all the more horrific.”

— Ellen Small Billard '05

As a social worker Billard had seen “unimaginable things” in both the United States and as a consultant working with non-profits in Southeast Asia involved in freeing children from the sex-trafficking industry. She'd “learned to function” and do her job without becoming overly emotional about the atrocities she witnessed. But the images on TV were beyond comprehension and seared her psyche. “The fact that [watching the documentary] literally broke me made me ask myself ‘Why is this so moving for you?’” she said.

Two years later, it's a question Billard still can't answer, but one she no longer ponders since shortly after posing it she decided to be a part of the solution at the grassroots level. “How could we not?” she said. “We saw the country being destroyed. How could we live with ourselves if we didn't do anything?”



“Obviously a war or refugee problem is not a problem most of us could ever solve, but it doesn’t absolve you from the responsibility to do something.”

—Ellen Small Billard

Photo: Ellen Small Billard

For Billard, getting involved meant travelling to Jordan where 600,000 refugees had fled. But she needed connections if her efforts were to be of value. She had no contacts in Syria or Jordan, and despite her associations in the Middle East, none were able to provide her with one. Unsure of what else to do, she Googled “helping Syrian refugees in Jordan” and found Catherine, a British national living in Amman, who’d set up an ad-hoc organization in her garage to help collect supplies for Syrian refugees. Billard won’t give Catherine’s last name or any others in this story for fear of retaliation by the Syrian government, but she views them as God-sends. Staffed by volunteers, the small nonprofits assist families stripped of their homes and forced to flee into a small nation ill-equipped to deal with their overwhelming arrival.

Catherine insisted Billard bring cash rather than supplies when she came to Jordan, to help stimulate the local economy. She also wanted her to do the shopping personally so she could understand how transactions occurred. But before raising the money, Billard vetted Catherine via the Internet to ensure she was on the up-and-up and, in the end, followed her gut instinct and began raising money to help the refugees.

“I think that we all have skills that can be used toward something good. And I think deep down most of us want to use our skills for something more than just to make money or a name for ourselves.”

Billard posted her fundraising plans on Facebook, but most friends stateside paid little attention, she said, contending they likely thought it was just another one of her and her husband’s volunteer projects. People from their church in China, an expat congregation, donated the majority of the \$5,000 raised. “People who had seen human suffering in their countries or had experienced it were compelled to give whatever they had,” she said.

Catherine arranged for the Billards to stay with a young Syrian man named Maher, who cared for them by cooking dinner and serving tea. Introductions and relationships are crucial in the Middle East, as much of everything operates on them. He introduced them to refugee families living with Jordanian hosts and not in the United Nations refugee tents. People like Ali—a 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head while fleeing across the border with his family. Miraculously, he survived, but for days the only treatment he received was cotton balls plugging the wound. “We were not prepared for how moving the experience would be,” she said.

“If you think about all the world’s problems you’ll never do anything and you’ll just be depressed. Just think about one thing, one small step you can take to do something about it.”

**—Ellen Small
Billard**

Photo: Ellen Small Billard



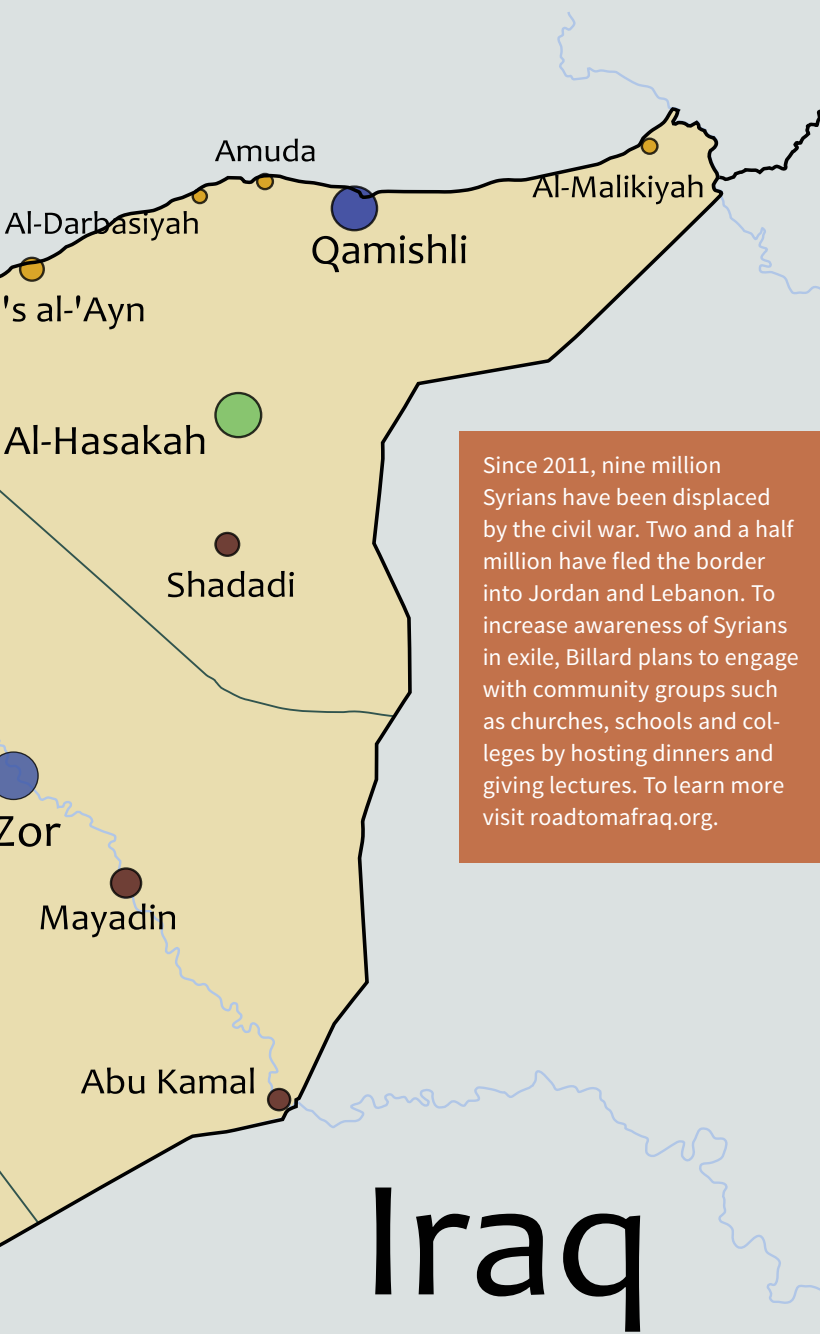
By the time the couple left a week later, Billard knew her work had just begun. “I don’t know how to describe it, I just feel absolutely compelled to do more,” she said. “I feel it’s our responsibility to be advocates for what we’ve been privileged to see and the people we’ve been privileged to meet.”

Executing relief efforts while living in China was frustrating for Billard, a self-described go-getter, but helpful because it required her to slow down and think about the best way to approach the problem. Analytical problem-solving is a skill initiated during her high school debate years, and it laid the foundation for who she would become. “It teaches you to solve really big problems, or how to take steps toward solving problems,” she said. “It teaches you the skill, but also helps you realize that working toward such solutions is worthwhile. These are real problems real people face.”

The way Billard saw it, her role with the refugees would be as a fiduciary by partnering with grassroots organizations operating in Jordan and Syria, nonprofits equipped to administer humanitarian aid on a daily basis. She named the organization—now in the process of being established as 501(c)(3)—Road to Mafraq, the name of the town that sits on the Jordanian/Syrian border. It’s the transit point out of a war-torn nation for Syrians who spilled over the border and into the UN’s tent city Za’atari, now the world’s second largest refugee camp. The tents, a sprawl of white canvas on a sea of sand where temperatures can reach over 100 degrees in the summer, house 185,244 men, women and children in stifling conditions.

Road to Mafraq works with organizations offering immediate basic needs assistance, building long-term sustainable development and returning refugees to their homeland after the war. “My focus is working with grassroots organizations,” she said. “Yes, the UN is helping, and yes, USAID is helping, but there also are ad-hoc groups that have the potential and connections to reach places and families those aid agencies can’t.”

Continued p.18



Iraq

Syrian civil war map, showing control by city. Updated May 2014. Size of circle is proportional to population.

- Cities controlled by pro-Assad forces
- Cities controlled by anti-Assad forces
- Cities controlled by Kurdish forces
- Ongoing fighting/unclear situation
- Dashed lines: neighboring disputed territories (Hatay Province, the Golan Heights)

By NordNordWest, [CC-BY-SA-3.0], via Wikimedia Commons

Q&A with Ellen Small Billard

Q As an Evansville native, why did you decide to attend USI?

A “I didn’t want to come to USI. I wanted to go out of state and went to [a Big Ten school], but then had unforeseen health issues and returned to Evansville at the end of my freshman year. I would never have made that choice on my own, but it turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life. Most of my teachers at [the Big Ten school] were grad students and, as much as they are smart, they have so much on their plates that they don’t have time for you. At USI I was taught by PhDs, and they made time for me.”

Q How were the two universities different?

A “At [the Big Ten school] I felt like I was a college student and my life was a college campus. At USI, you get off campus. You have people from all walks of life... who bring a lot of different stuff to the table. The classes are small. USI worked for me. It was a community where people came together to talk about problems and to create community. I always felt I had a great sense of community here. USI is like a big state school with a small college feel. You really feel like you are part of the community.”

Q How did your time at USI help you get where you are today?

A “I sought opportunities constantly. I didn’t care about formal office hours. I had relationships with my professors that when I knocked on their doors... none of them ever turned me away. I would pick my professors’ brains. I would write papers and want to know immediately what they thought of my analysis. They wanted me to change the world. They wanted me to use my skills and ability to do something positive, and to do it to the best of my ability.”

Q What was the overall message you came away with from USI?

A “[My professors at USI] wanted me to know that what I learned was going to matter in the long run. The vision of my professors, to be able to see beyond the classroom, was very useful. USI does a great job in preparing students to go out and have great careers. It puts an emphasis on your responsibility and your obligation toward your community.”



Photo: Ellen Small Billard

Billard is invested in helping Syrian refugees for at least the next five years, “because even once the war ends the communities will still feel the impact.” Through the people she’s met via Catherine and Maher, she’s begun building relationships of her own with those helping exiles. People like Pastor Nour. He’s constructing a community center to meet the needs of Syrian families living in host homes, in particular a school for their children because they have difficulty accessing education in Jordan due to their refugee status. “Pastor Nour isn’t only trying to meet the basic needs of refugees. He sees there are tens of thousands of refugees who now live in his tiny town,” she said. “They won’t all return to Syria even if the war ended tomorrow. They will be there for years, if not permanently.”

Since spring 2013, Billard has hosted two fundraisers. The first raised \$5,000 and the second \$12,000. Most of the funds went to organizations working within Jordan, but \$500 was directed toward medical aid within Syria to those injured in the chemical weapons attack in August 2013.

Now back in the United States, Billard is still learning what it takes to manage a nonprofit. And, reality is harsh. “We won’t be able to support each partner with financial assistance from each fundraiser. We’ll have to draw a line.” But even if Road to Mafraq is unable to give money to every group, Billard will continue to build relationships with unfunded groups, strengthening those ties for tomorrow.

The work she’s doing in the Middle East taught her to suspend her American expectations of how to get things done. Productivity is not measured by paperwork, but it’s paperwork that taught her to think analytically about the elements of a problem as a means for figuring out solutions. The skill may have started on the debate team at North

High School, but it was sharpened during her years at USI majoring in English literature, before going on to earn a master’s degree in social work from the University of Connecticut. “I approach most problems the way I would write a literary analysis essay—where you take the information available in a piece of literature and apply it to a real-life problem.”

To illustrate her point, Billard recalls writing an essay during her senior year at USI on Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. “Frankenstein himself is not the monster, but rather he creates a monster he then loses control of. We do that a lot as human beings. We create something without really looking down the road at the consequences of our actions.”

Billard, however, is looking down the road and she’s comfortable expressing what she sees as her role in making a difference. During her most recent trip to visit Syrian refugees she encountered one little girl who’s been scared into silence by the war. The girl lived with her mother and sisters within a few hundred yards of their homeland in a UNHCR* tent, yet couldn’t return home. Two of the sisters danced and laughed and for all outward appearances looked fine, like little giggly girls. But their sister hadn’t spoken since their home was bombed. “It’s very scary to see the psychological impact this war is having on Syrian children. Syria’s future,” she said. “We saw these families’ homes being destroyed on TV and now we are meeting them in person. It’s good to see them safe but it’s heartbreaking to know what lies on the other side for them.”



Photo: Ellen Small Billard

“Use what you have and don’t allow what you don’t have to limit you.”
— Ellen Small Billard

*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Architect rendering of new conference center.



“We want this to be a good community. We live here, we have families here and we have children and grandchildren here. We want to make this community better, and education is an important part of that—it’s the best investment we can make. The more brain power we keep here in the community, the more the community will advance with the University of Southern Indiana.”

—Robert E. Griffin, chairman of the board at Escalade Inc., on giving \$5 million to *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* to fund the construction of a 12,700 square-foot conference center on the USI campus.

Your gift to
Campaign USI
Elevating Excellence
will make a difference.

USI.edu/campaign

What was he thinking?

In the mind of a national champion

By Dan McDonnell

Running is physically challenging, no matter what the distance. But, running at a competitive level is not only physically demanding, it's mentally exhausting. Just ask Johnnie Guy, a junior on the USI men's cross country/track and field team who (in May) captured the NCAA Division II national championship in the 10,000 meters—one of the most grueling competitions in collegiate athletics.

10,000 meters • 25-laps
29 minutes, 33.31 seconds

Mental preparation:

"You have to have a lot of mental toughness to run a 10k at a competitive level. It's a long race and it takes a toll on you."

"I don't really get nervous before races, except for the bigger meets. I was a little nervous that night, especially since I knew I had a shot to win."

Two scenarios—runners come out hard or race starts slow:

"The start was good, and it went slow, which is what I wanted it to do. [My strategy is to] do everything I can to prevent it from coming down to the last lap. Making a really strong mid-race move, to be ready with a lap to go, is definitely how I avoid a close finish."

Not the favorite to win—California University of Pennsylvania's Aaron Dinzeo was:

"Dinzeo led for a while, but he didn't push the pace. I was waiting for someone to make a move. I didn't want to make my move until the 7k mark."

"I just kept counting down the laps in my head—five more laps until I make my move."

Eight laps to go—time to make a move:

Guy sprints into the lead in front of a pack of eight to nine runners. Only one comes with him, America International University's Michael Biwott.

"I could hear his footsteps. It was a little too close for comfort. I just kept on the gas."

A strong mid-race move with an 8:14 split in the final 3,000 meters:

"I just kept going. One lap to go, I glanced back... they weren't going to catch me."

"Coach Hillyard was telling me I was going to win; the race was mine. I kept pushing it ... 200 meters to go...I glanced back again...they would not catch me. It was an awesome feeling."

Finish line, index fingers raised and a fist pump:

"I wasn't planning on doing anything when I crossed the finish line. I didn't know what I did until I saw the pictures. It was overwhelming."

This was the first national title for the program since USI and GLVC Hall of Famer Elly Rono '98 finished first in the same event at the 1998 NCAA II Outdoor Championships. Now Guy, and the rest of the Screaming Eagles, who finished third in the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association Program of the Year standings, focus attention on capturing a 10th straight GLVC title and competing for a national championship on the cross country course.

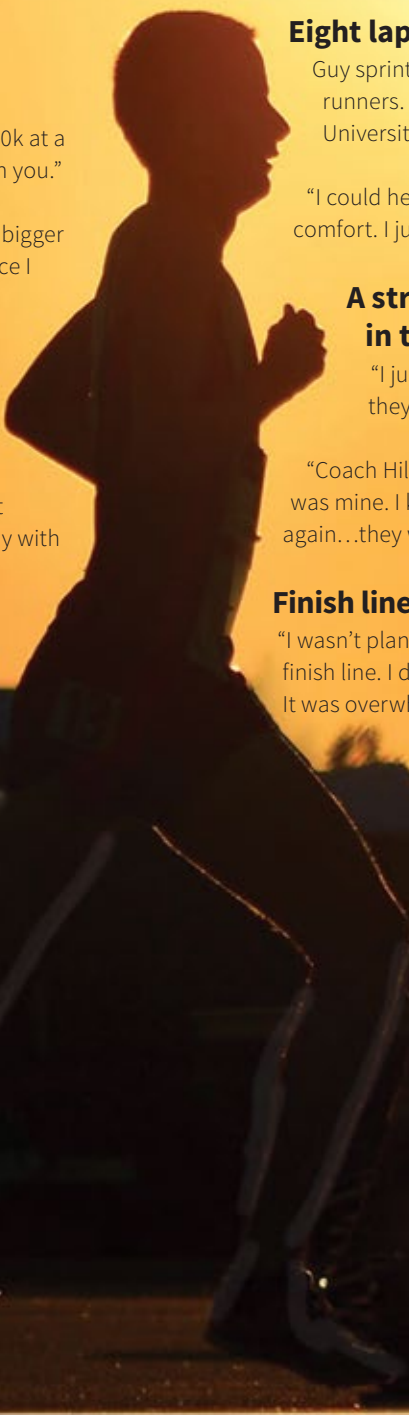


Photo: Kyle Terwilligar

Arresting research on recidivism

In the United States, 2.3 million people are incarcerated in jails and prisons—95 percent of whom will be released one day into a community. As a result, volunteers across the nation are creating community programs to help ex-offenders reenter society and prevent recidivism by offering classes in drug/alcohol treatment and strengthening family ties, as well as helping them find jobs and housing.

While the community reentry programs are volunteer-based, some operational money is needed. To secure grants, however, programs must prove their effectiveness. That's where USI's assistant professors of criminal justice studies Dr. Melinda Roberts and Dr. Melissa Stacer come in. They partnered with Churches Embracing Offenders (CEO) in 2011 to apply their considerable

research skills and knowledge to validate CEO's efforts. The duo devised a three-part research project: collect data from case files, interview participants and interview volunteer mentors. The findings from part one are complete, and the article, "Evaluating a Faith-Based Diversion and Reentry Program: Who Graduates and Who is Rearrested?" will be published in the journal *Corrections Compendium*.

"We wanted to know what percentages of the organization's graduating participants were rearrested to provide an evidence-based evaluation for CEO. We discovered the re-arrest rate of graduates was 12.5 percent, and while not a direct comparison, nationwide 65 percent of released inmates are rearrested," said Stacer. "The anecdotal evidence we have

from interviews with participants who graduated from the program supports that CEO's programs are changing the way ex-offenders think. One graduate said, 'It will turn your life around. Now I don't worry about the drugs, I worry about how to pay for those tennis shoes my kid wants.'"

USI students have participated in the project too: organizing data, building a database and researching resources of other faith-based programs. The research experience this project has provided for students is invaluable. "Not only do the students get to learn practical data collection, coding and analysis skills," said Roberts, "but they also get to learn firsthand what works in reducing recidivism in their community."



(left to right) USI Assistant Professors of Criminal Justice Melissa Stacer and Melinda Roberts.

Program prepares international students for university-level courses

As USI's reach continues to grow, so does the number of international students. A challenge faced by many is the English proficiency needed to perform well academically. To remedy this, the Intensive English Program was introduced last year to encourage and aid international students with their academic goals.

Dr. Emilija Zlatkovska, who brought with her 15 years of experience teaching English as a second language and a PhD in language education, was hired as the director of the new in-house program that replaced third-party English instruction. The in-house program provides more structure and standardization while closely monitoring students to ensure they have the English skills needed to meet university standards. "We have more control over who is teaching and what is being taught," said Zlatkovska.

She established curriculum for the program, and has been hands-on with her faculty, observing and providing feedback. She also increased the percentage needed to pass a course to 80 percent, changed the content to include more grammar and context lessons, and collaborated with the English Department, hiring adjunct composition instructors. "Strategies change as the students advance to resemble more what will be taught in the university classroom," she said. "That's why I thought it was important to have composition teachers in the program, because they really help students understand where they need to be."

The program consists of six levels of instruction ranging from basic English skills to advanced content such as citation, research, presentation, summarization and analysis. It's constructed to engage students in and out of the classroom. Conversation circles and writing labs led by student volunteers and instructors allow students the opportunity to practice speaking and writing English. Field trips to conferences and lectures help instructors gauge how well the students follow and absorb material across a variety of topics. Advanced classes recently attended lectures and readings at the newly revamped New Harmony Writers Workshop, a week-long summer retreat offering workshops in poetry and prose.

Class sizes are small, between 10 and 15 students, allowing for individualized attention and feedback. Affordable courses also are open to the general public.

"We really put a lot of the responsibility on the students and try to help them understand that the program is not an obstacle," she said. "Our focus is to help them prepare academically to be ready for the University."



(left to right) Instructor Eva Kattau with Saudi Arabian students Zainab Alfahran and Wessam Alyahya.

USI makes a global impact through USAP program

Last year, USI partnered with the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) to provide educational opportunity to dedicated, intelligent young people who don't have the means or access to higher education in their nations.

USAP was established in 1999 in Zimbabwe with the goal of matching promising young leaders with universities that could provide substantial scholarship. With advising centers on four continents, USAP assists students with the orientation and application process.

USI's first USAP student, Florence Takaendsa, a math major from Zimbabwe, began her academic journey in the fall of 2013. A second student from Zimbabwe, Gloria Sengwe, an economics major, enters USI this fall. Both students received USI Global Ambassador Scholarships.

Heidi Gregori-Gahan, assistant provost of the Center for International Programs, said the University recognizes the importance of an international reach and the enrichment it brings. "That's one thing I really like about USAP, there's this inherent obligation among the people who are chosen for these scholarships to go back and serve their communities," she said. "It eventually leads to a better world, a more peaceful world—creating understandings and commonalities across boundaries."



VETERANS: OPERATION JOB READY

The University of Southern Indiana is the first university to partner with Operation: Job Ready Veterans (OJRV), an Indianapolis-based nonprofit organization that prepares veterans for employment and connects them with employers. Housed within USI's Veteran Support Services, OJRV provides services to student veterans as well as veterans in the community.

"We partnered with OJRV because of its proven efforts to help unemployed Hoosier veterans obtain employment through an established employer pool in the Indianapolis area," said Joel Matherly, manager of Veteran Support Services. "Now it's our turn. With this partnership, we launched our first Veteran Employment Transition Seminar in July. With assistance from USI's Career Services and Internships and our veteran employment specialist, our local employer pool will be available to meet these veterans and offer possible opportunities."

The veteran employment specialist, Jeremy Stratton, manages the program. "When you transition from the military to civilian life you lose a sense of guidance and stability," he said. "Everything is so structured in the military that when you come back out you don't know what to do."

Stratton is a veteran who served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. "When I came home from Afghanistan, I stayed on the couch for two weeks. I watched Oprah and got into a soap opera. You lose your structure. But once you start gaining a sense of

responsibility again, you get motivated."

A Veteran Employment Transition Seminar will be offered on campus once a month for junior and senior student veterans, and off-campus in response to demand from non-student veterans.

The seminar includes self-assessment tests, development of a proposition statement (or elevator pitch) and resume, job market research, social media advice, and job interview practice, concluding with a meet and greet with area employers.

"If you look at a time of transition as your time to choose what path you want to take, then it's not nearly as scary – it's something to embrace."

—Jeremy Stratton,
Operation: Job Ready Veterans

After the seminar is complete, participants will be invited to join a weekly "Job Club" and continue to connect with classmates and instructor mentors as they seek employment.

Any veteran is eligible for OJRV services, as are spouses and children of veterans. For more information, go to USI.edu/outreach/veteran-support-services or call 812-461-5302.



USI receives \$1.2 million for interprofessional education

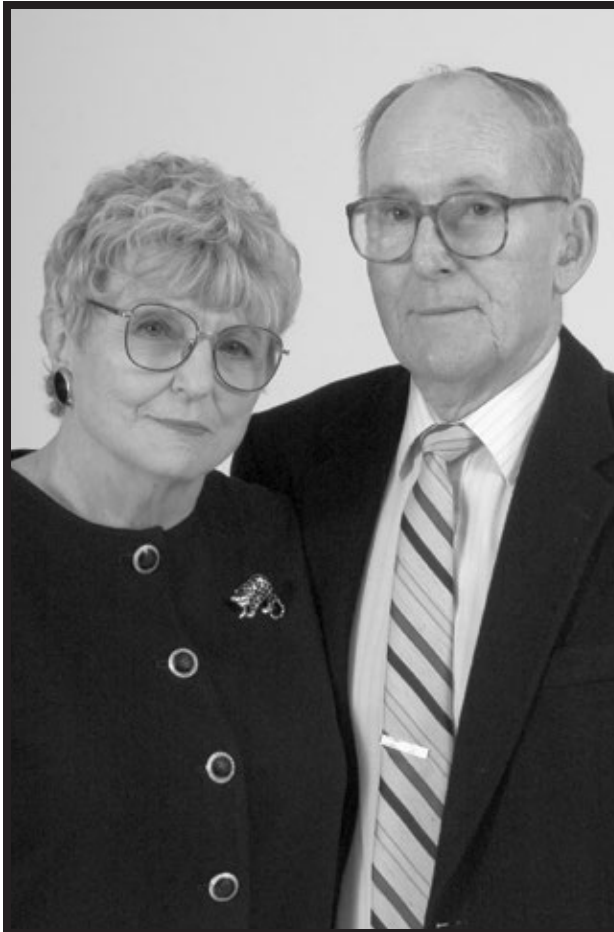
The College of Nursing and Health Professions at the University of Southern Indiana has received a three-year, \$1.2 million grant to teach nursing and health professions students how to practice collaboratively as effective members of healthcare teams. The grant was awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) division of Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Teams will be dedicated to improving the health of patients with high cost, complex medical, social and economic needs related to hypertension, respiratory disease, mental health and diabetes. Partnering with USI on the project are the Veterans Administration Medical Center at Marion, Illinois, which serves 52 counties in southern Illinois, southwestern Indiana and western Kentucky, and three USI nurse-managed health centers in the Glenwood, Cedar Hall and Lodge neighborhoods in Evansville, Indiana.

Through the HRSA grant, the USI College of Nursing and Health Professions will become a Nexus Innovations Incubator via a partnership with the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education located at the University of Minnesota. The center will provide mentorship to implement, build and evaluate the program.



“Our goal is to advance positive health outcomes for veterans and medically-underserved patients by cultivating interprofessional collaborative practice in urban and rural primary care settings,” said Dr. Ann White, dean of USI’s College of Nursing and Health Professions. “This grant will help us increase the number and quality of interprofessional educational clinical experiences for students in a variety of USI programs, including nursing, respiratory therapy, food and nutrition and social work.”



1
action

1,000+
students impacted

The thoughtful estate planning of Richard G. and Shirley W. James nearly two decades ago provides scholarships to USI students with financial need today.

You too can benefit USI students and programs for decades to come. Include the University of Southern Indiana Foundation in your estate planning.

For more details, contact
David A. Bower at
812-464-1918
or bower@usi.edu.

University offers more courses for adult learners

Nearly one million Hoosiers have attended college without completing a degree. To make college degrees attainable for more adult learners, USI has revamped its Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program. The program now offers an affordable, accessible and relevant course of study that will likely be more streamlined than a traditional major.

The BGS program is designed for working adults with prior college, technical and/or military experience, significant career experience and a strong desire to complete college course work that will be meaningful and personally enriching. BGS students have the opportunity to choose from the Applied Studies Options in Enterprising Leadership or Public Service, or the Individual Studies Option to create a program that meets their specific career and educational goals.

“USI’s Bachelor of General Studies program has been revised to better meet the needs of adult learners, focusing on relevant courses designed to enhance career development, offered in an accessible and affordable online format,” said Lee Ann Shafer, academic program manager/BGS advisor in Outreach and Engagement. “The two new concentrations, Enterprising Leadership and Public Service, are exciting new additions to the academic programs offered at USI.”



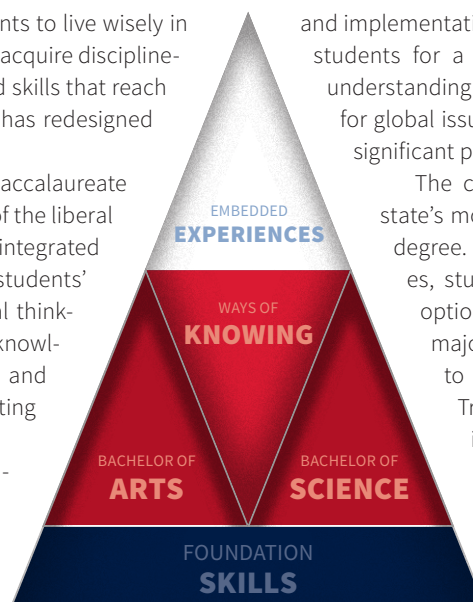
Left to right: Kevin Corbin and Carl Culley, May 2014 BGS graduates.

New core encourages students to live wisely

A great university education prepares students to live wisely in a diverse and global community by helping them acquire discipline-specific competence and broader knowledge and skills that reach across disciplines. To better meet this goal, USI has redesigned and renamed its core courses, calling it Core 39.

Core 39, required by all students pursuing a baccalaureate degree, includes courses in the broad traditions of the liberal arts, and a common set of experiences that are integrated across the curriculum. The new format expands students’ foundational skills in communication and critical thinking, explores how different fields create and use knowledge, broadens viewpoints by studying diverse and global perspectives and refines skills through writing intensive experiences.

“USI has a long tradition of offering an extensive and significant set of core courses,” said Dr. Mark Kraehling, assistant dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, who served as Core 39 director during the creation



and implementation of the new core. “The intent is to prepare students for a broader global experience and a deeper understanding of how their education can prepare them for global issues. On a national level, this stands out as a significant part of our students’ experience at USI.”

The changes also align the University with the state’s move toward a 120-credit hour baccalaureate degree. By reducing and refocusing the core courses, students have more opportunities to choose options related to their major or pursue a second major or a minor. Core 39 also was designed to align more closely with the new Statewide Transfer General Education Core which makes it easier for students to transfer between colleges and universities in Indiana. Dr. Mary Hallock Morris, associate professor of political science, is the new director of Core 39.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All alumni are invited to attend these events.

**Alumni Council
2014–2015**

Officers

Jennifer Titzer '00 M'10 D'13

President

Randall Haaff '84

President Elect

Autum Byrd '01 M'03

Secretary

Sally Gries '02

Treasurer

Kyle Winingar '01

Immediate Past President

Ronald Romain '73

Alumni Trustee

Tarrie Kendall Crist '94

Indianapolis Chapter

Brian Pauley '00

Louisville Chapter

Allyson Breeden '98

Claudine Fairchild '01 M'05

Chad Fetscher '00 M'05

Neil Fortwendel '05

Mandi Fulton '06 M'10

John Havill '04

Karen Hellenberg '07 M'08

Charlene Kaufman '09 M'12

Andy Lemon '05

Kacheyta McClellan '10

John Raisor '03

Samantha Sawyer '11 '13

Kenneth Schnautz '11

Ashley Schultz '10

Hunter Slade '07

Eileen Weber '98

University Staff

Janet Johnson M'05

Director of Alumni and

Volunteer Services

Sarah Harlan '10

Assistant Director of Alumni

and Volunteer Services

Deb Schmuck

Senior Administrative Assistant

Alumni and Volunteer Services

- September 9** **Alumni Council Meeting**
5:45 p.m., University Center West, Room 206
- September 12** **USI Alumni Golf Scramble**
Helfrich Hills Golf Course, Evansville
- September 16** **Founders' Day Luncheon**
11:45 a.m.–1 p.m., Carter Hall
- October 18–19** **Parents and Families Weekend**
8 a.m.–4 p.m., Campus
- October 21** **Archie's Birthday Bash**
11 a.m.–1 p.m., Outside University Center
- October 21** **Nursing Alumni Society Annual Dinner**
5:30 p.m., Kirby's Fine Dining
- October 23** **Eagle Hour, alumni networking**
5–7 p.m., Carson's Brewery
- October 25** **USI Night at the Icemen**
7:15 p.m., IceMen vs. Indy Fuel
- November 11** **Alumni Council Meeting**
5:45 p.m., University Center West, Room 206
- November 24** **Lighting a Tradition**
7–8 p.m., University Center Fountain
- November 30** **USI Day at the Colts**
1 p.m., Colts vs. Washington Redskins
- December 9** **Chilly Chill Out**
11 a.m.–1 p.m., University Center East
- December 13** **Fall Commencement Exercises**
USI Campus, Alumni Receptions, University Center East

More events at USI.edu/alumni

Gray 'Tweet' boxes are alumni thoughts on TRANSITION...

1970s

David Dunigan '77, biology, was awarded a full professorship at the University of Nebraska, Department of Virology in Lincoln, Nebraska.

@Dylan Melling '12: I learned that if you attach yourself to great individuals your decisions won't seem as much choices, as the path you should take and the one that won't yield as great results. You are nothing more than a result of your environment, and USI provided the best possible students along with instructors!

1980s

Pete Hillenbrand '88, communications, has joined Summit Real Estate Services as an associate broker in Evansville.

Rebecca Johnson '88, elementary education, has been appointed director of instruction of Henderson County Schools in Henderson, Kentucky.

PK Falkenstein '89, communications, is director of DC Logistics at Hillerich & Bradsby Co. in Louisville, Kentucky.

Greg Fergus '89, nursing/respiratory therapy, has been appointed unit manager and respiratory therapist at The Village of Hamilton Pointe Health and Rehabilitation Center in Evansville.

Tania Schapker Herke '89, English/political science, '95, accounting, has joined P&I Supply as chief financial officer in Evansville.

Eric Williams '89, management, has accepted the role of senior vice president, director of security at Old National Bank in Evansville. Eric has served two terms as Vanderburgh County Sheriff, and will now be responsible for ONB's continuity planning, insurance risk management and physical security.

@Tara Nicole '07: When I graduated from USI as a teacher, I wasn't ready to feel trapped inside four walls of a classroom. I wanted to transition from college into my career in a different way and become a worldly world history teacher. I joined the Peace Corps and, through some drastic and some subtle transitions, I've developed my own take on how I teach and live.



Stay Connected

We know you're always on the move but we'd like to stay connected...

Send us your updates so we can share your successes in *USI Magazine*:

  [USI.edu/alumni/update](https://www.usi.edu/alumni/update)  

Email: alumni@usi.edu

1990s

Keith Gander '91, sociology, has joined SWIRCA & More as vice president of development in Evansville. He is a 20-year veteran worker of assisted living and adult day care.

Cathy Elpers '94, business administration, has been promoted to director of case management at HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville.

Stan Wendholt '94, sociology, has been appointed regional manager for the Midwest at Kimball International, Inc., in Jasper, Indiana.

Matt May '96, communications, has been promoted to director of IT operations at Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union in Evansville.

Kimberly White M'96, Master of Education, has been appointed director of instructional technology for Henderson County Schools in Henderson, Kentucky.

Neely Pierce '98, elementary education, has been promoted to vice president and market manager, retail administration at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville.

Jamie Benefiel '99, Spanish, has been promoted to district director of the United States Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Division, South Carolina District Office in Columbia, South Carolina.

@Bob MacKenzie Wolfley '10: As a member of Phi Delta Theta—USI prepared me the most for the transitions I have experienced in life thus far.

2000s

Kyle Hodgen '01, Master in Nursing, is a major in the United States Air Force. He received his master's degree in nurse anesthesia in 2007 from Uniformed Services University and Doctor of Nurse Practitioner in 2013 from University of Alabama. He was appointed assistant professor to the nurse anesthesia program in the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing at Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland.

Anita Shaw '00, social work, '02, Master of Social Work, has been promoted to director of quality and risk at HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital in Evansville.

Transitioning through adversity

By Wendy Bredhold '98

Ben Trockman has no memory of March 19, 2006, when racing in a motocross competition in Poole, Kentucky, the then-17-year-old flipped off of his bike and landed on the dirt track.

There were just two volunteer medics at the scene, with two empty oxygen

tanks. The medics insisted to Trockman's parents, who'd been watching the race from the sidelines, that he was breathing, but when his face turned blue, his dad—Wayne Trockman '81—took action, performing CPR on his son for half an hour, until a helicopter arrived to fly him to a hospital in Evansville.

"Most people with my high level of injury die because they don't have oxygen, and if they don't die, a lot of them have some kind of brain damage," Trockman said. "Luckily, my dad had enough air in his lungs to save me."

He lost the memory of that day, and several days after the accident, which injured his spine and left him paralyzed from the neck down. "I'm thankful for that," he said. "That would be a tough thing to remember."

Before the accident, he lived day-to-day, not thinking about the consequences of his actions, he said. He cared about three things in life: girls, his truck and sports. "I was a guy who thought I had it all, and all of a sudden my independence was taken away from me, and I had to learn how to live life differently."

It was a tough transition. After six months in rehabilitation at hospitals across the country—including treatment by the doctor who worked with actor Christopher Reeve—Trockman returned to the

Evansville home he still shares with his parents, and continued therapy at the local Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center. "I wanted to be home. Home is where you do your best healing. It's important to be around your family and your friends, and I missed that a lot." Despite his challenges, he finished high school and graduated with his class in 2007.

Through work on behalf of Easter Seals, one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the country dedicated to helping people with disabilities, he found meaning and purpose. In 2010, he was their local representative, and in 2012 he was the representative for the national organization, traveling to Washington, DC, San Diego, New Orleans and Chicago to spread their message. "I've found this is something I am passionate about—helping other people. That's what keeps me awake at night and gets me up every morning—knowing that I have the chance to help. And I would not have been exposed to this without my injury."

He discovered a talent for communications, talking to people about his life and the services Easter Seals provides. That led him to pursue a degree in public relations at USI. "USI gave me the opportunity and the facility to learn something new every day. A lot of universities aren't accessible to individuals with disabilities, but I didn't have any trouble at USI. Everybody was so accommodating and so helpful, it helped me to be more outgoing during my career there."

He graduated in spring 2014 with a degree in public relations and advertising, and a minor in management and radio and television broadcasting. Trockman, a savvy networker, befriended the leaders of national companies through his work for Easter Seals, and after graduation he met with several Evansville CEOs to seek advice about his future. One of those meetings led to a job offer from Bob Jones of Old National Bank. In August, he began work in a newly-created position with the bank: community outreach and employment specialist, a position that will allow him



to reach out to people with disabilities and help them find employment in the community.


It's an issue Trockman advocated for on Capitol Hill this summer. Along with 200 Easter Seals representatives from 42 affiliates, he traveled to Washington, DC, to meet with legislators and lobby for passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which would increase opportunities for people with disabilities in the workplace. "People don't realize how important employment is unless they don't have a job," he said. "Unemployment for people

with disabilities is twice the rate of unemployment of people without disabilities. Just because you have a disability doesn't mean you don't want to work or get out in society and do things."

It's an issue Trockman's great-grandfather, who had polio, dealt with

when he graduated from high school. The principal told his parents, "It's great that he graduated, but he should find a job where nobody can see him."

That's a stark—and welcome—contrast to the opportunities his great-grandson is creating for himself and for others. "He was told he should be separated from the public," Trockman said. "Now I have the opportunity to speak to the public, talk about the issues and raise money for people to have better lives as people with disabilities."

"My grandma always tells me, 'Your great-grandfather is looking down on you smiling.'" 



HGTV series flips alumna into new career

What started with a front-porch project in Jacksonville, Florida, has culminated to national television and an opportunity to win \$50,000 as well as a new business venture for USI finance graduate Whitney Spinks '10 and her husband John. While searching the web for potential contestants for a new HGTV series called "Flipping the Block," project developers discovered Whitney's Drab-to-Fab-Design blog. The blog showcased her innovative design ideas as well as her vibrant personality, a combo compelling enough for the series developers to invite the Spinks to apply. "At first, I thought

the email was spam," Whitney said.

But the invitation was real and the native Evansville couple and childhood sweethearts decided to take a chance on a new direction. After a series of interviews and auditions the Spinks were selected from thousands of potential

contestants to be one of four teams challenged to renovate a 960-square-foot condo in Glendale, California. Being on the show, however, meant putting their lives on hold for nine weeks during filming. "We were sequestered from our lives and could only make emergency calls," Whitney said. "We had to plan and pay our bills in advance, and get a sitter for our dog."

The show's concept required the couple to live in the condo during renovations, an aspect made even less appealing due to the condo's condition. "Horrible. Absolutely disgusting," said John, who studied business administration at USI for two years before joining the United States Navy. "There were bugs and rotting food in the cabinets, and holes and graffiti in and on the walls." Still, the couple worked from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and beyond, transforming the trashed condo into a "TV-worthy, showcase home" replete with their distinct flair. "Our design style is fresh and modern and clean," Whitney said. "We like to add pops of color onto a neutral pallet."

Their kinetic charisma and teamwork is something Whitney attributes to their 12 years together and their ability to combine her designer's eye with his construction know-how.

Each team had a budget of \$37,500 to work with, criteria that gave the Spinks an advantage over other teams because of Whitney's career in finance. "A big part of the show is managing the budget," she said. "Because of my degree in finance that was easy for us. We managed our money very well."

The winners of the \$50,000 contest will be announced in the finale on September 7, but no matter what the outcome, one thing is certain: the experience gave the Spinks the confidence to launch their own design business, and 27 South Design Group opened its doors last April in Jacksonville.



@Crystal Steltenpohl '11: Quite a few professors helped me prepare for graduate school, and when I needed to change to another program after my masters, they were supportive and helped me figure out where my best fit would be.

Bonnie Smalec Schnautz '02, business administration, is a naturopathic doctor, certified natural health professional, speaker, loomis digestive health specialist and integrative health coach providing natural solutions to renew your health and energize your life. She founded the B Renewed Wellness Solutions in 2009 and opened B Renewed Wellness Center in February 2014 in Evansville.

Kira Crowdus Vaal '02, interpersonal organizational communications, has taken the position of client services manager at Donaldson Capital Management in Evansville.

Amber Galey '03, sociology, is a senior account specialist at Springleaf Financial Services in Evansville.

Josh Winstead '03, business administration, has been promoted to assistant vice president of Charter Bank in Newnan, Georgia. He currently serves as a commissioner on the Newnan Youth Activities Commission and has been a mentor in the Coweta County School System since 2005.

Jennifer Harrison Cole '04, business administration, is a program technician at the United States Department of Agriculture in Attica, Indiana.

Brooke Fisher Shappell '05, elementary education, '10, Master in Education, has taken the position of principal at A.B. Chandler Elementary School in Corydon, Kentucky.

Katherine Worman '05, biology, has been elected to partner at Bowers Harrison, LLP in Evansville.

@Nick Whittemore '12: USI's BGS degree helped me compile a degree out of a wide variety of interests. I know my degree will help me keep climbing upwards (figuratively and literally) because "Life is a Mountain Path."

Johnna Benton Denning '07, social work, is a grant manager at Deaconess Family Medicine Residency in Evansville.

Brittany Sharpe Dodd '08, management, is a human resources manager at Berry Plastics in Evansville.

Jason Hagen '08, finance, has been promoted to officer at Fifth Third Bank in Evansville.

Andrew McGuire '08, accounting and professional services, was promoted to assurance manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Logan Miller '08, business administration, has been named director of marketing at Fourth Street Solutions, Inc., in Evansville.

Lisa Wilson '08, Master in Education, received a master's degree in academic advising from Kansas State University in December 2013. She is an academic coordinator in the USI Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education.

Michael Coriell '09, social work, is a probation officer for Clark County in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

2010s

Kim Hudson '10, nursing, '13, Master in Nursing, has joined Midwest Behavioral Health, LLC as a nurse practitioner in Evansville.

Allyn McKinley Kern '10, exercise science, has taken the position of recreational leader at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle, Indiana.

Casey Wildeman '10, marketing, has joined Automated Office Solutions, Inc., as a solutions consultant in Evansville.

Jonathan Buckmaster '11, business administration, is a new officer at the Henderson Police Department in Henderson, Kentucky.

Kayecee Gross '11, finance, is a financial analyst at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Danielle Norris '11, international studies/ journalism, has taken the position of web content specialist at USI.

Benjamin Dempsey '12, history, accepted the position of head girls soccer coach at Henderson County High School. He played for four years at the University of Southern Indiana where he served two years as team captain, started goalie in 47 games and recorded the second most saves in the school history. He led the team to its first 10 win season in over a decade and helped the team get to its first semifinal game in the last decade as well.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor?

Contact Janet Johnson at 812-464-1924 or alumni@usi.edu.

"I was fortunate to have been paired with Janet who demonstrates a great work ethic and has helped me in more ways than I could have imagined. I hope I will one day do the same."
—Alexa Bueltel '16, majoring in management with a human relations concentration

"Having had several great mentors over the course of my career and life, I firmly believe it's important to share what I've learned while challenging Alexa to reach her goals."
—Janet Heldt Baas '85, Senior Vice President and Old National Bank Foundation President

PERU

USI Alumni Association trip

May 16–25, 2015



Tour Highlights

Come with us as we travel to Peru and explore some of the world's greatest archeological treasures at Machu Picchu, Cuzco and Lima. While we're there we'll dine on exquisite Peruvian cuisine that combines diverse native ingredients and indigenous dishes with international culinary influences.

Essential Experience

- Arrive at Machu Picchu via the famed Vistadome train
- Explore the "Lost City of the Incas"
- Investigate local ways of life while in the Sacred Valley
- Immerse yourself in Cuzco, a city that blends Inca and Spanish colonial influences
- Absorb the ancient heritage in the "City of Kings," a UNESCO World Heritage site

Please Join Us!

Call Ken Meyer or Tracy Wilson at LifeStyle Tours, 812-682-4477, with your travel questions.

You also may contact Janet Johnson at USI at 812-464-1924 or alumni@usi.edu.

Proceeds from alumni travel fund scholarships for USI students.

An informational session will be held in Traditions Lounge located in University Center East at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26.



alumni.usi.edu

Jess Dooley '12, kinesiology, has been selected girls golf coach at Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana.

Jacki Spainhour '12, individual studies, is the executive assistant and marketing coordinator at George Koch Sons, LLC in Evansville.

Chelsea Thomas '12, public relations and advertising, is a marketing coordinator for Verdure Sciences in Noblesville, Indiana. She published a research based article in Nutrition Industry Executive, "Longvida Optimized Curcumin: A New Paradigm for Healthy Brain Aging."

Jordan Flynn '13, food and nutrition, has joined Grain Processing Corporation as a lab analyst in Washington, Indiana.

Kathleen Mathew '13, business, has joined the purchasing department at MAI Engineering in Evansville.

@Kathryn Marie Franks '14: USI gave me the knowledge to transition into different environments, from an intern for the Chicago Bears into a full-time employee for the Indiana House of Representatives. USI helped me make these changes with confidence, giving me an education, experience and networking opportunities that will last a lifetime. Transitioning is having the ability to adapt, make changes and have the willingness to learn more.

Anna McManaway '13, accounting and professional services, has joined the general services department at Harding, Shymanski & Co. as a staff accountant in Evansville.

Jonathan Moynahan '13, political science, announced his candidacy for the District 2 House seat in Eliot, Maine. At the University of Southern Indiana, he worked on a number of campaigns for candidates from city council to state legislator. He also worked as a legislative intern at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Liz Neel '13, public relations and advertising, has taken the position of interim live events manager at Townsquare Media in Henderson, Kentucky.

Joseph Priest '13, accounting and professional services, has taken the position of fund accountant at SS&C Technologies in Evansville.

Marriages

Casey Alexander '08, finance, and Daniel Thorbeck, June 7, 2014.

Cassandra Hazel '10, accounting/health services, and Jamie Johnson, March 6, 2014.

Sarah Kelly '11, psychology, and **Tegan Rush '10**, marketing, June 7, 2014.

Katlyn Walkup '12, business administration, and **Nathaniel Gerlach '13**, engineering, April 12, 2014.

@Hannah Forkel '14: USI prepared me for the transition into the working world where I have to stay on my toes if I want to continue advancing myself.

Births and Adoptions

Jason Fromme '98, mechanical engineering technology, and Shannon welcomed Xavier Alexander, March 10, 2014.

Lyle Mehringer '03, civil engineering technology, and **Kelly Gessner Mehringer '01**, elementary education, welcomed Jase Kenneth, March 21, 2014.

Alan Lentz '07, history, and **Brenda LaChance Lentz '08**, elementary education, welcomed Bethany Grace, March 28, 2014.

In Memoriam

Jeanette Ambrose '79, dental assisting certificate, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died June 13, 2014. She was an avid animal lover, enjoyed crocheting and loved the elderly. Jeannie worked as a dental assistant at several area dental practices.

Dennis Bittner '79, biology, of Evansville, died May 5, 2014. He was most recently employed at Pittsburgh Glass Works in Evansville.

Mark Cheek '83, management, of Evansville, died May 8, 2014. He was president of Sigma Tau Gamma Alumni Association. Mark enjoyed coaching his sons' baseball and basketball teams at their schools.

Janet Skelton '84, accounting/computer information systems, of Elberfeld, Indiana, died May 15, 2014. She enjoyed singing, camping, games, painting and being with family and friends.

R. Gary Austin '86, social science, of Evansville, died July 2, 2014. He was a social worker for 30 years. Gary enjoyed kayaking and training hunting dogs.

Bobbie Alcorn '94, accounting, of Elberfeld, Indiana, died May 26, 2014.

James Baker '94, business administration, of Evansville, died June 27, 2014. He was in the United States Marine Corp and served in Vietnam.

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Bessie Moorman Clark '97, business, of Evansville, died April 16, 2014.

Laura Nellis Bengert '99, occupational therapy, of Wadesville, Indiana, died May 2, 2014. She was an occupational therapist at Progressive Health. Laura's favorite times were around the pool with family and friends.

William Mallicoat '02, business administration, of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, died June 12, 2014. He was in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and served in the 8th tank battalion in Iraq in 2003.

Faculty/Staff in Memoriam

Dr. Jerome R. "Jerry" Cain, dean emeritus of the Pott College of Science and Engineering, and professor emeritus of Biology, died July 12, 2014. He was assistant provost at Illinois State University before coming to USI in 1995. He was a member of the Phi Sigma Society and Sigma Xi Society, a Distinguished Alumni from Bradford Schools and a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Bradford, Ohio.

Dr. David Earl Schultz, associate professor emeritus of engineering, died June 18, 2014. He was an electrical engineer at S.I.G.E.C.O. before becoming manager and senior engineer at Big Rivers Electrical Corporation. He came to USI as an adjunct professor in 1974 and stayed for 24 years before joining the faculty full time in 1998. He took on the role of director of Master of Science in Industrial Management program in 2001 and in 2006 was promoted to associate professor, retaining directorship of the master's program.

Rebecca Diane Suggs, senior administrative assistant in Human Resources, died December 28, 2013. She began work in USI's Human Resources department in 1989 and worked there until her death. Diane was well-known for her impeccable fashion sense and her delicious chess pie. She was a devoted mother, wife, grandmother, aunt and a valued colleague.

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Looking forward to the University's 50th Anniversary

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

Half-Court Shot



Built in 1980, USI's Physical Activities Center (PAC) arena floor originally bore the image of USI's first Screaming Eagles mascot—wings spread and talons out. The arena has a seating capacity of 2,278, or 2,600 standing room, and serves as the home court for the Screaming Eagles' indoor athletic programs. The floor has been resurfaced several times over the years as the University's logo evolved. Until a few weeks ago it bore the recently retired Screaming Eagles athletic logo (pictured above), but that's been phased out with the introduction of a new athletic logo in 2014. Now the PAC floor has a fresh new look. You can view a slideshow of the transition online.



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