

illumine

—University of Southern Indiana—



SPRING 2023



features

Into the Woods

16

A Story of Collaboration

Portal to the Past

24

History Helps Shape a Better Tomorrow

Recipe for Success

26

How USI's New Swim/Dive Program Became a Splashing Sensation



31

Presidential Portraits



10

The Big Picture



34

Behind the Scene



36

How Emily Got Here

departments

You Said We Did	2	Scoreboard	14
State of the U	4	Awesome Alumni	32
Coneucopia	6	World View	38
Take a Bow	12	Class Notes	39
From the Desk of	13	Tailfeather	48

ICON PASSES

I thoroughly enjoyed this article on Wanda Hibbitts in [illumine Fall 2021]. I knew of her career as a child, but not the fuller details/history in the article. I was simply a neighbor and her daughter's friend who spent hours playing games at her dining table. After we moved from the neighborhood, I would ride a city bus at age 7—it was safe alone then—to visit the daughters in the old neighborhood. I do appreciate your coverage on Mrs. Hibbitts' death and career.

Pamela Hinkebein
Evansville, IN



homemaker and employment outside the home. She was intelligent, hardworking and personable, but unfortunately did not have the opportunity for higher education.

Gordon Vogel
Grand Rapids, MI

SMALL WORLD

As I read Dr. Rochon's remarks about swim lessons at the Chicago 'Y' in the latest illumine issue, I thought there couldn't be two Rod Manifolds. It turns out that his swim coach Rod Manifold was my brother-in-law's brother! Unfortunately, Rod and his wife were killed in a car accident some years ago (2015).

My brother-in-law was thrilled with the article about his brother. He made copies and sent one to each of his surviving brothers who in turn were delighted to read of their brother's influence.

As we know, we never know what impact we have on people. I am so glad Dr. Rochon knew Rod. Thank you for sharing that part of your life with us.

TEAM SPIRIT

I always read illumine from cover to cover. This issue was outstanding as usual. I particularly enjoyed reading Janet Johnson's "From the Desk of" and seeing that her team spirit began early in life. I continue to see that trait in her today, and she continues to make a difference in the lives of others.

Harolyn Torain '71
Indianapolis, IN



COMMENDABLE

I enjoyed immensely reading Janet Johnson's autobiographical article in the fall issue of illumine. I commend her and congratulate her for all she has done. Raising four children, completing her degree and achieving her present position at USI are excellent accomplishments.

I remember working with Janet's mother, Barbara, at Mount Vernon Pharmacy in 1967 and 1968. She also did it all as a mother,



Elizabeth Bonham
Associate Professor Emerita
College of Nursing and Health Professions
English, IN



Chris Perez

I wish we could have been DI when I was there. We always wanted a piece of UE when Coach Pearl was there. #PieceofthePle

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



THINGS THAT MAKE US PREEN

FACULTY EXPERTS IN THE NEWS

JIM DURBIN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY, WAS QUOTED IN SEVERAL NEWS SOURCES ON THE AIR QUALITY FOLLOWING A FIRE THAT DESTROYED A 110-YEAR-OLD WAREHOUSE IN EVANSVILLE LAST FALL.

JULIE ST. CLAIR, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF NURSING, DISCUSSED CASES OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY ON "WNIN NEWSMAKERS".

DR. MATTHEW HANKA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, AND **DR. NICHOLAS LARGWE**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, APPEARED ON WFIE ON ELECTION NIGHT, SHEDDING INSIGHT ON POLITICAL RESULTS.

DR. KENT SCHELLER, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS, APPEARED ON WEVV TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF A RECENT NUCLEAR FUSION BREAKTHROUGH.

OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER

LAUREN GREIWE '23, HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, BECAME THE FIRST STUDENT-ATHLETE RUNNER IN USI SCHOOL HISTORY TO CLAIM AN NCAA DIVISION I CONFERENCE TITLE; SHE WAS ALSO NAMED OVC ATHLETE OF THE YEAR!

NOAH HUFNAGEL '24, KINESIOLOGY, BECAME THE FIRST STUDENT-ATHLETE RUNNER IN USI MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM'S HISTORY TO CAPTURE AN NCAA DIVISION I CONFERENCE TITLE.

FIRST DIVISION I WINS

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL

BASEBALL

SOFTBALL

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SOCCER

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

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A few months ago, my official presidential portrait was revealed and hangs in perpetuity in the David L. Rice Library alongside those of the preceding three USI presidents. Seeing it stirs up memories of my path to reach this point in my life and career, a journey I have walked as a direct result of standing on the shoulders of my ancestors. Seeing it also reminds me of another image of myself, one captured when I was a young man traveling outside of the United States for the first time.

It was the summer of 1983, and I had just earned my bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University. I had hoped for a car as a graduation gift, but my mother decided a trip to Northern Africa, in the company of my Aunt Carol, would be more valuable to my future.

Instead of driving a new car, I found myself moving through foreign lands for the first time in my life, surrounded by Brown-skinned people who outwardly looked like me but were different in many ways. They spoke a language I could not understand; they followed a multitude of faiths and religions that differed from my Christian upbringing; they consumed foods I had never eaten; they engaged in sports and games I had never played.

As I wandered through Cairo, Egypt's marketplace in my free time, I worked hard to engage with the people—most of whom spoke some English to my nonexistent Arabic—selling spices, dried fruits, nuts, trinkets and other items of interest to local shoppers and tourists like me. At one stall, I was encouraged by the vendor to try on and purchase a gallabiyah, the traditional flowing garment worn by males in arid lands, and at another booth I tried on a ghutra, the headdress worn by some men in the region. In donning the garments, my intent was not to appropriate another's culture but to appreciate it, as I had come to learn by engaging with people on the journey, that dressing in a nation's native clothes was viewed as a sign of respect.

Commemorating my brief experience dressed in these traditional garments—dressed as someone other than who I was—and documenting my time in Egypt is a photo of me grinning. At 23, I was a skinny young man with big hair, facing an untapped future filled with possibilities. As someone on the cusp of his tomorrow, I had a sense of myself and where I was going and what

I could achieve if I worked hard. But I did not understand what assumptions others could make of me.

To the border guards at the airport upon departure, my Brown skin labeled me Egyptian. That label alongside my U.S. passport created an assumption that I was attempting to leave the country under false pretenses. My passport was scrutinized for signs of forgery. My documents were checked, double checked and triple checked. My palms sweated. I grew anxious as I watched others proceed through customs. I was eventually allowed to board the plane and come home, but the situation could have been worse, and it often is when people make assumptions of others.

In recent years, we have witnessed a rise of violence in Indiana based on the assumptions of others and what they represent; violence directed at people because they looked different. A 19-year-old man attacked a Muslim woman in a café, choking her in front of her husband and 9-year-old daughter as he attempted to remove the hijab covering her head. Later, he claimed to be drunk and not the type to ever hurt anyone. Yet he did. More recently a 56-year-old woman stabbed an 18-year-old Asian college student on a city bus. Her justification? "One less person to blow up our country."

Assuming the worst of others based on indirect and incorrect teachings, judging them on preconceived ideas resulting from the color of their skin, their gender, the way they dress, wear their hair, their religion practiced, their sexual orientation, or gender identity is the foundation for destruction. When we fail to see the potential in others—especially children and young people—when we fail to see their humanness, when we fail to see and honor the light in them, the same light that is within us, we fail as a society. We fail ourselves.

As we listen to our own thoughts and assumptions, what do we hear and see? Do our perceptions lead us to assume the best or worst of others?

All of us arrive where we are through varying degrees of hard work, tears, toil, oppression, discrimination, struggle, liberatory thought and behavior, resiliency, perseverance, collaboration, prayer and love. All of us deserve to be recognized for who we are and not what

someone assumes of us. Democracy makes that possible. But democracy does not come unchallenged.

Exposure to people different from us—whether they are from Chicago or Luxor—is powerful and life-altering. When we look at someone who at first glance appears unlike ourselves, take a moment to peer deeper and discover how alike we all are. All humans possess dreams and aspirations, from the underserved to the most powerful.

It takes work to see past the façade of someone to find their true essence, to find the light in them, the same light that is in all of us, as opposed to immediate disdain and assumptions that they are the "other" and therefore pose a danger.

I wonder if anyone looking at the image of me in the gallabīyah and ghutra (other than those who loved me) could have foreseen I would one day become a university president. Would they have taken the time to look beyond the color of my skin and the clothes I wore to understand my potential or merely taken in the trappings that said "other?"

Every moment in time is part of our larger life journey. Every moment in time offers each of us the opportunity to grow and change through self-awareness. Every moment in time offers each of us the opportunity to make a positive impact on society. Every moment in time offers each of us the opportunity to teach our children to be better, to do better. Every moment in time offers each of us the opportunity for self-discovery. Every moment in time offers each of us the opportunity to celebrate humanity. To celebrate the other.



EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

USI established a partnership with Chengdu Sport University in Chengdu, Sichuan Province of China, for students

studying sport economics and management in the School of Economics and Management at the University.

The partnership marks the first time USI has offered an international program in the area of sport management, and introduces high-quality educational resources to undergraduate Chengdu students. The aim is to cultivate a strong international vision and competitiveness in the field of sport management.



Suds Are Flowing

The first Division I Men's and Women's Basketball games held in the Screaming Eagles Arena, came with beer. The pilot program, designed to enhance fans' experience at games, allows them to purchase Bud, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra and Busch Light in cans, or wine and seltzers, at or near existing concession areas on the upper concourse of the Arena. Alcohol was previously available for purchase only in box suites and in the Varsity Club Room, and only to select small groups. "We believe this is a move that will give our fans something they want as part of the game-day experience while keeping our games safe, family-friendly events," said **Jon Mark Hall**, Athletic Director. "We hope this is something we can continue and even expand on in the future."

BOOMERS' MENTAL WELLBEING

An aging society, where 34% are over the age of 50 because of the baby-boomer generation, prompted USI's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement program (GWEP) to offer a free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) certification training for health professionals and community members. It was administered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and taught by USI GWEP-affiliated MHFA instructors. Attendees learned how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Participants earned a three-year national certification and up to eight contact hours through the USI Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning.



former caveman joins liberal arts faculty

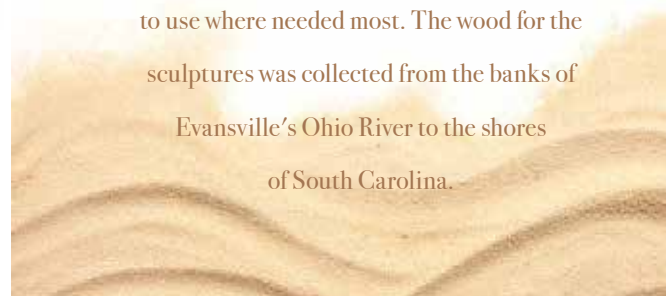
Before **McManus Woodend** came to USI as an English instructor, he spent a decade appearing in GEICO Insurance commercials as a caveman, replete with facial prosthetics and a whole lot of hair. Initially hired to only play the character at live events, it quickly evolved into appearing in commercials, more than 25, as well as voiceovers on the GEICO/Pandora "Caveman Radio" station.

An actor and filmmaker—he has appeared in six feature films and co-created one feature-length film—teaching felt like the next logical step for Woodend, whose parents were educators. "I've always had people encourage me; even people I've worked with in film and TV said that I should teach," he says.



Sculpting to Fill a Need

A collaboration between **Katie Waters**, Professor Emerita of Art, and her friend **Dr. Debbie Goldman**, a retired pediatrician and friend of USI, resulted in a solo art fundraiser showcasing Goldman's unique driftwood sculptures. She donated 50 pieces to be displayed in the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries last December, raising thousands of dollars for USI's Art and Design Department to use where needed most. The wood for the sculptures was collected from the banks of Evansville's Ohio River to the shores of South Carolina.



SHINING MOMENT

USI Ceramics II students showcased their work alongside professional ceramicists at the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art last fall, in a show titled "The Lamp Project." This experimental student-driven exhibition explored functional ceramics through objects made of light-giving materials. Ranging from the cute, the kitsch, the hungry, the romantic and the occasionally austere, each object offered a thematically playful and unique approach to both form and content.



WE'RE CELEBRATING



MAKING A WORLDWIDE IMPACT

USI ALUMNI ARE IN ALL 50 STATES AND 57 COUNTRIES.

MAKING A WORLDWIDE IMPACT, THESE PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS REPRESENT ALL 130 AREAS OF STUDY USI OFFERS. THEIR DEGREES, KNOWLEDGE AND PASSION MAKE THE WORLD RICHER.



AIRPORT PARTNERSHIP AIDS DISABLED TRAVELERS

USI Disability Resources participated in the Evansville Regional Airport (EVV) launch of three new accessibility resources and programs available to travelers to help everyone travel easily, safely and comfortably. Assisting those with hidden disabilities, such as autism, PTSD, hearing loss and more is the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyard scheme. It offers people with non-visible disabilities access to the support they need. The sensory kits, a partnership with Autism Evansville and CAMSE Kit, are designed to

bring comfort and calm to travelers. "To partner with EVV in this way has given USI Disability Resources a pipeline to potential students who may not be aware of our office," said **Michelle Kirk**, Manager of Disability Resources at USI. "We offer academic accommodations and resources for eligible students at the University to gain equal access. This work with EVV also helps spread the word about valuable accessibility programs at the airport that can be utilized by all who need them."



USI was ranked 14th by *U.S. News and World Report* for Top Public Schools - Regional Universities Midwest, and 21st for Best Value in Regional Universities in the Midwest. It also ranked among the Best Online Programs for Graduate Nursing, MBA and Veterans MBA.

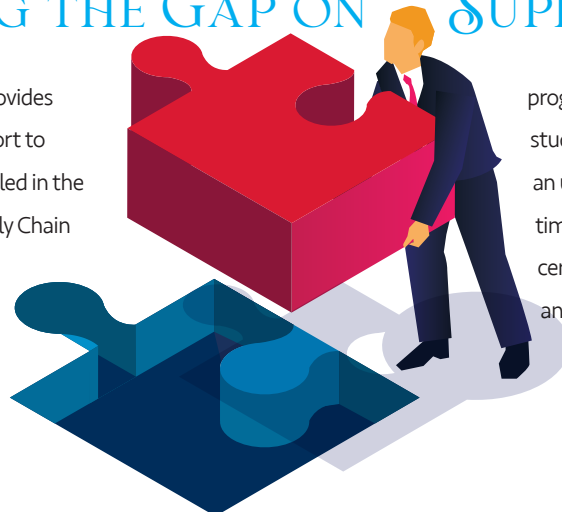
Romain College of Business' Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was ranked sixth in *Fortune Education's* Top 25 Most Affordable Online MBA Programs in 2022. The USI MBA program has been ranked one of the best online MBA programs for three consecutive years by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Fortune*.

Forbes and *Statista* ranked USI 62nd out of 1,328 in-state employers in their "America's Best-in-State Employer" report in 2022.

CLOSING THE GAP ON SUPPLY-CHAIN EXPERTS

The Romain College of Business received a \$100,000 gift from Warehouse Services, Inc., to establish a scholarship endowment named for its President, Barry Cox. The

scholarship provides financial support to students enrolled in the College's Supply Chain Management Certificate



program. To be eligible, students must be an undergrad, full-time, enrolled in the certification program and be in good

academic standing. A second preference will be given to full-time USI undergraduate students majoring in management, who are also in good academic standing.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LINDA OLIVER '90, social science (teaching), was recognized as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year. Oliver has devoted her time to USI for over 15 years, serving to meet numerous University needs. She is a Varsity Club member who regularly helps with activities and events for USI Athletics, Orientation, Welcome Week, Commencement and more.

DISTINGUISHED ACCOUNTANT

ALAN BRILL, President of Business Management Consultants, LLP, is the 2022 USI Romain College of Business Distinguished Accountant Award recipient.

PRIDEFEST

The Center for Campus Life hosted the first Pridefest on The Quad. **BRIANNA ALDANA '24**, a psychology student and Student Coordinator for Gender and Sexuality Resources, a program within the Center for Campus Life, planned and hosted Pridefest, giving free "Screagle Pride" t-shirts, pins and stickers to hand out to attendees. "I'm breathing a sigh of relief just because there's so many people, so I think this is a really good way for the University to see just how many students are part of the community," she said. "I'm hoping this makes a difference."



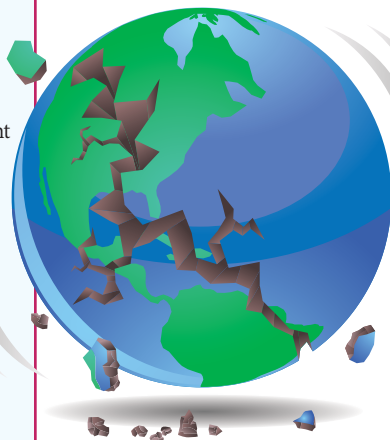
Toni Rodriguez, senior psychology major, and Alicia Cotton, sophomore political science major.
Photo credit - Alyssa DeWig

THE NUMBERS ADD UP

There is a nationwide effort underway to heighten teaching data and statistics in secondary mathematics curriculum, a shortcoming that USI is taking part in helping to solve by preparing educators to address this area of need. The project, "Collaborative Research: Enhancing Data Science and Statistics Teacher Education

- Transforming and Building Community," (funded through a \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation) is a collaboration between USI, North Carolina State University, Eastern Michigan University and the Concord Consortium. USI will receive an estimated \$175,000 for the project. "The grant will allow our team to work toward

systemic change across the nation by broadening our reach to additional higher education institutions and partnering with professional organizations and statistics teacher education initiatives," says **Dr. Rick Hudson '02**, Chair of the Mathematical Sciences Department, Professor of Mathematics and Co-Principal Investigator on the project.



**WORLD'S
QUAKES
NOTED
AT
USI**

When a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook southern Turkey, northern Syria and parts of Lebanon, killing tens of thousands, USI's seismometer registered it half a world away. "It took that energy about 15 minutes to travel to Evansville and generate crustal movement here!" **Dr. Paul Doss**, Professor of Geology.

The Turkey/Syria quake was one of "too many to tally" that the seismometer owned by the U.S. Geological Survey and hosted on USI's campus for decades has recorded, says Doss. The faculty in the Geology Department employ the data collected by the seismometer, measuring direction, intensity and duration in their lessons. "I frequently use the real-time seismographs in my introductory classroom, particularly when we record a nearby quake or a globally significant quake," he says. "These data provide teachable moments that provide tangible connections among the science of geology, hazards and risks to human society, and spatial variability of planetary processes."

USI also recorded the 2004 Indonesian quake, which generated a tsunami that killed 250,000 people, and the 4th and Main Building implosion in Evansville in November 2021.

THESE FACULTY HAVE YOUR EAR



Eric Altheide, Associate Professor of Theatre, and **Alice Shen**, Instructor in English, have something in common, both are thriving as freelance audiobook readers. Over the last two years, Altheide has recorded nearly 40 audiobooks including non-fiction, historical fiction, mysteries, short stories, thrillers, literary fiction and romances (including a 12-book series released under the pseudonym Grayson Owens). He records this work from a home studio, which thanks to so much interest in his work, was upgraded to a professional sound booth last summer. Shen has recorded 25 books, working with authors at Penguin Random House and independent publishers. She draws upon her own Chinese background and language skills to narrate memoirs and historical fiction about the Asian American experience. For a typical full-length novel, she will embody at least 30 different personas with various accents, timbres and paces.





THE BIG PICTURE

USI spirit is off the charts as more than 2,200 fans, including a record 800+ students, packed the Screaming Eagles Arena to witness USI Men's Basketball beat the University of Arkansas at Little Rock 74-67 in our nationally televised debut in Division I.

TAKE A BOW

TWO ALUMNAE EARNED STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS THE BEST.



Tara (Ulmer) Cocanower '07, history, social science (teaching), was named 2023 Indiana Teacher of the Year. The recognition honors not only the work she does in the classroom, where her students achieved an 83.5% pass rate in 2022 on the AP World History exam—the state average is 48.1%—but her leadership roles for the Bluffton High School's History Club and History Department. In the rural, northeast section of the state, Cocanower is known for developing fun, engaging and inclusive lessons in her classroom, giving students an opportunity to learn history and develop their own worldviews simultaneously. This is her 12th year as an educator, she previously taught middle school social studies before her role at Bluffton High School. Cocanower also served two years in the Peace Corps.



Breasha Pruitt '08, general physical education, was selected as the 2022 Coach of the Year, from among some 1,000 coaches across the country in a variety of sports who were nominated by Positive Coaching Alliance. The former Junior Olympics' Elite National Team member at 14 years old on the uneven parallel bars, was sidelined from competing while in college, due to an injury. Today she puts in the hours and dedication to make other little girls' dreams come true. She owns and operates Breasha Pruitt Elite Gymnastics in Evansville and her dedication to helping girls goes beyond the bars and mats. She once learned a student's back pain was due to not having a proper bed at home. Pruitt not only helped the family secure a bed, but decorated the girl's room, adding a desk, lamp, curtains and a comforter.

DESK OF...

FROM THE



DR. DEL DOUGHTY
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

I've spent most of my academic career as a writing instructor, teaching freshman composition, creative writing, etc. I love teaching writing because I love good writing and I love helping students figure out how to do it effectively and even, on occasion, to find the joy in it. Expressing oneself clearly demands so much of a person, so when you get it right, wow! When, as an undergraduate, I learned of Gustave Flaubert's endless searches for *le mot juste*, "the exact word," I immediately identified with the sweet agony he described in his process. Writing well is hard, but also a rush.

Imagine my surprise, then, last fall when I learned of generative artificial intelligence (AI) programs that now compose original compositions undetectable by plagiarism software. I went online and tried out one program for myself. I gave it some basic instructions for writing an essay on collaboration and two seconds later, it produced something that, if not good (I wouldn't give it better than a C), was not obviously awful. In time, I'm sure the quality will improve.

In prompting the program to provide tips on collaboration, some might say I collaborated with AI. It feels weird thinking of it that way, but I guess I need to get used to it. Some of the world's leading thinkers about the future—the World Economic Forum, Pew Research, the McKinsey Institute—tell us that the robots' arrival is not some distant future event but is already happening, changing the way we live and work and learn. Even if we know this to be true, it's always freaky when it hits close

to home. I spent years teaching composition in college. How will the advent of AI change the way we write, and the way we teach writing? Will students learn to write *with* AI and then have their writing graded *by* AI?

Tech pessimists fear robots will put humans out of work, while tech optimists are more likely to say humans will more likely find themselves working alongside robots and other forms of AI. In that scenario, the nature of work will change, as indeed it already is changing. And if the nature of work changes, so too, then, will the nature of education.

Joseph Aoun, President of Northeastern University and author of *Robot-Proof*, proposes a new disciplinary formation to prepare humans for this environment. He calls it "humanics," and it consists of three pillars:

1. Tech Savvy – the ability to understand how machines work and how to collaborate with them.
2. Data Literacy – the ability to navigate the churn of data generated by machines and to discern meaningful signals and patterns therein.
3. Humanistic Knowledge and Skill – the ability to do things that, for the foreseeable future, are unique to humans: problem-finding, practicing empathy, transferring knowledge from one domain to another (i.e., connecting dots, a function of "generalized intelligence"), and starting and running an enterprise, among other things.

I like that there's a key role for the humanities to play in the future Aoun imagines. He contends that if you learn the skills and dispositions provided by a humanistic education, you will be better able to engage with others, be they carbon- or silicon-based.

When we really begin collaborating with AI at this level, we are sure to encounter many surprises and astounding moments. A humanities education can supply people with the philosophy, the narrative frameworks and the critical thinking to address them.



ATHLETE Q&A MAYA ETIENNE '23

⊕ WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR AND GRAD YEAR?

My major is computer information systems, and my graduation year is the Spring of 2023.

⊕ WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PRE-GAME HYPE SONG?

Cloudy Day by Tones and I. I love the song and have the best memories of my teammates dancing to it.

⊕ WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE A USI STUDENT-ATHLETE?

I had the choice to play soccer in college but didn't know if I wanted to or not. I was nervous but I knew I wasn't done playing soccer. Coming to USI was the greatest decision of my life. I am a studious individual, but I value the memories, people and time I've spent at USI. The people here and the campus itself became my family. I am so proud to be a USI athlete and I will cherish these last four years for the rest of my life.

⊕ WHAT'S THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED SO FAR IN YOUR USI ATHLETIC CAREER?

I've learned not to dwell in the past. Thinking about the last mistake I made only gets me stuck inside my own head, and it affects my performance. Instead of analyzing every single mistake, I had to learn from them and move on.

⊕ WHAT IS THE BIGGEST MISCONCEPTION YOU GET ABOUT BEING A STUDENT-ATHLETE?

The biggest misconception I get is that being an athlete is my identity. Soccer is just one small piece of my identity. I am more than just the goalkeeper for the USI Women's Soccer team.

⊕ HOW DO YOU BALANCE ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS?

My secret is time management. In high school, I played on a club team that was two hours away from my house. I did my schoolwork in the car on the way to practice. Afterward, I'd be exhausted but sometimes I had to finish my schoolwork on the way home. Balancing classes and my performance on the soccer field isn't always easy, but my determination has always helped me succeed.

⊕ WHAT'S YOUR GO-TO POST MATCH MEAL/SNACK?

Clementine mandarins. I love fruit and the little oranges always brighten my mood no matter the outcome of our games.

⊕ REFLECT ON YOUR FAVORITE GAME AND WHY.

One of my favorite games is one we lost. The whole game we were tied 0-0 until the last few seconds of the game. It was a tough game and we all wanted to win so badly. Each of my teammates played their hardest, leaving everything they had on the field. When the final whistle blew, all these different emotions hit me. It was my final season playing for USI before graduating and I was going to miss my

teammates. Then a huge sense of pride overcame me. I was proud of how we'd played and proud to call every one of my teammates family. I never want to forget how proud and honored I felt to play with my teammates that day.

⊕ WHAT IS THE TRAINING PROCESS LIKE FOR SOCCER?

In season, we train three days or five days for two hours, depending on if we had a game on Thursday or not. As goalies, we go through





drills to keep up with our footwork and handling, focusing on technique, and to correct a mistake made in the previous game. After an hour, the goalies join the rest of the team to work on correcting what went wrong in the game as a team. This prepares us to do better in our next game. Two days before our next game, we watch a recording of our opponent's past game, going over their strengths and weaknesses to see how we can gain control of the game.

⚽ WHAT'S YOUR INNER THOUGHT PROCESS WHEN PLAYING A GAME?

As a goalkeeper, I see everything in front of me and I'm trying to communicate what I see to my teammates. While doing that, I am anticipating the opponents every move. At the same time, I'm cheering my teammates on, like a parent on the sidelines screaming, "Go on take her!" or "OMG, she's open, she's open, switch the field!"

INTO THE WOODS: A STORY OF COLLABORATION

By C. L. Stambush

When Little Red Riding Hood entered the woods with a basket of goodies for her sick granny, all she found was a big, bad wolf. That was not the case for a small, determined team at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve seeking help for its 50th Anniversary last year.

Spurred by Wesselman's Executive Director Zach Garcia, USI alumna Kristina Arwood '13, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement, tapped into her vast resources and connections from both her USI student days and as the former Marketing Coordinator for USI's College of Liberal Arts. "Wesselman Woods has such a small team, it's nearly impossible to do all that we needed to do with just staff members," she says.

Evansville's Wesselman Woods is the largest tract of virgin, old-growth forest (200 acres) within any city limits in the United States. Like any small nonprofit knows, things build up, projects fall behind and the need for fundraising increases. For five decades, artifacts, photographs and documents have been tucked away in less-than-ideal conditions, undocumented and out of sight.

"In 2020, I started pulling archived material out and putting them into a corner," Garcia says. "The 50th anniversary was going to be here any minute and we had to get a start on organizing these things."

Answering Arwood's call for help, a flock of USI faculty, from departments across campus, developed unique service-learning projects for a host of students, who excitedly pitched in to gain valuable experience and skills for future careers, while supporting the city's beloved woods.



MEET THE CURRENT COLLABORATORS



KA

KRISTINA ARWOOD '13
*Director of Marketing and
Community Engagement*



JB

DR. JAMES BANDOLI
*Professor Emeritus of
Biology*



PB

PAYTON BROSHEARS '22
Environmental Educator



AC

DR. ALEX CHAMPAGNE
*Associate Professor of
Biology*



PD

DR. PAUL DOSS
Professor of Geology



TE

DR. TRENT ENGBERS
*Associate Professor of
Political Science, Director
of MPA Program*



KG

KAILENE GOLDSBERRY '19
*Director of Environmental
Education*



MG

MATTHEW GRAHAM
*Professor Emeritus of
English*



JG

JENNIFER GREENE '04 M'09
*University Archivist and Associate
Professor of Library Science*



MH

DR. MARILYN HURST
*Instructor Emerita in
Chemistry*



EM

DR. ERIC MCLOUD
Associate Professor of Biology



RM

**ROB MILLARD-
MENDEZ**
Professor of Art



MR

MEGAN RADEMACHER '16
Marketing Associate



SR

DR. STELLA RESS
*Associate Professor of
History*



KW

KATIE WATERS
Professor Emerita of Art



CW

CARRIE WRIGHT M'17
Instructor in Geology



THE ARCHIVIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

University Archives and Special Collections

Piles of backlogged stuff is a daunting task for anyone to deal with, but especially so for a small team busy with the day-to-day operations of their respective work at Wesselman Woods. Jennifer Greene, University Archivist and Associate Professor of Library Science, got them started by leading an archiving workshop for the preserve's staff. "I worked with Wesselman Woods staff to develop numbering and organization for the slides, negatives and prints," she says.

Greene brought in USI students to join a group of other students interning at Wesselman Woods; together they all managed to scan and describe 17,000 images. "We are holding digital archival copies of the scans for Wesselman Woods," she says, "but have transferred copies to them as well."

Garcia says they plan to put all the images online one day. "We are going to need a really big cloud service to host this massive library," he says.

Some of the archived material, however, can't be held in a cloud. "The park also has a large collection of organic artifacts (critters and such)," Greene says.

JG

KA



THE BIOFACTS EXPERT

Biology Department

Wesselman Woods has been collecting biological artifacts (biofacts) since it was founded in 1972. "We have everything ranging from taxidermy, to insects, to eggs," Garcia says. "Anything you can find in the forest, we probably have in our biofact collection."

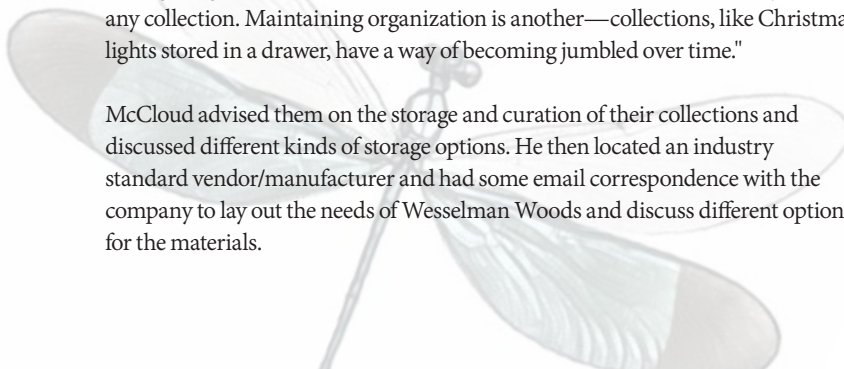
To help with it all, Greene called on USI colleague Dr. Eric McCloud, Associate Professor of Biology. He discovered the collection showed signs of wear; the worst was among the preserved animals. "None, or almost none, of their specimens had proper labels," he says, "and it is entirely possible some labels had become separated from the specimens. Fighting museum pests in pinned and stuffed specimens and fighting evaporation in specimens preserved in liquid are persistent jobs in any collection. Maintaining organization is another—collections, like Christmas lights stored in a drawer, have a way of becoming jumbled over time."

McCloud advised them on the storage and curation of their collections and discussed different kinds of storage options. He then located an industry standard vendor/manufacturer and had some email correspondence with the company to lay out the needs of Wesselman Woods and discuss different options for the materials.

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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL GURU

Biology Department

As you can imagine, Wesselman Woods not only has a lot of birds, it has a lot of dead birds they have collected and frozen over the years for future educational purposes. Dr. Alex Champagne, Associate Professor of Biology, hosted a workshop held in one of the University's labs for the Wesselman Woods staff to learn to prepare bird specimens to help them curate their teaching and research collection.

"Study skins are often used in educational programs to allow people to study features that require close inspection," he says. "For example, they might be used to demonstrate specific adaptations that animals have developed for their environment, such as a large beak to crack tough seeds, webbed feet for swimming."

Each staff member brought a dead bird to the bird-skin workshop.

"Learning how to process or taxidermy these animals in-house gives us the skills to preserve these creatures without the heavy price tag of going to a taxidermist. We have found it difficult to pinpoint local individuals who can preserve the animals," says Arwood. "The stuffed birds become a part of our arsenal of educational tools—we use these biofacts when we do programs or outreach to show the public something they may not otherwise safely see up close."

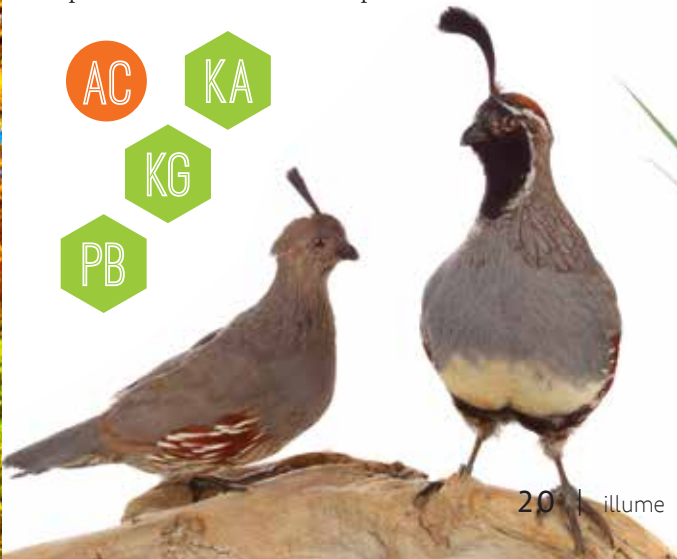
As a result of Champagne's successful workshop, he was asked to join the nonprofit's Board of Directors. "He doesn't understand why everyone was so excited to have him. He is like a celebrity here," Garcia says. "The Indiana Master Naturalist classes he does for us are great. I am not a bird person, but he makes me a bird person."

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THE NONPROFIT CHAMPION

School of Graduate Studies

Howell Wetlands, Wesselman Woods' westside property, is a jewel in its own right. It is the largest urban wetlands in Indiana, replete with 35 acres of marshland, bald cypress slough, lowland hardwood forest and upland meadow—home to muskrats, beavers, herons and more. But it posed a problem for the nonprofit: it isn't as well known as the preserve, nor does it possess the same level of donations.

They needed a plan, and Dr. Trent Engbers, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Master of Public Administration program, had just the team to provide it. "Wesselman Woods has had a long and important history as a nonprofit," he says, "but Howell Wetlands doesn't have the same level of support and infrastructure to build community volunteers and donors."



With a reputation for altruism and an entire program filled with graduate students studying fundraising and volunteer management, they set out to create a focused fundraising plan for Wesselman's to use for Howell Wetlands. "The students developed a fundraising plan," Engbers says. "They identified nine projects (e.g., social media campaign, donor cultivation strategy, annual fund appeal, grant writing, etc.) to support the organization."

Garcia was impressed. "They did a phenomenal job creating a whole fundraising packet for what we could do," he says. "It was so, so, so helpful for me, for those students and for our Director of Development, who was new to our organization."

TE

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THE HERCULEAN HISTORIAN

History Department

Photos, old newsletters, old minutes from board meetings, old letters, old program guides, old end-of-year letters, you name it, Wesselman Woods still has it. "It's just so much stuff. It's a big hurdle getting it organized," Garcia says. "Everything you could imagine that an organization could save over time, we have."

That is where Dr. Stella Ress, Associate Professor of History, created a service-learning project for her Introduction to Historical Administration students. They were trained on how to scan photographs using the appropriate measures and criteria, how to use computer software and equipment, how to input accurate metadata on each scan, as well as how to write and research a description of the item. The course project required students to write a reflective paper on their experience, the challenges they faced and how they overcame them, and how the project allowed them to attain or hone specific skills and knowledge to be used in their future careers.

"Each student committed at least 10 hours to on-site digitization, wrote descriptive metadata (which allows researchers to find those objects) for all scanned objects and scanned hundreds of slides and negatives," Ress says. "Ultimately, students scanned and wrote descriptive metadata for a good portion of the collection."

SR

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THE WONDROUS WOODWORKER

Art and Design Department

Wesselman Woods' annual Wandering Owl event led Rob Millard-Mendez, Professor of Art, and his advanced woodworking class in search of discarded wood to transform into art. The wood they found was turned into beautiful, functional boxes auctioned off at the event. "Rob and his students collected wood from around the city that would have been thrown away—some of it included old boardwalks from Wesselman Woods that were too deteriorated. They spruced the wood up and turned it all into gorgeous boxes," Arwood says.

Nearly every semester, Millard-Mendez's advanced wood students do an outreach/volunteer project as a resume-builder/giving back activity. "We made the boxes at the USI Art and Design wood studio," he says. "We used all recycled/repurposed materials to make the boxes, many of them included interesting details like hand-cut dovetail joints."

Millard-Mendez and the students donated their creations to the silent auction of a fall fundraising event. "They sold like hotcakes," Arwood says. "We had a couple of people staking out the silent auction area to make sure they got the box they wanted."



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THE ADJUDICATING ARTIST

Emerita

The mix of art and science coming together in a nature preserve is not a novel idea in some larger cities, but it was a first for Wesselman Woods. Arwood and her student interns from Signature School came up with the idea of an art exhibit. "We really wanted to bring more art and humanities to Wesselman Woods, so this exhibition was a perfect way to do that," she says. "Plus, it got the community involved, which was an added bonus."

Arwood and fellow USI alumna and Wesselman Woods' Environmental Educator Payton Broshears '22, spearheaded the exhibition. They asked the renowned and esteemed Katie Waters, Professor Emerita of Art, whose work is displayed nationally, to jury the show, having judged more than 50 art shows in her professional career. This inaugural art show had over 40 entries submitted by 30 local artists. Each entry was judged on technique, construction and the artist's creative response to the theme: wildlife, nature and environmental issues of the Ohio River Valley bioregion.



"In an open exhibit such as this one," Waters says, "I selected works that represent the greatest number of participants and widest range of techniques and media. This is to show the public the depth and breadth of artistic talent in the community."



THE WAXING WOODSMAN

Emeritus

Joining Waters in a different volunteer capacity is her husband, Matthew Graham, Professor Emeritus of English and 2020-2021 Indiana Poet Laureate. He is a member of Wesselman Woods' Wednesday Work Crew, where, along with a handful of other retired men, he removes invasive species, chops wood, maintains trails, repairs and paints buildings, and more.

"I volunteer at Wesselman Woods because it is a special and important place and I get to work with interesting, committed and intelligent people who teach me something new about nature and environmental concerns every week," says Graham.

He loves the work and fellow crew members so much; he wrote a poem commemorating their comradery.

Fathers and Such

*Old men ourselves now, retired volunteers
Shoveling mulch along the paths
Of a nature preserve,
We sometimes talk about our fathers.
The misunderstandings and conflicts,
The small hurts and slights that grow comical with time.
The puzzling indifference of time.
And sometimes we don't talk at all
Because we know the shadows of fathers can reach
As far as the shadows of these ancient trees
We work among.
Leaving us, for the most part,
In the dark as always.*

- Matthew Graham



THE VORACIOUS VOLUNTEERS

USI Faculty Volunteers

USI's faculty are compelled to educate; on campus, off campus and in the field. Several current and emeriti faculty lend their expertise to Wesselman Woods-sponsored Indiana Master Naturalist series, which is an Indiana Department of Natural Resources certification program. The educators' time is voluntary and their payment the reward of advancing others' knowledge about Indiana ecology. "The relationship we've had with USI for the Indiana Master Naturalist program has been going on since the '90s," says Garcia.

Dr. Paul Doss, Professor of Geology

Dr. Alex Champagne, Associate Professor of Biology

Carrie Wright M'17, Instructor in Geology

Dr. James Bandoli, Professor Emeritus of Biology

Dr. Marilyn Hurst, Instructor Emerita in Chemistry

Dr. Eric McCloud, Associate Professor of Biology



PD

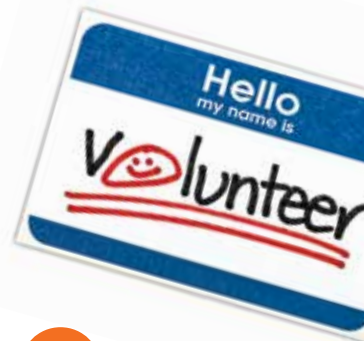
AC

MH

CW

JB

EM



THE ARDENT ALUMNI


USI Alumni

The link between Wesselman Woods and USI continues as four of the 13 staff members are alumni.

Kristina (Fitzgerald) Arwood '13, art, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement

Kailene Goldsberry '19, environmental science, Director of Environmental Education

Payton Broshears '22, art, world languages and cultures, Environmental Educator

Megan (Elleser) Rademacher '16, art, Marketing Associate 





Portal to the

HOW HISTORY HELPS SHAPE A BETTER TOMORROW

By C. L. Stambush

Dr. Kristalyn Shefveland, Associate Professor of History, and area high school senior Sophie Kloppenburg didn't know how much they had in common before they met in the summer of 2021. But through their encounter they discovered both were committed to historic truths and bringing those truths into the light through education.

Searching for a community senior project, Kloppenburg, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, heard whispers of seven Black men who were accused of raping three White women. Untried and unconvicted, the men were lynched, shot, stabbed and burned to death—four of them hung from a tree on her hometown's courthouse lawn—144 years ago.

Kloppenburg wanted the world to know what happened and for it to be commemorated with a plaque on the site of the 1878 lynching. She, Shefveland, Dr. Laurel Standiford-Reyes, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and two community members combined forces and started talking to Posey County Commissioners. "Sophie had already spoken with the city commissioners, and they were

enthusiastic, but more conversations needed to take place," said Shefveland.

Through those conversations, the idea bloomed from a single commemorative plaque reminding people of the killings, to a full scope of projects—including town halls, curriculum development, student and educator workshops, teaching internships, interactive exhibits, research internships

and conferences—to educate others on how lynchings and other forms of racial trauma impact society.

The first official act in the 1878 Memorial Project was the placement of a plaque commemorating the killings on the Mount Vernon courthouse lawn in October 2022. "We worked with the county commissioners and Dr. Betty Hart, USI Professor Emerita

Past

and History Department. The website will allow historians, researchers, educators, community members and anyone else interested in southwest Indiana's racial history and the lynching of innocent men to learn more. "It's not particularly educational to have just a memorial, but if we create a website, it's evergreen," said Shefvland. "The plan is that if people want to know more, they can find a very well-curated, community-sponsored website with a ton of resources."

The collaborative project is one of many similar responses across the nation addressing historic acts of racial terror and violence, such as the rise of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana through ties to southwest Indiana and how it shaped the state. "It's something older generations know a lot about. At one point it was taught in schools and talked about," said Shefvland. "Then it just slipped to the side. Part of the work we are trying to do with these projects is recognize where we were and where we are now."


Facing the truths of the past is not easy. Shefvland has encountered a variety of emotional responses in her pursuit so far. "Some people will get angry, some people are going to get defensive saying, 'That's not who we are now.' I get that and I understand," she said. "It's uncomfortable; but sitting with discomfort, and sitting with an understanding of what was done, in many ways is to indicate that it won't happen again. We don't want to just focus on the negative, but instead to talk about how the past plays a role within communities today."

Learning from this past provides a positive pathway to a more compassionate future for humanity. Fortunately, there is a robust and committed group of USI faculty and students, school corporations, local governments, communal organizations, historic societies, cultural museums and more, intent on

delivering a wealth of learning resources into the hands and minds of citizens.

"The purpose of this work is to address historic absences of marginalized peoples within the local and national narratives through humanities teaching and learning," Shefvland said. "Diversifying the narrative has direct impact on communities and provides an avenue for reparative justice."

USI's scholars have historically contributed to the body of works illuminating the lives of African Americans. Dr. Darrel Bigham, Director Emeritus of Historic Southern Indiana and Professor Emeritus of History (deceased), in his 38 years at USI, conducted oral histories in Evansville's African American communities during the 1970s and '80s, producing an oeuvre of material in his 11 authored, co-authored or edited books addressing emancipation and its aftermath in the Ohio River Valley region and donating more than 1,000 images to the University's archive collection.

"The lynching era left thousands of Black people dead; it significantly marginalized Black people in the country's political, economic and social systems; it led to a mass exodus of Black refugees out of communities that participated in racial violence," said Shefvland. "Lynching—and other forms of racial terrorism—inflicted deep traumatic and psychological wounds on survivors, witnesses, family members and entire communities, Black and White alike, who witnessed this culture of terror and violence. We live with the legacy of that violence. Acknowledging divisive events of the past leads to unification in the present." 

of English, a fantastic scholar in the region and the first African American high school teacher in Posey County, to draft the language for the memorial," said Shefvland.

The 1878 Memorial plaque is just the beginning of this long and storied project. On it is a QR code providing a portal to an ever-growing body of educational and historical material on a website maintained by USI's Rice Library



**See
more:**




THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: FUN, PASSION, DEDICATION, COLLABORATION

How USI's new swim/dive program went from an empty pool to a splashing sensation

BY C. L. STAMBUSH





The question of how to build a team from scratch was new to Cameron Kainer, USI's inaugural Head Men's and Women's Swim and Dive team Coach, and Director of the University's new Aquatic Center, but its concept was not. Team building is second nature to this only child from Leander, Texas. It starts with networking. And it started on day one. "Since I got the job, it's been phone calls, it's been recruiting, it's been getting people excited about what we are doing here," said Kainer, who arrived on campus in August 2021 to a beautiful, ultramodern (empty of athletes) pool.



The addition of these new athletics—Men's and Women's Swim and Dive teams—to USI's roster of 17 other sports competing at Division I level was an obvious choice, given Indiana's love for the sport. "There is a really strong swim culture in the area," said Kainer, "and definitely in the state. Indiana is easily one of the top five states in the country for high school swimming and club swimming. A lot of high school programs have had much success over the past 20-30 years."

Hoosiers have been swimming and winning before, during and after Evansville native Lilly King won gold medals in the 2016 Summer Olympics and broke new records in 2022. "We've got a lot of fast swimmers in this area," said Kainer, "and the state has invested in swimming. There aren't a lot of high schools in the state that don't have a swimming pool on their campus, which is unheard of in other states."

Kainer set out solo to build the two teams by getting in touch with local swim clubs and coaches of high school swim programs to build relationships. He traveled the region and visited campuses out of state on a two-fold mission: get USI's name out there and see how other programs operated and trained. "I went to a lot of different programs my first year and got to see how people practiced, not only in the water but what type of dry land workouts they did," Kainer said. "The cool thing about the swimming community is we are not secretive. Coaches don't hold onto things when they are successful."

A former competitive swimmer and 2008 Conference Champion at the University of Texas Permian Basin, Kainer has been coaching college teams since 2013, first at his alma mater (a Division II school) as the Head Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Coach for almost seven years, and then as Head Women's

Swimming Coach at University of Alaska Fairbanks (a Division I and II school) for a season. The appeal to coach USI's inaugural teams in a brand-new facility proved too strong, and the University's reputation clinched it. "I think USI is a special place," he said. "It's a beautiful campus wonderfully kept, but the academic programs and the athletic successes really sold me."

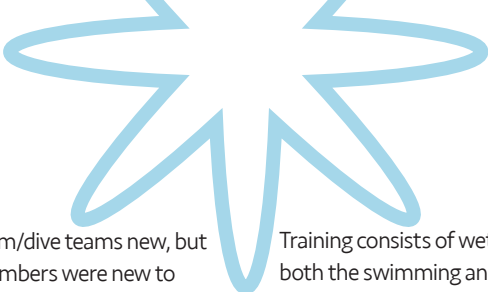
Without USI's teams in place, Kainer split his energy into three lanes: observing and learning from other programs, recruiting student-athletes, and becoming a valuable member of USI by engaging with the Athletic Department's other faculty and Admission's staff, announcing volleyball games and pitching in at fundraisers. "For me, it was really important to get involved with the campus community as early as possible and get to know a lot of different people."

For the first seven months, Kainer worked alone, but in March 2022, Elisabeth Peskin, Assistant Swimming/Diving Coach, climbed aboard. Although only a few years older than the students who would comprise the teams, she brought a unique perspective to the role, having been a student-athlete on Indiana State University's inaugural Division I Women's Swimming and Diving team for four years.

Peskin was taught to swim as a kid for safety reasons, but her high energy and love of the water led her to participate in summer swim leagues. It wasn't, however, until she was a graduate assistant for Rose Hulman's Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Team—one of only two coaching staff—that she discovered what she wanted to do. "It was awesome," she said. "I really fell in love with it and the small-school feel, and I loved my student-athletes. Being part of USI's inaugural program, in an area that has a lot of swimming potential, was something I really wanted to do."

Kainer and Peskin attended coaching clinics and talked to coaches of successful teams, as well as coaches who had started programs before to learn from their experiences.

The bulk of the recruiting was accomplished by Kainer. Within nine months of his arrival, the Men's and Women's Swim and Dive Program went from zero to 42 student-athletes. "That's a pretty big class for a first-year program," Kainer said. "It showed they really believed in what USI has to offer."



Not only were the swim/dive teams new, but 93% of the teams' members were new to college; 39 of the 42 were first-year students. They were joined by two current USI student-athletes (a junior and senior) participating in different USI sports and one sophomore recruit. Except for those three, there was no peer guidance. "There are no upper classmen to say, 'this is how college is' or to tell them to 'trust the process and you will swim faster,'" said Peskin. This dynamic also meant they all experienced the same life changes first-years go through when away from home for the first time. "When you have a team of freshmen who all get homesick at the same time, that can be difficult," she said.

With mom and dad not around, Kainer, Peskin and Andy Brown, Assistant Diving Coach and Director of Compliance, who joined in August 2022, are the surrogates. They listen to the students, suggest fun things to do and places to eat. "I think a really important part of coaching is carving out time to listen to them and make them feel comfortable talking to us," said Peskin.

It's the bonds and trust that make the teams strong. If student-athletes are comfortable talking to the coaches as people, they will trust their coaching advice too. They will trust that the training, both in and out of the pool, will result in success. Within the two teams, the student-athletes are grouped as sprinters, middle distance and distance swimmers, or divers, with the men and women training together except for one day a week.

As the Head Coach, Kainer manages the program while training middle distance and distance swimmers, Coach Peskin oversees sprinters' training, and Coach Brown handles divers. While the coaches stay in their respective lanes, the student-athletes don't. "A lot of them float around a bit. I can count on one hand the student-athletes who only do the 50- and 100-meter races, but a lot of them do the 50, 100 and 200 of some sort," Peskin said. "Sometimes I have half the team in sprint group practice and other times it is only eight."

Training consists of wet and dry exercises for both the swimming and diving teams, with the coaches collaborating with USI's strength and conditioning staff for their knowledge and expertise of weight training. Practicing in a pool that does not feel like a dungeon due to the Aquatic Center's abundance of high windows makes workouts with resistance bands, races and other drills fun. To ensure the swimmers' techniques—that coaches can't see underwater—are perfect, Kainer and Peskin use an underwater camera during some practices.

Swimming and diving can be repetitive and monotonous, so an important part of coaching the sport is being creative, mixing it up and keeping it fun. Brown keeps his divers on their toes physically and mentally by making sure the routines are anything but. He has theme practices, such as costumes worn on Halloween that they then wore (in part) in the pool, and dice workouts where each roll dictates the drill practiced. He collaborates with a local gymnastic gym where student-athletes practice dry diving off a board before plunging onto a foam-padded pit. "This allows them a lot more repetitions with less fatigue and not get cold from getting in and out of the water," he said.

The key to any successful team is its culture. "Building a culture is a huge deal when starting a new program," said Brown, a former student-athlete on the University of Evansville's Men's Diving team. He also was UE's dive coach for 10 years with another nine years coaching middle and high school diving teams in several states before joining USI's team. "Our coaches played a big role in the growth of our team cultures," said freshman Mattilynn Smith, nutrition major and women's distance freestyle swimmer. "They taught us that it is important to prioritize culture because we are people before we are athletes."

For Kainer, getting the right culture starts with recruiting the right student-athletes. "If they happen to be good swimmers and divers, fantastic," he said, "but we want to bring in people who will be great teammates to each other, who have strong ethics in the classroom and who come to USI with good grades." Peskin and Brown agree. "My divers know academics come first, no matter what," he said. "They are here to get an education."

Before they came to campus in August 2022, the student-athletes got to know each other through social media posts created by Kainer; bonds he continued to nurture after they arrived. "Coach Kainer did a great job of planning team bonding activities and get-to-know-you games to make transitioning easier for all of us," said freshman Heidi



Assistant Diving Coach Andy Brown

Rhodenbaugh '26, history major and women's breaststroke swimmer.

With the right mix of people in place, the student-athletes took over, creating the culture. "Being part of a new team has been something new and exciting for everyone," said freshman Colton Tang '26, a health administration major and men's sprint freestyle swimmer. "There was this feeling of nervousness coming to a school with no past to look at but also this new feeling of we get to lay the foundation for this program and mold it into our own."

Witnessing the student-athletes shape the program is impressive. "Everything we want this program to be comes from the team, from the student-athletes," said Peskin. "Not a lot of coaches get to say that."

These inaugural team members, whose motto is "US before I" came to leave their mark, and in the process, they are creating a legacy for future generations of swimmers and divers to live up to and shape so they can leave their own marks. "We had a really good midseason meet last fall, where 49 student-athletes got lifetime bests and 99.4% of them got season best," said Kainer.

Brown said these early successes will make a difference in future swim/dive student-athletes and meets. "They all want to be on top of the board at the end of the year," he said. "Once we start building numbers in the program and get more competition inside the team going, it in turn makes them more of a challenge against other teams."

Being competitive with each other doesn't make them unsupportive of each other. "Not a single person goes unnoticed," said Tang. "We all shine in our own ways."

A big part of why they shine is how they engage with everyone. "When we have prospective student-athletes and their families visit, one thing I always hear is how nice our student-athletes are, how they make the prospects feel like part of the team and that they matter," said Kainer.

USI is one of five public higher education institutions in Indiana with swim/dive teams, and only one of four that has both a men's and women's team. "I feel like USI going DI and starting a swimming/diving program is a really good recruiting tool for the University," said Brown. "Students who are looking for in-state

tuition at a public institution, USI is now a really good option." But it's not only in-state students the University wants on its team. "We can pull from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri."

Incoming team members will be joining a family with some family traditions already established, such as movie nights, Saturday morning breakfasts after practice, pre-meet cheer and talons up. "We started doing this [fingers-thumb hand signal] at one of our earlier meets last season and it just stuck," said freshman Gabriel Groves '26, kinesiology major and men's sprint freestyle swimmer. Rhodenbaugh loves it too. "When we have a swimmer on the blocks the whole team stands behind their lane and holds up a talon. When they go off the blocks, we throw it down."

The big throw-down the coaches expect of every swim/dive student-athlete is to leave the program better than when they arrived. "That's the goal of every class every year," Kainer said. Beyond the program, it's the people who are most important. "We want to have good people on the team, but we want them to be even better people when they leave here."





Immortalized in Oil

By C. L. Stambush

At the top of David L. Rice Library, in a quiet room with huge windows overlooking The Quad, hangs a new acquisition, the presidential portrait of Ronald S. Rochon, the University's fourth president. The tradition of each president having their portrait painted began in 1973 when Evansville's celebrated portraiture artist Frederick "Fred" Eilers was commissioned to paint USI's founding and first president, Dr. David L. Rice.

The portraits are historically underwritten by donors and friends of the institution, the first being Georgia Gabe, who remarked at the unveiling of Rice's painting, "I hope this gift will begin a tradition of displaying

the portraits of the University's presidents in years to come."

A second image of Rice was painted by Edmund Brucker for the University's 25th anniversary (1992). The work was underwritten by the late C. Wayne Worthington and his wife, Betty Siemers Worthington; she would go on to finance three of the five presidential portraits: Rice, Rochon and third president Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett (2013).

Only the University's second president, Dr. H. Ray Hoops' portrait was not financed by a USI donor. His painting was funded by a trust established in 1983 through a bequest from Indiana artist W. Earl Beyer in memory

of his parents. The trust is solely dedicated to financing presidential oil portraits for Indiana's colleges and universities. The year Hoops took office (1994) happened to be the year the University of Southern Indiana was 'next in line' to receive a painting. Indiana artist Jan Royce, a highly regarded Indianapolis artist, was selected.

Ironically, the artist—Mark Dillman—commissioned to paint Bennett in 2013 was mentored by Brucker at the John Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis. Royce was a faculty member there too, but later.

The artist of Rochon's portrait is the only one not a Hoosier. Jacqueline Jasper is a native of

Iowa. She got her start as a fashion illustrator who parlayed her career into an internationally renowned portrait artist.

The four official 40" x 30" presidential oil portraits hang in Rice Library's Ruth M. Kley Meyer Hall of Presidents, named in honor of her, a local librarian and generous donor of the University for more than 30 years, who said, "The library is the heart of the University." What better place for the paintings of presidents to hang but here.





BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW

Nonprofit President, CEO and Founder Jaimie Sheth '01 shies from the limelight. She'd rather the project-based initiatives—housing, clean water, education, food and energy—her foundation provides local, national and international communities speak for itself. Born in Chicago and raised in Evansville, Jaimie earned her USI undergraduate degree in general science, before entering a physical therapy program elsewhere. For 19 years she lived and worked in California, traveling the world when she wasn't working.

"I've been to over 50 countries and most of them have been in the developing world," she said. "Seeing the need people have, it's so much, and I said if I can do something, I should, even if it's just helping one person. So, from 2010 to 2015, I did one solo project each year in a different

country. Working on it part-time by myself while working full-time in geriatric rehabilitation."

In 2015, the JD Sheth Foundation officially became a 501c3, continuing its global work with its domestic focus in southwest Indiana, specifically, Evansville. "Our philosophy is that every life matters, and we are all one," Jaimie said.

The Foundation is a project-based grantor and grantee, partnering with other nonprofits and young people seeking to help others and make the world better. The 2022-23 local project—Home of the Brave Veterans Housing Initiative—built three small houses for local veterans to purchase at half cost of the original build price.

THE MOTIVATION

In 2006, she visited India, her father's homeland and her mother's adopted homeland. Her mother was born in Burma (Myanmar today) and immigrated to India during World War II. "My mom was 7 years old when she had to walk to India with her mother and siblings. I wanted to go see what that looked like," Sheth said. "She would always tell me about the school she went to, and I wanted to see that. What I saw was lack of infrastructure, lack of clean water, no government assistance. The children didn't have access to any food with nutritional value. It was really disheartening and hit home even more because I could see my mom in those children. I took it very personally. A couple of years later, I traveled to Southeast Asia and

saw the same thing. That's when I built the school in Cambodia and began the work to start my Foundation."

THE MISSION

The five pillars her foundation focuses on are Affordable and Secure Housing; School Construction and Renovations; Clean Water and Sanitation Initiatives; Energy Efficiency; and Food Security.

THE PROJECTS

- Houses – 26
- Schools – 4
- Water – 30
- Sanitation – 25
- Energy – 33
- Food – 3

THE QUOTE

"I have dedicated my career and my

life to helping people and have been blessed to be able to make a difference in people's lives. I know I can do more with my future projects. I have successfully financed projects through donations while also funding many on my own. Project based community assistance is my passion and I want to positively affect and inspire as many people as I can while I'm here."

THE FUTURE

2023 projects continue to focus on global partnerships with projects serving JDSF's five pillars. "Locally, the success of our Home of the Brave project for veterans inspired us to expand our housing initiatives to provide more affordable housing for any qualified resident in southwest Indiana."



JAIMIE SHETH



IS THE FOUNDER, CEO AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION JD SHETH FOUNDATION.



5



4

BEHIND THE SCENE



1



3

For students adjusting to life on their own for the first time, whether living in one of USI's 43 apartments or four freshman-only residence halls, it takes more than a place to lay your head. Being on their own for the first time can be a learning curve for some students. They must budget time and money, cook and clean for themselves, navigate and negotiate new relationships, all on top of rigorous academic careers.

The University strives not only to feather students' new nests with the necessities of daily life but also to address their desires to find a flock by offering Themed Living Communities. Helping smooth their way to living in on-campus accommodations are more than 100 employees, including 62 residence assistants (RAs), 19 desk assistants (DAs), four graduate assistants (GAs), five area coordinators (ACs) and eight administrators and staff.



2



1. RAs might only sit at the front desk of each hall a few hours nightly, but they carry on-call cell phones 24/7 and make nightly rounds. Each is responsible for 20-60 students. They're the point person for residents whether they've locked themselves out of their rooms or don't know who their academic advisor is. RAs are thoroughly trained, playing the role of part psychologist, part guidance counselor, part confidant and part conflict resolver.
2. Events are a big part of helping students fit in and feel at home, and the first floor multipurpose rooms were designed to fit the bill. There is a whiteboard to project movies on and loads of tables for RA-led events, such as building gingerbread houses and mac-and-cheese nights. RAs also host best-dressed door competitions.
3. Things some of us take for granted, given our years of adulting, are more challenging for younger people. Despite the instructions every student living on campus receives, the laundry facilities on each res hall's second floor and in the apartment areas are occasionally overloaded.
4. No home is complete without a furry friend, and, as of this semester, USI housing now allows certain pets in two of the apartment buildings (check the list of approved pets using the QR code below). Documented needs for Emotional Support Animals (cats, dogs, geckos, rabbits) and service animals (dogs) have been a staple in housing for years, and fish (20-gallon tank max) have been swimming the good life on campus as long as housing has been available.
5. Changing social norms made mailboxes obsolete, but students still get a flood of care packages and other official mail. All packages and critical mail are now delivered to the main office where a student worker logs its receipt into the system and an email alerts the student. Each semester, as many as 5,000 packages and envelopes are received.



Emily Gartner '84 caught the sewing and fashion design bug when she was 12 years old, in Mrs. Power's home economics class. She loved looking through pattern books at Cloth World and dreamed about fashion shows, not knowing they were in her future. But the road to couture started with a USI bachelor's degree in business administration with a marketing concentration and a lot of art electives: figure drawing with Lenny Dowhie, Professor Emeritus of Art, and color and design with Katie Waters, Professor Emerita of Art.

How

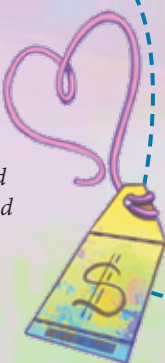
Emily



1987-1989

Before graduating from college, I secured a job with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation helping vocational students find jobs. I was fine for a few years, but I needed to fulfill bigger dreams and decided to start looking for jobs in New York City. What's the saying "If you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere." I wanted to find out if this would be true for me.

I landed a job with a print cotton house as a sales assistant. Soon I moved to the company's fashion merchandising side, working with local NYC and national seamstresses who created our trade show samples.



2000-2010

I wanted my son to have a better education and moved to Allentown, PA, to send him to private school, taking a position with the Allentown Art Museum as Assistant Curator of Textiles and Art Educator. I oversaw their collection of nearly 12,000 ethnic textiles from all over the world. I also taught art classes related to the museum's exhibits. On weekends, I sold album-cover bags at local art shows when my son was visiting with his father. They were successful and gave me the confidence to branch out on my own and travel to regional shows.

When my father died in 2000, I leapt into doing art shows and selling my bags full time, because life was too short. I spent six years doing nearly 42 shows a year as a solopreneur. These shows provided a better living than I imagined, but it wasn't an easy life being away from my son and constantly on the road. As my art business grew, other artists copied my work and charged less.



2010-2022

I moved back to Evansville in 2010 and began designing my own fabrics with my signature pop-art-centric vibe using my own images of local landmarks: Alhambra Theatre, Reitz Home, Greyhound Bus Station. I expanded into dresses, umbrellas, shoes and watches under the name Emily Gartner Designs. The pop-art novelty bags lasted 16 years and were purchased by the Rockefellers and Broadway producers.

Shifting gears, I designed wearable-art clothes for women who were not shy about how they dress to express themselves, gained attention and participated in the state's first Indiana Fashion Week, making many connections. But participating in Italy's Milan's Fashion Week was my pinnacle moment; one that opened my eyes and gave me confidence as a designer and a woman.



1989-1995

In the middle of a trade show in San Antonio, Texas, I learned our company was shutting down and immediately started looking for my next job at the trade show. I landed a position with a lace and embroidery manufacturer that I'd worked with at my previous job.

I got married, had a son and started freelancing from home, making the trade show samples I used to hire others to do. As I built that business, I started sewing for the buyer of Chaus Sweaters, whom I'd met at church. She was a plus size and couldn't find clothing in her size she liked. She went to industry fashion shows abroad and shared designs with me that I then recreated in her size.



1995-2000

I divorced and moved to Pennsylvania near the Poconos. I combined a patchwork of jobs to create the work I needed to feel comfortable. I was teaching art and sewing in Stroudsburg, PA, while also teaching art projects in the local resorts. On the weekends, I sold fabrics from a friend's outlet store at a flea market in town, earning the name 'Material Girl' from the other vendors.



Got Here

2022-present

Two months before COVID-19, I relocated to Indianapolis and opened Art Threads Studio in an artist cooperative. I survived the pandemic through my wearable art business, but last June knew it was time to switch gears when gas and grocery prices went up. After 22 years of being in business for myself, I wanted the security of working for an established company where I could apply my color and design skills and fabric knowledge. I'm now a design consultant for West Elm, whose sustainability values align with mine. I was scared to death to 'get back out there,' but it's proven to be a good decision.



TAKEAWAY:

"Always remain open to new opportunities. The courage to make the change may offer you more joy than you could have imagined."



Before arriving at USI in 2022, Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education freshman Bohdan Yarovyi's world consisted of flattened buildings, roads turned to rubble and death after Russia invaded his Ukrainian homeland. As the war escalated, he fled to Germany while his parents stayed behind. "I go through my days

anxious and worrying for their safety," he said. "I lost family and friends in the war."

Yarovyi's escape took him to Germany first before he decided to apply for a U.S. visa. He wanted to pursue a college degree and since his sister, Kateryna (Yarova) Krasin '21 is a USI Nursing graduate and Evansville resident, it was a natural

destination. With visa in hand, he applied to USI.

Before leaving Ukraine, Yarovyi considered earning a business degree but did not enjoy it. Instead, he wanted to do something that involved building and enrolled in USI's Civil Engineering program. "I love to create things and was always interested in construction," he said.

As a boy, he traveled with his father, a photographer, on business trips and witnessed him working with all sorts of people. The experience inspired Yarovyi to seek that human element in his own professional career. "Because of war in my home country a lot of cities were destroyed, and we will need engineers to restore the infrastructure

and the economy," he said. "I will be happy to help rebuild my motherland."

Yarovyi hopes to graduate in 2026 and then obtain a master's degree in engineering, but there is no guarantee. "For now, I can't plan anything big," he said. "It's quite expensive here and my parents lost their business in Ukraine."

By Shaila Dalrymple M'24

Class Notes

STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL us
at alumni@usi.edu.

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

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



1970s

Mike Buchanan '71, management, is enjoying his view after retiring from IBM as an Account Executive in 2009. He lives on top of a mountain in North Carolina with his wife Andrea and dog Magnolia.

Melody Lewis-Kane '73, art, and her husband visited Ireland. She is a potter living in Sedgwick, Maine, specializing in decorative form, tableware, teapots and earthen urns and vessels.

Wendell Crim '76, biophysics, has been bicycling more than 65 years, riding the Olympic and Cascade mountains of Washington by mountain, single-track and rail-to-trail bikes.

George Appel '78, English, has published a short but thrilling adventure book on the illusive creature commonly known as Bigfoot titled *The Cryptid Beast of the Dark Forest*.

Greg Brown '78, elementary education, was appointed to the Communal Studies Association's board (2022-2026) and named Program Chair for the organization's 50th annual conference to be held October 5 to 7, 2023, in New Harmony, Indiana. USI alumni are encouraged to attend.

1980s

Richard "Rick" Vangampller '83, art, worked as a graphic artist for Keller Crescent Company in Evansville, a packaging specialist, producing artwork

primarily for oil and air filter cartons, and producing secret, experimental artwork used to introduce WPC codes into product packaging. Rick illustrated logo artwork for a variety of companies too. In 1996, he earned a teaching certificate from USI, completed a series of books on World War II and worked in sales. Now semi-retired, he lives in Henderson, Kentucky, with his wife Jennifer Seibert '82, elementary education, of 35 years. They have one son, Joey.

William Fogle '85, history, political science, Spanish studies, published a book he co-authored, written under the pen name Liam Bernard, with two other writers titled *A Stroke Survivors Tale: A Survivor and Caregiver's Resource*.

Lisa Laflin '85, political science, is Executive Director of West Indianapolis Development Corporation in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Brian Simpson '88, accounting, is Senior Director of Finance at Regency Properties in Evansville.

1990s

Tracy (Shurig) Maxwell '90, nursing, has been a Nurse Anesthetist for 20 years in Champaign, Illinois.

Steven Spahn '91, mechanical engineering technology, is Principal of Apex Engineering Incorporated in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Lynn Maserejian '92, nursing, has become a Certified Senior Advisor and opened Oasis Senior Advisors in Evansville and the Tri-state area. She provides free guidance to seniors and their families who would like assistance in determining the best match for assisted living, independent living or memory care for themselves or their family.

Robert Kain '93, business, is Superintendent of Power Construction in Chicago, Illinois.

AmyLu (Rice) Riley '93, communications, released a new Christian nonfiction book in December 2022, titled *How to Journal with God*.

Jeff Doyle '94, social science (teaching), and **Chad Gilbert '97**, physical education (teaching), are both on the Indiana High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and got together at the 1A State Football Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium last fall.

Stephen Gries '94, business administration, is Senior Health Science Advisor for Otsuka Pharmaceuticals in Evansville.

Donna Kincheloe '96 M'11 D'17, nursing, received a publishing contract for her book about narcissistic abuse and how God and nursing flips pain to peace. She has a website with videos, blogs, recipes, t-shirts and a free e-book.

Jewelee Kranning '96, psychology, is School Counselor at Boonville Middle School for Warrick County School Corporation in Boonville, Indiana.



Tracey (Claxton) Parrish '96, communications, is SHEM Coordinator in Brine Recovery at SABIC in Mount Vernon, Indiana. She has also been recently accepted into the University of Southern Indiana Romain College of Business MBA Online program.

Karen Seifert '96, sociology, nursing, is a Registered Nurse at California Department of Public Health in Sacramento, California.

Stacey Sharples '96, French, German, was promoted to Associate VP of Student Services and Enrollment Management at the State College of Florida.

Nathan Sugarman '97, sociology, is Chief Deputy at the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office in Evansville.

John Farless '98 M'21, communications, business administration, is Chief Communications Officer at the University of Southern Indiana. His daughter, Brenn Farless, is now a freshman at USI.

Andre Davis '99, computer information systems, is DEI Project Leader of Anthem in Indianapolis, Indiana.

James Myrick '99, physical education (teaching), Costello Elementary Physical Education Teacher, reunited with his former USI tennis teammates November 2022. (Left to right: **Jason Fisher '98 M'03**, business administration, **Matthew Cole '97 M'04**, elementary education, **Chad Higgins '98 M'04**, accounting, business administration, **William "Bill" Walz IV '97**, business administration, psychology, and **James Myrick '99**, physical education (teaching)) [1]

Kevin Seifert '99, mathematics, philosophy, is a Software Engineer at Google in Los Angeles, California.

Timothy Starks '99, communications, is author of the Cybersecurity 202 newsletter for *The Washington Post* in Washington, D.C.

2000s

Lucy Grisham '00, art, is UX/UI Designer and Web Application Engineer at OneMain Financial in Evansville.

Ryan Reynolds '00, journalism and computer publishing, is Executive Editor of the *Courier & Press* in Evansville.

Felicia (Aldridge) Giannattasio '01, computer information systems, has been happily married to Dan Giannattasio since 2011.

Ciavon Hartman '02, accounting, is Chief Operations Officer for Donaldson Capital Management in Evansville.

Bryce Cooper '04, sociology, is Financial Services Sales Support Team Manager of The Cason Group in Columbia, South Carolina. He was also recently named Head Men's Soccer Coach for Newberry College in Newberry, South Carolina.

Sarah Hall '04, management, is Senior Client Service Representative at American Funds in Carmel, Indiana.

Timothy Hart '04 M'08, history, public administration, is Acquisitions & Loan Boarding Manager at ServiceMac, LLC. He resides in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Tonya Heim M'04 M'09, health administration, nursing, is serving on the

boards of Memorial, Springs Valley Bank & Trust and the Association for Vascular Access (AVA). She is also the 2022 AVA President Elect, serving as President in 2023 and Presidential Advisor in 2024.

Linnea (Hasker) Kessans '04, public relations and advertising, completed yoga teacher training at Yoga Baum in Louisville, Kentucky. (Linnea is third from the left.) [2]

Rakhi Agarwal M'05, business administration, received the Women Leadership in Supply Chain Award through the Randall R. Kendrick Global Supply Chain Institute in August 2022.

Lauren (Martin) Ludwig '05, public relations and advertising, is Assistant Athletic Director for Development at the University of Southern Indiana.

Erica (Schwartz) Schmidt '05 M'15, communication studies, and 11 members of the USI Delta Zeta Lambda Beta Chapter met this fall at Lake of the Ozarks for a 22-year reunion. "We live throughout Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin and Colorado, have 22 kids collectively



and diverse careers. We are grateful for our time at USI where we learned a lot about ourselves, participated in dozens of campus clubs and events, and made lifelong friendships. We continue to support upcoming Greek Life and other USI events as we can." (Top left to right: **Lindsey (Jensen) Veldkamp '04**, public relations and advertising; **Sarah (Giles) Hall '04**, management; **Jennifer Sands '04**, business administration; **Kate (Moore) Smola '04**, chemistry, science (teaching); **Sarah Hogg '04**, political science; **Darlene (Dippel) Pritchard '05**, exercise science. Bottom left to right: **Melissa Frary '04**, health services; **Jennifer (Tornatta) Berry '05**, nursing; **Erica (Schwartz) Schmidt '05 M'15**, communication studies; **Lacy Noe '05**, marketing; **April (Hecker) Alday '04**, exercise science.) [3]

Andrea Stephens '05 M'07, nursing, is Owner, Operator and Nurse Practitioner of Riverside Family Clinic in Vincennes, Indiana.

Kevin Dartt '06 M'22, management, engineering management, is Manager of Capital Projects at Frontier-Kemper Constructors in Evansville.

Kristina (Looper) Stone '06, radio and television, is Director of Member Education for Professional Eyecare Associates of America. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jeff Wedding '06, history, psychology, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through his role at Evansville State Hospital.

Charles Aull '07, history, is Executive Director of the Center for Policy and Research at the Kentucky Chamber in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Tara (Ulmer) Cocanower '07, history, social science (teaching), is 2023 Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Department of Education.

Craig Fehrman '07, English, psychology, is a shortlist honoree for the 2022 Indiana Authors Awards for his nonfiction book titled *Author in Chief: The Untold Story of Our Presidents and the Books They Wrote*.

Zackery (Zac) Pace '07, physical education (teaching), is a K-12 physical education teacher at Fort Wayne Community Schools. He and his family live in Fort

Wayne, Indiana. (Left to right front: Ripken, Eowyn, Ryne, Evander; left to right back: Zac, Rhianna, Skylar) [4]

Nicole Vernon '07 M'10, international studies, liberal studies, is Transportation Hearing Officer of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Tajee Wathen '07, elementary education, is Vice President of Payment Compliance and Contract Management at Community Health Systems. She resides in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Mary Lou Whitaker '07, health services, is Sonographer and Registered Nurse at Baptist Health in Floysds Knobs, Indiana.

Crimson (Carter) Smith '08, English. "After teaching for nine years, I went back to school and earned my Masters of Education in School Counseling. I graduated with a 4.0, and I'm in the second year of my job." [5]

Michael Coriell '09, social work, is Chief Probation Officer at Harrison Circuit Court in Corydon, Indiana.

Michele Graham '09, accounting and professional services, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through her role at Harding, Shymanski & Co. PSC.

Amanda Schmitt '09 M'13, economics, public administration, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through her role at CenterPoint Energy.

Kristina Troutman '09 M'20, nursing, is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Martin County Health Center in Shoals, Indiana.

Devin Walters '09, marketing, is Purchasing and Planning Supervisor of Block Grain Conditioning in Frankfort, Indiana.

2010s

Andrew Backes '10, elementary education, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through his role at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Logan Everly '11, art, and **Hanna (Jay) Everly '12**, art, met while students at USI



and have now started a new business: Everly's Unique Timber & Saw Shop in Haubstadt, Indiana. "It is comprised of a tree service, live edge timber milling, small engine repair shop and firewood supplier. My wife and I created the logo and are enjoying life with our two children, William and Leona." [6]

Sara (McBride) Fehrenbacher '11 M'16, business administration, was named Program Chair for the Business Administration program at Ivy Tech Community College-Evansville, in August 2022. Sara has been a full-time faculty member with Ivy Tech since 2018, and Assistant Program Chair since 2021. (Sara with husband Lee Fehrenbacher '10, engineering, and their two children.) [7]

Michael Gibbs '11, kinesiology, sport management, hiked Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa on New Year's Day 2023. [8]

Ernie Griffin '11 M'16 D'22, social science teaching, school administration and leadership, educational leadership, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through his

role at Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and Indiana National Guard.

Jessica Schnur '11, nursing, is a National Patient Advocate for the American Liver Foundation, a UNOS Ambassador and an Indiana Donor Network Volunteer Advocate. She is also a graduate of the Advanced Advocacy Program with the Global Liver Institute.

Eseniya (Matvelieva) Yu '11, accounting and professional services, marketing, is Strategic Clients Director at SEKO Logistics in Long Beach, California.

Andrew Clark '12, English, spent Christmas in Keene, New Hampshire. (Left to right: Scarlett, Andrew, Jack, Marina, Felicia.) [9]

Jessica Clark '12, health services, is Executive Director on the Board of Directors for the Martin County Alliance for Economic Growth in Martin County, Indiana.

Ashley Riestler '12, theatre arts, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through her role at Evansville Regional Economic Partnership.

Michail Yiouselis '12, economics, is Senior Risk Officer at Societe Generale Bank in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Kristina (Fitzgerald) Arwood '13, art, was one of the recipients of the Junior League of Evansville's Top 20 Women in Business awards in November 2022.

Claire Bosma M'13, business administration, is the Chief Marketing Officer for the University of Southern Indiana and a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022.

Andrea (Greive) Ingle '13, sociology, is a Customer Communications Representative at Jasper Engines & Transmissions in Jasper, Indiana.

Celeste Mandley '13, history, is currently a school cook in Nome, Alaska. Here she is with a "gold miner". [10]

Brett Williams '13, chemistry, earned his PhD in chemistry from Indiana University December 2022. (Dr. Williams (right) and his advisor, Dr. Caroline Jarrold at his commencement.) [11]

Caleb Eickhoff '14 M'16, marketing, business administration, is a Sales

Representative at Trivalence Technologies in Evansville.

Rachel (Runyon) Lortie '14 M'15, occupational therapy, is an Occupational Therapist at Health-Pro Heritage in Plainfield, Illinois. (Left to right: 1-year-old Lionel, Rachel, Neil, 3-year-old Oliver and Dachshund Calliope.) [12]

Jordan Whitledge '14 M'16, economics, business administration, is a Lead Advisor at Donaldson Capital Management.

Dylan Rexing '15, accounting and professional services, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through his role at Rexing Companies.

Seth Staney '15, health services, is Assistant Prosecutor of Lucas County Prosecutors Office in Toledo, Ohio.

Zachary Wathen '15, communication studies, is Director of Burdette Park in Evansville.

Benjamin Wright '15, sport management, is an Outside Sales Representative for O'Neal Steel Company in Evansville.



14



15



16



17

Rebecca (McCallister) Dicker '16, sport management, is Omni Lead at Under Armour Factory House in Avon, Ohio.

Alexander Martens '16, history, and **Addison Dance M'22**, human resources, are engaged and built a home in Bloomington, Indiana. He is Assistant Director of Student Life at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, and she is Senior Human Resources Coordinator at HS&H in Indianapolis, Indiana. They plan to marry in October. **[13]**

Megan (Webster) Riggs '16, anthropology, Spanish studies, is a CT Technologist at Union Health in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Tanner Wilzbacher '16, accounting and professional services, and **Lauren (Schilling) Wilzbacher '17**, elementary education, celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary June 26, 2022. **[14]**

Elizabeth Bailum '17, kinesiology, is Assistant Athletic Trainer at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Nicholas Lawrence '17, sport management, is Pro Shop Manager at Legends in Arlington, Texas.

Carina Phillips '17 M'19, social work, is a Licensed Social Work Therapist at Playful Healing and Counseling in Jasper, Indiana.

Ryan Wood M'17, health administration, is a recipient of the Rotary Club of Evansville's 20 Under 40 award for 2022 through his role at Forefront Therapy LLC.

Olivia Clark-Kittleson '18, kinesiology, is Director of Softball Operations at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Kacy Eschweiler '18 M'20, sport management, is Project Manager and ServiceNow Specialist at Kyndryl in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kevin Boehnlein M'19, business administration, was sworn into the Indiana Senate to serve the remaining year of Senator Ron Grooms' term, after he stepped down. **[15]**

Emma Kathryn Fitzgerald '19, public relations and advertising, is Marketing Coordinator at Robey Plastic Surgery in Carmel, Indiana.

Austin Graber '19, accounting and professional services, and **Leslie (Drone)**

Gaber '20, mathematics teaching, spent 2022 Christmas in Sarasota, Florida, where they made a sand turtle. **[16]**

Makenzie Hart '19, public relations and advertising, is Ambassador of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership and Steering Committee Member of the Young Professionals Alliance in Evansville.

Ryan Loehrlein '19 M'20, mechanical engineering, business administration, was selected by the Association of Old Crows Education Foundation's Future 5 program, a program designed to highlight five young professionals striving for excellence as they build their careers in the Electromagnetic Spectrum domain. "I am excited to continue following my passion while simultaneously building my skills as an engineer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane Division."

Steven Mah '19, biology, is enrolled at IU School of Dentistry.

Chase Partain '19, criminal justice, is Sergeant of McLeansboro Police Department in McLeansboro, Illinois.

Marvin Smith M'18, school administration and leadership, "Last year was full of

changes for our family. We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to build a beautiful new home in front of Friedman Park in Newburgh last year."

2020s

Shaina Bradley '20, social work, is Director of Peer Recovery Services at Daviess Community Hospital in Washington, Indiana. She also recently graduated with her master's in social work from from the IU School of Social Work with a concentration in Mental Health & Addiction.

Lauren Branon '20, biology, is a second-year medical student and a member of the James Scholar Research Program at the University of Illinois.

Jahmel Fowler M'20, healthcare administration, is a Graduate Research Assistant at University of Alabama at Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

Evan Hampton M'20, healthcare administration, is Director of Pharmacy



at Baptist Health Floyd in New Albany, Indiana.

James Mason Hendricks '20, criminal justice, joined the Kentucky State Police.

Bridget (Eckerle) Huck '20, art, public relations and advertising, is currently a graduate student studying arts administration at Indiana University Bloomington in Bloomington, Indiana.

Karyssa Morgan '20, English (teaching), is a Teacher at Warrick County School Corporation in Boonville, Indiana.

Barbara Price M'20, healthcare administration, is Anatomic Pathology Supervisor at Indiana University Health Bloomington Hospital in Bloomington, Indiana.

Emma (Shafer) Rogier '20, public relations and advertising, is Marketing Specialist at Owensboro Grain in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Margaret Elizabeth Scully '20, public relations and advertising, has a new family member, a Golden Retriever, Archie, named after USI's mascot Archibald T. Eagle. **[17]**

Larissa Sobczak '20, sociology, global studies, is Legal Office Assistant at Washington State Office of the Attorney General in Seattle, Washington.

Conner Sturgeon '20, social work, is Victim Advocate Social Worker for Indiana University Bloomington Police Department in Bloomington, Indiana.

Jessica (Kennedy) Wheeler '20, nursing, received the Daisy Award and was nominated for the Nursing Excellence Award in 2021. She also accepted a travel nursing position in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Emma (Garrett) Phelps '21, nursing, is a Registered Nurse at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Anthony Farina '21, philosophy, is a veteran of the Iraq War who is working on a book about his experiences. He plans to donate a copy to USI once it is published. Anthony currently resides in Logan, Utah.

John Patrick Shorter M'21, healthcare administration, met U.S. Ambassador John Boldin and member of German Parliament Volkmar Klein.

Re'Shay Wagner '21, psychology, is a Team Member of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana Incorporated in Princeton, Indiana.

Kaitlyn Back '22, psychology, is Membership Manager of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) in Louisville, Kentucky.

Hadley Bell '22, management, is the Business Development Specialist for Warehouse Services Inc/Cox Group in Mount Vernon, Indiana. **[18]**

Madison Blacker '22, radiologic and imaging sciences, is a Radiologic Technologist at HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois.

Kendall Hurt '22, marketing, accounting and professional services, is Strategic Engagement Manager at Heritage Federal Credit Union in Newburgh, Indiana.

Abby Kloke '22, accounting and professional services, is Staff Accountant at Kemper CPA Group in Henderson, Kentucky.

Marriages

Ken Wallace '86 M'93, English, secondary education, and Colleen Wallace were married in October 2022. He was the former Managing Editor of *The Shield* and currently Superintendent of Maine Township High School District 207 in Chicago, Illinois. **[19]**

Kristina (Looper) Stone '06, radio and television, and Woodrow Stone Jr. were married in August 2021. The couple resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Taylor (Washer) Huber '16, business administration, and **Christopher Huber '17**, engineering, were married in October 2022. They met at USI during their first year. **[20]**

Paul Goodman '16, history, and Allison Goodman were married in February 2022. The couple resides in Evansville.

Megan (Webster) Riggs '16, anthropology, Spanish studies, and Joseph Riggs were married in June 2022. The couple resides in Terre Haute, Indiana.

USI FAMILY Retiring

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

David Black, Associate Professor Emeritus of Radio and Television

25 years

Elliot Wasserman, Professor Emeritus of Theatre and Chair Emeritus of Performing Arts

32 years

POTT COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, AND EDUCATION

Bonnie Beach, Associate Dean Emerita of Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and Professor Emerita of Teacher Education

10 years

Sarah Kleinknecht '03 M'03, Instructor Emerita in Mathematics

20 years

ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Richard Scott Anderson, Instructor Emeritus of Computer Science

20 years

Kevin Celuch, Professor Emeritus of Marketing and Blair Chair Emeritus of Business Science

22 years

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Elizabeth Walker Ramos, Instructor Emerita in Food and Nutrition

10 years

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Richard Weaver, Custodial Worker

18 years

Gregory Orth, Lead Custodial Worker

20 years

Charmaine McDowell '85, Director Emerita of Corporate Partnerships

31 years



22



24



23

Stephanie Ivey-Spencer '16, biology, and Corey Spencer, were married in September 2022. "My husband and I met a few months after I graduated from USI, he was an unexpected surprise as we were both not looking for anything serious at the time of us meeting each other. Life after USI has been great!" [21]

Jacob Delk '17 M'19, health services, health administration, and **Bradley Flittner '19 M'21**, management, human resources, were married in October 2022, in USI's gazebo. USI Instructor in Business Communication Cindi Clayton officiated the wedding and alumna **Katie Stahl '18** was the DJ. Jacob and Brad met at USI and got engaged on the lawn of the Griffin Center by Reflection Lake. [22]

Morgan (Rowe) Gibson '18, marketing, and **David Gibson '19**, sport management, were married in October 2022. The couple resides in Saint Clair Shores, Michigan.

Virgilio Paulino '18, political science, philosophy, and **Katelyn Bueltel '19**, accounting and professional services, were married in December 2022. [23]

Alyssa (Ralph) Schueler '18, English (teaching), and Dillon Schueler were married in June 2022. [24]

Paige (Knowles) Renshaw '19, engineering, and Kenneth Renshaw were married in October 2021. The couple resides in Mount Vernon, Indiana.

Delaney (Spindler) Brophy '20, individualized studies, and Alan Brophy were married in October 2021. The couple resides in Suffolk, Virginia.

Bridget (Eckerle) Huck '20, art, public relations and advertising, and **William Huck '20**, radio and television, were married in June 2021. The couple resides in Plainfield, Indiana.

Emma (Shafer) Rogier '20, public relations and advertising, and James Rogier were married in April 2022. The couple resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jessica (Kennedy) Wheeler '20, nursing, and Cody Wheeler were married in July 2022. The couple resides in Evansville.

Emma (Garrett) Phelps '21, nursing, and Nate Phelps were married in October 2022. The couple resides in Henderson, Kentucky.

Abigail (Kifer) Magruder '22, exercise science, French studies, and **Matthew Magruder '20**, finance, were married in August 2022. The couple resides in Evansville.

Dolapo Uthman M'22, business administration, and Adebukola Uthman were married in December 2022. The couple resides in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Births

Jeremiah "JJ" Johnson '13, sport management, and Andrea Johnson welcomed Jett Johnson in September 2022. [25]

Alyssa (Hammel) Williams '13, physical education (teaching), and James Williams welcomed James Dalton in November 2022.

Brooke Hill '14, radio and television, and Drew Hill welcomed Jude in March 2022. (Left to right: Drew, Brooke, Isla, Eden and Jude.) [26]

Casey (Bartlett) Dudas '14, early childhood and elementary education, and



25



26

Alex Dudas '18, industrial supervision, welcomed Alex Jr. (A) in August 2022. [27]

Ashley (Johnson) Wright '15, mathematics teaching, and **Benjamin Wright '15**, sport management, welcomed Harper in August 2022.

Rebecca (McCallister) Dicker '16, sport management, and **Matthew Dicker** welcomed Mathias in July 2022.

Andrea (Seifert) Medcalf '17, accounting, and **Brandon Medcalf '17**, accounting and finance, welcomed Levi in March 2022. [28]

Georgia and returned to Kentucky to teach and counsel in the Hancock County School System until retirement. Roger was an accomplished musician and played the guitar, piano, clarinet and harmonica. He also enjoyed singing.

Richard Langhorst '73, elementary education, of Newburgh, Indiana, died July 24, 2022. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in Germany, and a member of the Masonic Lodge 174 in Newburgh. He retired from Warrick County School Corporation, where he taught at John H. Castle Elementary School for 24 years. Richard was a volunteer firefighter and charter member of the Paradise Fire Department for 15 years. He also enjoyed driving the bus for school field trips.

Joseph Howard '74, management, of Greensburg, Indiana, died October 2, 2022. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a member of the Air Police. Before graduating from USI, Joe attended diesel school and went on to retire from D-A Lubricant Company as a Technical Service Manager in 2002. His knowledge and interest in engines led him to volunteer for many years at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as a part of the team that completed oil and fuel analysis for the race cars.

Dennis Kost '75, marketing, of Evansville, died October 18, 2022. He retired from Cargill as plant manager after 33 years in the corn processing industry and loved spending time at the lake house with his wife, sons and grandchildren.

Steven Oeth '75, communications, of Elberfeld, Indiana, died August 12, 2022. He served his country in the U.S. Navy and owned and operated Oeth Farm Service and Trucking. Steve was dedicated to providing the care his customers needed and considered the farmers his friends. He

was an active member of the community, serving on various boards as Greer Township Trustee.

Cheryl (Tenbarge) Stroud '75, elementary education, of Evansville, died November 10, 2022. She was the choir director for several churches and co-founder of a church preschool. Cheryl enjoyed teaching and taught a variety of subjects at area schools. She especially loved being a Speech Coach for F.J. Reitz High School and Washington Middle School. After retiring, she tutored homebound students. She enjoyed Bible studies, being with friends, crocheting mats for the homeless and prayer shawls, playing cards, games and her dogs.

William "Bill" Evans '76, marketing, of Evansville died October 9, 2022. He worked his way through college and had a long, successful career as an entrepreneur. Bill founded General Signal with his father, Marion, where they produced the first plastic railroad signal lenses sold worldwide. Bill owned Smart Choice Auto Sales and loved helping young people purchase their first cars. Bill also founded ShredX, a confidential document destruction company, with his wife.

Bernice (Bone) Ward '76, secretarial administration, of St. Louis, Missouri, died December 8, 2022. She worked as a database manager for companies in New Hampshire and Tennessee. Bernice was active in her church's Sunday School Class, showed purebred cats, was good at handcrafts (she loved knitting best) and enjoyed reading.

Carolyn Lee (Monroe) Dunville '77 M'99, accounting, secondary education, of Evansville, died August 26, 2022. She taught for the business departments of Bosse High School, Harrison High School and Castle High School. She was also a long-time sponsor of Business

Professionals of America. After retiring from teaching, she worked as a bookkeeper for Memorial High School. Carolyn was a fighter who battled cancer twice.

Michael Thompson '78, biology, of Henderson, Kentucky, died August 27, 2022. He was a natural talent and genius software engineer, solving problems no one else at work could. Michael worked at Gibbs Die Casting for over 20 years, owned the software development contract firm Echo3 and most recently worked as an Engineering Lead at DistroKid. He was a fun-loving, dad-joke-telling, philanthropic man.

Louis Burkhardt Haas Jr. '80, history, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, died January 12, 2023. He was a tenured history professor at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1990-2001), and Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee (2001-2022). Louie had a larger-than-life presence, a booming voice and a big laugh. His sense of humor and sarcasm made him unique, charismatic and a great storyteller.

Mary (Tapp) Hammers '82, elementary education, of Owensboro, Kentucky, died March 30, 2016. She taught at Slaughters Elementary for many years and retired from the Webster County School System.

Terry Rexing '83, marketing, of Evansville, died November 16, 2022. He had an eye for antiques, especially antique cars, and enjoyed auctions, old movies, dancing and playing the saxophone—something he'd done since the 4th grade. He worked at Whirlpool for 20 years and had a green thumb that could grow anything.

Bart Wenderoth '83, science, of Wadesville, Indiana, died January 15, 2023. He was a Member of the Wadesville Christian Church, former member of the Wadesville Fire Department and

In Memoriam

Norma Rose Anthis '71, biophysics, of Evansville, died October 12, 2022. She worked as a medical technician at Deaconess Hospital. Norma Rose was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, an avid reader and gardener.

Elbert "Allan" Lynch '71, social science, of Evansville, died November 21, 2022. He was a retired welfare case worker and former United States Navy Reservist. Allan enjoyed reading, listening to bluegrass, playing cards and spending time at the family cabin.

Thomas Field '72, biology, of Jasper, Indiana, died September 2, 2022. As a doctor, he took relentless care of his patients' health, lending a caring ear and selfless dedication to thousands of patients during his years of practice. Thomas also leaves behind one hell of a chili recipe.

Howard Jolly '72, elementary education, of Owensboro, Kentucky, died May 2, 2022. He taught elementary school in

USI FAMILY In Memoriam

George Curry, Custodial Worker, (7 years) retired, died November 28, 2022.

David Elkins, Adjunct Instructor in Health Services, (9 years), died October 5, 2022.

Stephen Gibson, USI Public Safety Officer, (11 years), died November 13, 2022.

Dr. Wanda Hibbitts, Professor Emerita of Business, (18 years), died November 26, 2022.

Jeannette Hickey, Learning Specialist, (14 years) retired, died October 11, 2022.

John Robert McPherson Jr., Custodial Worker, (42 years) retired, died October 25, 2022.

Jeanetta Scott, Public Safety Dispatcher, (10 years), died July 10, 2022.



was an EMT. Bart was owner/operator of Broadcast Communications Inc., a cell tower erection company. He loved the Indiana Hoosiers, the St. Louis Cardinals and all sports.

Lawrence Crouch III '84, computer information systems, of Watertown, Wisconsin, died October 13, 2022. He worked for the Boy Scouts of America and gave much of his time and energy to the betterment of the communities in which he lived.

Daniel Mullen '84, mining engineering technology, of Henderson, Kentucky, died March 16, 2022. He loved playing cards with friends, bowling and 80's rock music (especially Queen and the Eagles), enjoyed Sci-Fi movies (especially Big Bitting Pig Productions movies, in which he played an extra in multiple films), a good cabin and sitting around a campfire. Dan worked as a Mining Engineer for Associated Engineers, Inc. for the last 25 years in Madisonville, Kentucky.

Michael Embrey '86, communications, of Evansville, died December 4, 2022. He lived life to the fullest through simple pleasures; chatting with friends and family, spending time with his favorite dog, Dahlia and watching RuPaul's Drag Race. Michael made a career managing several retail stores, including JC Penney, Family Dollar and ending at Dollar Tree.

Jay Baker '87, finance, of Boonville, Indiana, died July 23, 2022. He enjoyed sports, particularly baseball, which he played in both high school and college. Jay loved music and enjoyed classic rock and blues rock guitar. He was fascinated with spaceflight and aeronautics as well as watching the SpaceX launches.

Robert "Bob" Newcomb '87, elementary education, of Evansville, died August 24, 2022. After earning his teaching degree,



he taught for one year in Mortons Gap, Kentucky, before substitute teaching for the EVSC for many years. For the last 15+ years, Bob drove a METS mobility bus and entertained his passengers with songs, mostly gospel ones.

Kimberly (Bland) Wolfe '88, dental hygiene, of New Harmony, Indiana, died November 17, 2022. She worked at various offices around Evansville and Mt. Vernon, Indiana, had an upbeat, unforgettable personality and loved getting to know her patients and coworkers. Kim was always able to generate laughter and brighten days no matter where she was.

Sherry Piland '94, nursing, of Kirksville, Missouri, died June 14, 2019.

Roberta (Heierman) DeVoy '95, nursing, of Haubstadt, Indiana, died August 5, 2022. She was a nontraditional student, returning to receive a nursing education. Roberta worked with the Visiting Nurse Association for 27 years, retiring in 2007. She enjoyed playing mahjong and cards, and excursions with her nursing coworkers and friends.

Melissa Hogue '00, communications, died November 26, 2022. A proud U.S. Navy brat, she loved making memories with her nieces. Melissa was a people person, who had a special love for her cat Taz, and a skilled gamer, who enjoyed Fortnite and Dungeons & Dragons.

Philip Russell '00, psychology, of Evansville, died January 2, 2023. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force stationed at Mather Air Force Base in California and served as a B52 Bomber Mechanic. Philip had worked as a registered nurse for Deaconess Hospital for many years. He was a member of Celebrate Recovery and loved classic rock and blues music.

Cara (Hummel) Goebel '05, business administration, of Evansville, died October 6, 2022. She worked as the Secretary, Treasurer and EEO Officer at Hummel Electric. Cara loved creating beautiful things and her hobbies included gardening, flower arranging and journaling.

Daryl McClellan M'05, industrial management, of Newburgh, Indiana, died September 15, 2022. He was a self-employed Electrical Engineering Consultant and previously worked for Vectren Corporation as a Senior Integrity Engineer III and Mead Johnson Nutrition as a Global Technology & Engineering Senior Utilities Engineer and Supervisor. Daryl also held degrees from Vanderbilt University and Fisk University, and was an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., was an avid tennis player (once ranked number one in the state of Indiana) and mentored high school students in tennis.

Jennifer (West) Miller '06, management, of Kirksville, Missouri, died May 21, 2022. She was a homemaker and loved reading, walking, music and puzzles.

Aaron Schnur '06, occupational therapy assistant, of Evansville, died October 9, 2022. He worked as an occupational therapist prior to becoming disabled. Aaron loved music; he was a drummer, played guitar and loved to sing karaoke.

Ryan Neal '08, public relations and advertising, of Chrisney, Indiana, died December 11, 2022.

Carl Culley '14, individualized studies, of Evansville, died January 3, 2023. He was proud to be a USI graduate, earning his degree as an adult learner. Carl was best known for his sense of humor and his cooking skills. He enjoyed boating, fishing, traveling, building model airplanes and stamp collecting.



In his youth, perfected the art of reenacting martial-art movie scenes with action figures.

What began as a dream thousands of miles away in a small Latin American country is now rooted in the work César Berríos Chavarría '13 M'18 does as the Associate Director of the Multicultural Center (MCC). Born in Nicaragua, his parents immigrated to the U.S. for the opportunities it offered. Berríos is one of their American-dream success stories. He has a younger brother who is currently a USI student.

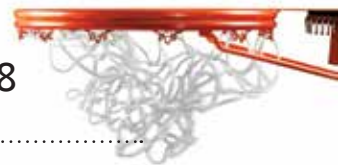
Graduating from USI with history and Spanish degrees, he once imagined he'd be an immigration lawyer. Instead of attending law school, he took a position with a title search company. Although not his passion, it provided comfort but led to complacency. Until his priest stepped in with an offer: the Office of Hispanic Ministry needed a bilingual Spanish/English speaker to provide outreach services to the Latino/a/x community in southern Indiana. Working with all ages, he soon found himself gravitating toward high school students and wanting to make higher education a reality for them.

What word sums you up? Passionate.

Why and to whom are you so committed to making higher education accessible? As a first-generation college student and immigrant, I understand what it is like to have a dream to go to college and face so many different barriers to get in. In the community I grew up in, the process of higher education can be quite difficult. Those who have had the privilege of going to college and understanding the process, we have a duty to serve those who need our assistance and guidance.



Scored the winning 3-point shot in a high-school basketball camp.



Prior to becoming the Associate Director of MCC, you were the department's Program Advisor.

How did programming change under your leadership? When I came in as the Program Advisor, my goal was to expand our programs, particularly for our Latino/a/x students, and celebrate the various Latin American cultures and identities that were present on our campus. The first program was a series of Latin style dance classes (Latin Rhythms). As I continued to build relationships with students and learned about their wants and needs, I created other programs and events: Pan Dulce, Latinx Movie Night and Latino Americans. In the end, my Latino/a/x focused programs all have the same intention, to promote diversity, embrace our identities, and celebrate our history and contributions in the United States and globally.

Pan Dulce is one of the programs you created. Tell us what it is and why it is important. The idea is very simple, yet very intentional. The literal translation for Pan Dulce

is "Sweet Bread" and the program provides a safe space where Latino/a/x students come together and share their lived experiences, opinions and emotions without judgement, all while we enjoy some delicious traditional Latin American pastries.. It allows students to be their authentic self, which is why this program is so important.

How do you help pave the way to college for those who think it is out of their reach? I serve as an ally and supporter for all students who want to go to college, especially those who have more of a difficult time navigating the process, as well as their parents. By helping and supporting the parents, they feel empowered to play a more active role in the college process for their child(ren). We must work as a community, a team, a group of people with one mission in mind: the success of students.

What book should everyone read, and why? This is a tough question, but I would say "Latino Americans: The 500 Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation". The book explores the lives of Latino American men and women over a period of 500 years during European settlements, the Spanish-American War, the Wild West, World War I and II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and much more. It is eye-opening and gives a different perspective of American history.



Enjoys letting his daughters put bows in his hair.

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Spirit and Heart of USI



USI's Pep Band has rallied fans at games for 33 years. The 20+ members (many of them first-year students this year mixed in with non-student musicians), led by Thomas Mace, Pep Band Director since 1990, trumpet horns, blast saxes, pluck strings, beat skins and more for home and away games, championships, local parades and charity events.

*(USI student members back left to right: Kyle Echert, Ryan Roy, Hannah Flamion, Paige Byrd;
front left to right: Claire Patterson, Megan Tooman, Liz Campbell)*

Visit USI.edu/spiritheart for submission guidelines.