



# illumine

— University of Southern Indiana —

QUEST | FALL 2019





features

**Life Styles 19**

A peek into six unique days

**Traversing the Cost of Education 26**

How USI is helping students finance college

**The Eagles Have Landed 30**

A nostalgic look at athletics

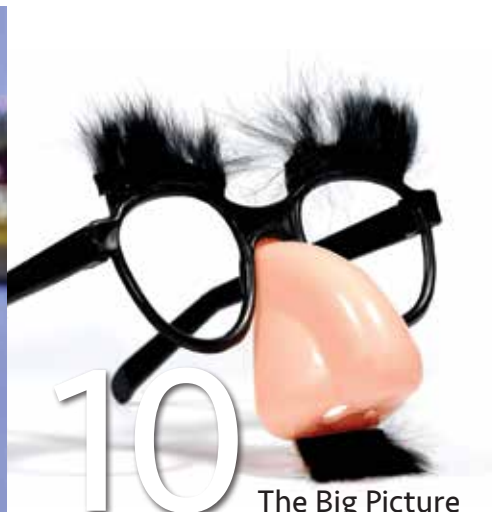
**on the cover** | The fairytale image is evocative of the storied journeys alumni take in their quest to earn an education.





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## INSPIRED

Good evening. I am always reviewing various universities' annual reports and alumni magazines looking for various concepts and interesting articles. I just finished reading the article titled *The Radical Shaping of an Educator* and was blessed by your story.

I spent 21 years at Southern University, leaving as vice president, and I have a PhD from LSU. Being from the South and reading this article was inspiring and conveyed Dr. Baker's essence and drive. Her determination, faith and support from various family and friends forged her into a strong leader.

James Baldwin stated, and I quote, "I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also much more than that." So are we all.

Thank you Dr. Baker for sharing your story and I wish you many blessings.

**Ernie Troy Hughes, PhD**  
Vice President for University Advancement  
Truman State University  
Kirksville, Missouri

## FOREVER GRATEFUL

Sometimes my daily events will trigger gratitude and Friday was one of those times for me. To be in a room full of social



workers and know that I'm part of that group reminded me of how far I've traveled on this journey. Then on Saturday morning I happened on your interview article in the Spring *illumine*. I was struck by this line, "Every great educator knows there is a moment in a student's life when the road to where they need to be becomes clear." This moment for me was in Dr. Baker's office in the summer of 2002 as she patiently explained the MSW program to me. I was 38 years old with two post-secondary degrees with not much of an idea where my road was going. I finally had that moment thanks to her, and for that I will always be grateful. Thank you Christie.

**James Akin M'05**  
Evansville, Indiana

## SUCH WISE WORDS

[Gabi] has a unique voice, an honesty and a wisdom beyond her years. Great article.

**Kelly Lonngberg**  
Newburgh, Indiana

## AMAZING HEART

I enjoyed the story on Dr. Ronald Rochon. I am one of his classmates from Tuskegee University. I attended the inauguration and it was awesome! So wonderful to see him fulfill his life mission at USI as President Rochon.

**Robin Boyd**  
Chicago, Illinois

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](mailto:magazine@usi.edu).





**SIRCAT-Southwest Indiana  
Regional Coalition Against  
Trafficking**



Thank you USI for featuring the issues of human trafficking in your *illum* alumni magazine. #illumus



**Cobi Ann**  
@CobiSchieferste

@USledu just gotta show my school off real quick! Can't wait to be back in the fall!



**Stephanie Stone**  
@StephStone21

Replying to @CooperOnAir

@USledu has a great MBA program that's very affordable and online. I'm about halfway through and I highly recommend it! Never too late to pursue an interest or passion.



**Erica Meier**  
@Emeier1120

What a great college visit @USledu for @Bmyr12 today! Our student tour guides were fantastic. USI has changed so much since I was a student there 25 years ago (gulp)! #impressiveuniversity #proudusigrad #momofafuturescreagle??



**Emily**  
@emiwyewissabiff

It may have taken me almost 50 minutes to run 6 miles of trails but I did conquer The Wall 10 times today so I'm ok with that. Thanks @USledu for having some great trails.



**Jason Ruggles**  
@jasonruggles

At @USledu tonight picking up my daughter from the @USIAthletics Volleyball Camp and the Screaming Eagles Arena looks absolutely amazing. Excellent Job on an amazing building. #Evansville



See Arena story on page 26

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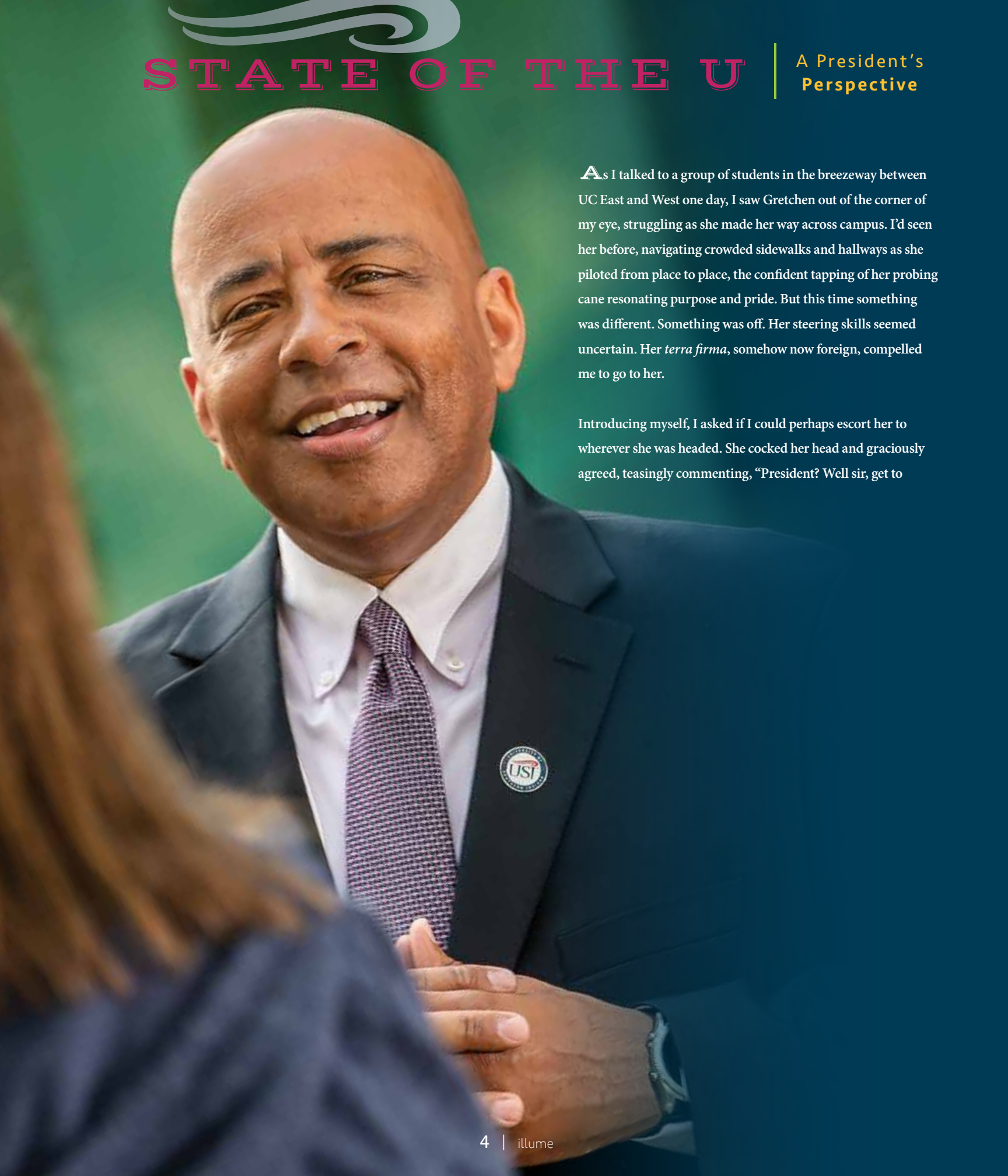
Janet Johnson M'05

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**CORRECTION:** Copy was omitted from Erin Gibson's *From the Desk of* in the spring 2019 issue. The second paragraph should have read: *Back then, the studio was in an old farmhouse on the northwest side of campus along the Lloyd Expressway, and you could listen to us on the AM dial at 820—but only during the daytime hours. If you tuned in at night, you'd hear a station out of Fort Worth, Texas.*



As I talked to a group of students in the breezeway between UC East and West one day, I saw Gretchen out of the corner of my eye, struggling as she made her way across campus. I'd seen her before, navigating crowded sidewalks and hallways as she piloted from place to place, the confident tapping of her probing cane resonating purpose and pride. But this time something was different. Something was off. Her steering skills seemed uncertain. Her *terra firma*, somehow now foreign, compelled me to go to her.

Introducing myself, I asked if I could perhaps escort her to wherever she was headed. She cocked her head and graciously agreed, teasingly commenting, "President? Well sir, get to



# FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

**Discussed** with Governor Eric Holcomb common goals for elevating the State of Indiana and workforce development

**Delivered** USI's financial needs in budget presentations to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana State Budget Agency, Indiana House Ways and Means Committee, and Indiana Senate Appropriations Committee resulting in an increase in USI's operating appropriation of \$975,556 in 2019-2020 and an additional \$705,585 in 2020-2021, for a total 3.6% increase over the biennium

**Secured** a \$48 million bond issuance to support renovation and expansion of the Health Professions Center

**Engaged** with USI alumni within their local, state and international communities through a variety of meetings to remain abreast of their views

**Visited** every four-year, public institution in Indiana and met with each president to expand USI's collaborative culture in order to achieve the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's goals for the state

**Provided** media interviews to ensure the message of USI's quality education continues to reach wider audiences

**Built** relationships with community members at various organizations' events as a guest speaker

**Celebrated** and supported USI's standout achievements: Men's Basketball team's advancement to the Elite Eight and Final Four, our Chamber Choir's performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the opening of the new Screaming Eagles Arena and our NASA collaboration to launch UNITE CubeSat—Indiana's first public institution to put a satellite in space

escorting.” I liked her immediately; she got me. As we walked and chatted, our relationship sprouted, and I asked her, “You seemed to be struggling today, going a very different route than you normally take. Is there any particular reason why?”

“Yes,” she said. “Thank you for asking. Someone moved the flower pots.”

Someone *moved* the flower pots.

It hadn't been malicious, and no one else likely noticed, but they were her landmarks. Their displacement disrupted her world, increasing her vulnerability in a place she should have felt safe and supported.

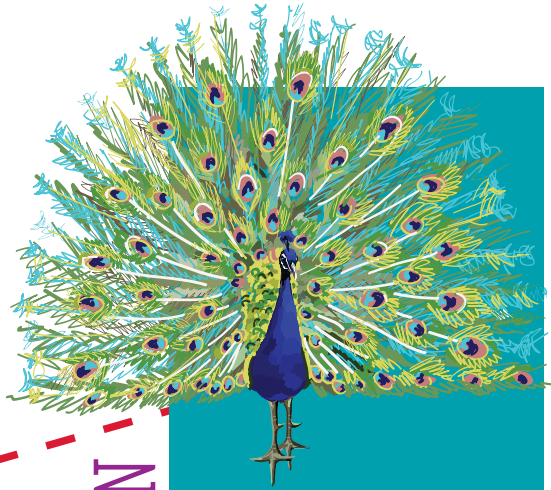
Gretchen is one of us, part of the USI family, and while she may not experience the world through sight, her vulnerability, confusion and uncertainty is something we all share—as well as some sightlessness or shortsightedness. The only difference being for some of us our blindness is self-created and not a physical affliction. When we fail to see the needs of those around us—their social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs—when we fail to allow for differences, when we fail to accept those differences, we fail ourselves and each other.

I love this University. I love our students. It is our mission and duty to serve and uplift them through example, as we must do for each other. We must pledge to embrace each other's uniqueness, open our eyes and minds, teach our students, ourselves and our communities that diversity is our liberator—not our annihilator.

This is born out of relationships—the cornerstones of USI. I strive to be intentional in developing them with our students—our reason for being here—as well as with faculty, staff, community members and elected officials, whom we partner with to advance the institution. Without these relationships, there is no future. Just as there is no future in a world of distrust and discord.

When the flower pots were rearranged, Gretchen's confidence in the world cracked just a little, sending her adrift in a place she should have felt secure. By offering my hand, a relationship rooted and with it a trust deepened.

While we are all susceptible to uncertainty, we should not be the cause of it for others. Make today the day you help rather than hinder someone. Be a flower pot.



THINGS THAT MAKE US PREEN

OUR MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM GOING TO THE NCAA DIVISION II ELITE EIGHT IN MARCH. THAT'S FOUR TIMES NOW SINCE 2004.

THE ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS RE-EARNING AACSB BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING ACCREDITATION. ONLY 2% OF ALL BUSINESS SCHOOLS GLOBALLY HOLD THIS DUAL DISTINCTION.

THE CARNEGIE PROJECT ON THE EDUCATION DOCTORATE ACCEPTING USI'S EDD PROGRAM AS A NEW MEMBER.

ALEX STEIN '18 BECOMES THE THIRD USI MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER TO SCORE 2,000 POINTS.

KYLEIGH SHEARIN '19 CHARCOAL DRAWING WINNING "BEST HAND-DRAWN ILLUSTRATION" FROM THE INDIANA COLLEGIATE PRESS ASSOCIATION



# WOMEN LEADING



**NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Khalilah Doss, new vice president for student affairs, recognizes USI as a special place and one she can make a positive impact on the lives of students the University serves.

As vice president for student affairs, Doss will provide intellectual and administrative leadership, guiding the University's student affairs division and its services and programs, as well as University-wide initiatives. She will oversee the USI Counseling Center; Dean of Students Office; Housing and Residence Life; Multicultural Center; Recreation, Fitness and Wellness Center; Religious Life; Student Development Programs; Student Publications; and the University Health Center.

She earned a bachelor's degree in economics, finance and marketing from McKendree College, a master's degree in public administration from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a doctoral degree in educational administration and higher education from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



**NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Dr. Jennifer Hammat embraces her new role as USI's dean of students (DOS) as an opportunity to positively shape students' lives. It's a role she was born for, having literally grown up on a university campus where her parents were career administrators.

Her career path to USI began as a student in Kentucky (Murray State University) and led her around the nation to Florida (University of North Florida), Texas (University of Texas Austin), Virginia (George Mason University) and finally to Indiana's USI, gaining experience in the areas of Title IX, policy development, process implementation and more. Along the way she earned undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees in organizational communication and higher education administration.

The USI dean of students is responsible for enhancing the University mission by engaging students in programs and services that help develop responsible, contributing members of a global society and more.



**NEW DEAN OF BUSINESS COLLEGE**

Dr. Cathy Carey has been named dean of the Romain College of Business. She grew up on a 300-acre tobacco and cattle farm in Millersburg, Kentucky, and attended University of Kentucky, earning undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees in economics. She joined the Western Kentucky University faculty in 1992 as assistant professor of economics, was promoted to associate professor in 1998 and professor in 2008.

From 2012 to 2018, she served as chair of the WKU Department of Economics, serving as the interim dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business at WKU since July 2018. Additionally, Carey served as director of the WKU Center for Applied Economics. See page 37 to learn more about Dean Carey and her vision for the Romain College of Business.



## CHINESE BY DESIGN

Watch out Candy Crush, there is a new app out that's fun and educational. Created by Xinran Hu, associate professor of graphic design, and funded by a faculty grant, Discover Chinese teaches 100-plus ancient and modern Chinese characters using a matching approach.

Hu was inspired to develop a new way of learning her native imagery-based language for her American-born daughter, rather than the unimaginative means of memorization she endured as a child. As a visual professional, Hu understands the human brain recognizes certain visual patterns—no matter what the person's native language or cultural background is—and decided to make a game of it, using the Gestalt visual principle Similarity.

The app is sectioned into six chapters and it took Hu two years to create, starting with a year of researching the best characters to teach beginners, collaborating with a linguist and other professionals for accuracy, and working with graphic designer and illustrator Betheny Swartzentruber '18. A student at the time, she styled images of each word, breaking them into elements by seeing the similarities between the Chinese characters and the objects they represented.



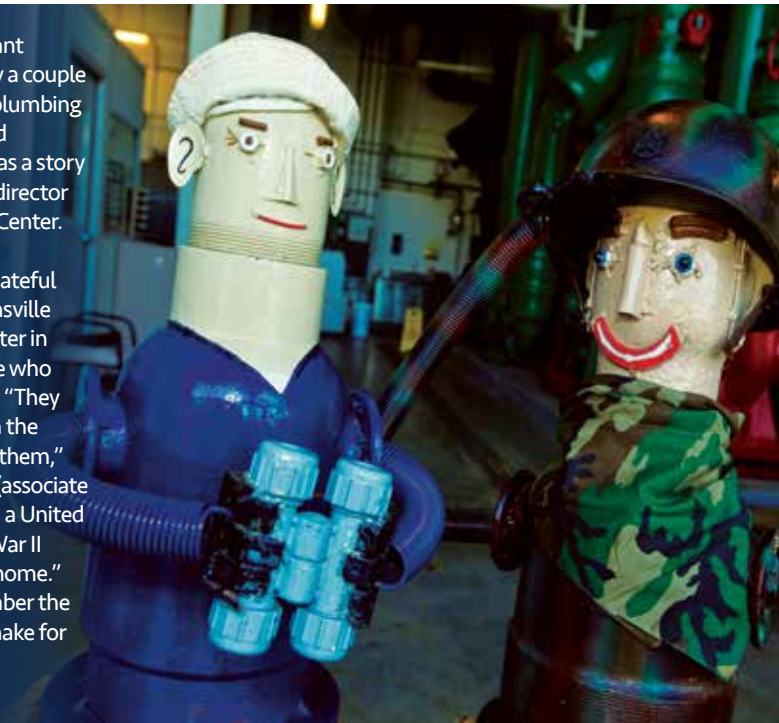
**WARNING:** The app is free and available for iOS operating system (with plans for an Android version to come) but research indicates it is addictive and may expand your knowledge.

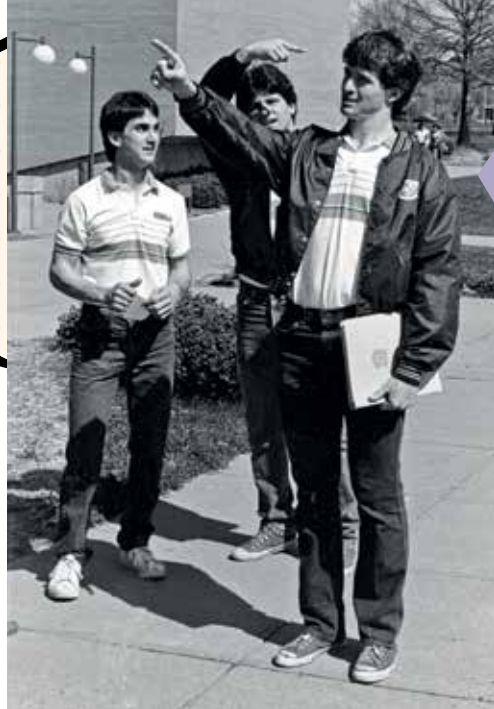
## DIGGING IN:

### WHAT'S WITH THE SOLDIER AND SAILOR MADE OF PLUMBING PARTS?

Stroll past the front of USI's Physical Plant Service Center and you'll be greeted by a couple of grinning, squat military men made of plumbing parts bolted together and bearing painted uniforms. Despite their silence, the duo has a story to tell, says Joel Matherly, USI's assistant director of Veteran, Military and Family Resource Center.

Crafted by a Vietnam veteran who was grateful for the support he received from the Evansville Vet Center, they were donated to the Center in dedication to those who served and those who helped after their service was completed. "They were unfortunately slated for scrap when the [Veterans Center] relocated, so we saved them," says Matherly. "Fortunately, Miles Mann (associate director, facility operations and planning) a United States Navy veteran and son of a World War II veteran, was able to give these statues a home." Today, they serve as a reminder to remember the sacrifices our military men and women make for our country—so many who are alum.





Every picture tells a story, or is that a picture's worth 1,000 words? We don't want you to write 1,000, just a line or two, putting some words into the mouths of these Screaming Eagles.

*illume*

This is *illume's* spin on the New Yorker's cartoon caption contest. The winning entry, (or three, if we can't decide) will be published in the following issue.

*Be creative, fun and succinct in writing your caption and send it to magazine@usi.edu or C. L. Stambush, editor, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712*

# PUMP UP THE VOLUME

Rice library is getting louder—and that's a good thing, says Marna Hostetler, director of library. While traditional quiet areas remain, primarily on the third and fourth floors, she says the library is adapting to students' changing needs. "This generation seems to want to study together, even if they're not in a class together. They're not working on the same thing, but they want to sit together and still be able to chat."

Recent renovations include a new gathering space near the main entrance, relocating books from the first floor to the upper levels, additional group seating throughout the first floor and removal of the reference desk—its services can now be accessed at the checkout area—to encourage visitors to collaborate without feeling the need to whisper.



- OCTOBER 18 - 20**  
Families Weekend, USI
- NOVEMBER 25**  
Lighting a Tradition, USI
- DECEMBER 3**  
Alumni Affair, USI
- DECEMBER 7**  
Fall Commencement and Alumni Receptions, USI
- JANUARY 9**  
Pizza Gathering at U Ind
- FEBRUARY 13**  
Craziest Fan Competition, USI
- FEBRUARY 15**  
Homecoming 2020, before Men's Basketball game, USI
- MARCH 25**  
SAA Breakfast with the President, USI
- APRIL 18**  
USI Day at the Zoo – Evansville Mesker Park Zoo
- APRIL 19**  
Spruce Up, USI campus (Rain date April 26)

## CONNECT WITH PEERS

- Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter
- Dubois County Alumni Chapter
- Louisville Kentucky Alumni Chapter
- Black Alumni Society
- MHA Alumni Society
- Nursing Alumni Society
- Shield Alumni Society
- Social Work Alumni Society



# Crack a Spine

## The Geography of Home

by Matthew Graham, professor emeritus of English

The poems provide a chronological and autobiographical account of his interpretation of home. The cover is one of Katherine Waters', professor emerita of art, paintings (she and Graham are married), titled *The Blue and the Dim and the Dark Clothes of Night*.



## George Rapp: Thoughts on the Destiny of Man, Particularly with Reference to the Present Times by the Harmony Society in Indiana A.D. 1824

by Dr. Silvia Anna Rode, professor of German

"The book is a timely read for those seeking alternative community models (USI's Minka project), as utopian communities such as the Harmonists need to be reevaluated," says Rode.



## EXPERT INSIGHT



Ashli (House) Koresell '12 didn't expect she'd one day be driving an RV in her career, but the College of Nursing and Health Professions alumna does just that in her position as mammography technologist for Deaconess' Mobile Breast Center. Five years into her passion, that began in the traditional sense in a stationary building, have resulted into a handful of insights that can't be learned in a textbook.



Aside from the knowledge she's gained navigating a 40-foot mobile coach—understanding the limitations of driving a big vehicle (bridge clearances, road signs leaning into roadways, windy/rainy conditions and turning radius)—she says it's important to:

1. Show your coworkers that you appreciate their work. It will go a long way toward overall productivity and patient care.
2. Create healthy work environments by treating the many different personality types you encounter professionally. It motivates coworkers and promotes teamwork.
3. Learn to be OK with being uncomfortable with new technology to stay competitive in an always changing field.
4. Be confident in your decisions but don't be afraid to still ask questions.
5. Give your expert knowledge and understanding freely to new people entering the field.
6. Take on new challenges with the understanding that there will be some failure before there is success.

## COLLABORATION is WUNDERBAR

Graduates need jobs. Jobs need graduates. Might we learn something from how Germany brings the two together?

To explore the possibilities, area and international leaders representing government, business and academia met in April at USI's Griffin Center. USI was one of four institutions delegates visited on the tour

"Wunderbar Together: The Year of German-American Friendship," discussing Germany's leading role in university-industry collaboration, dual-study programs, apprenticeships and educational concepts of applied teaching and research.

"Our purpose was to share how the German model of

dual education combines practical training with curriculum to prepare students for the job market," says Dr. Daria Sevastianova, associate professor of economics, study abroad coordinator and event organizer. "We looked at how we can increase engagement with the business community to better prepare students and provide better job and internship possibilities."










Welcoming students to campus for the fall semester has been a rich and festive tradition at USI, even if it has headlined under several different names: Orientation, Connection I and Connection II, and now Orientation and Welcome Week. Since 1975, the student organization known as the AMIGOs\* have hosted events as part of orientation to get students into the swing of college life and help them forget about the stress of being away from home for the



## THE BIG PICTURE

first time. The AMIGOs have offered such things as a 50-foot sub sandwich, juggling lessons and a dance to make students feel at home. Today, the University celebrates the beginning of students' educational careers with seven days of speed friending, disc golf, grillin' and chillin' on The Quad, a photobooth, karaoke, ice cream socials, a hypnotist, way-finding, clubs to join and informational presentations on meal plans, part-time jobs, and fraternity and sorority life. Peek into past Welcome Week events at [usi.edu/illuminate](http://usi.edu/illuminate).

\*Ask Me, I Give Orientation



# STUDENT P.O.V.

**Kaylee Johnson '20**  
Public Relations and Advertising

## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

We walk in fast, in perfect unison, tumble across a mat and toss 100-pound teammates in the air yelling, “Go Red, Go Blue.” It appears effortless, but it’s the result of nearly 250 hours of practice and conditioning. Resilience, dedication and teamwork serve as the foundation for the USI Cheer Team, consistently ranking in the top 10 at the UCA College Cheerleading National Competition.

The road to earning recognition is full of struggles and doubts, but this past season was particularly challenging. Between spring tryouts in April and crunch time in December, half the athletes left the team for various reasons, including family or health issues and lack of attendance. We were forced to adjust and reconstruct our routine. Coaches called on past cheerleaders to fill in. Every practice became a revolving door.

In early December, we had just 16 of the usual 20-25 athletes needed to compete at the 2019 UCA competition, when our coaches gathered

the team and asked if it was possible to still compete. We voted and decided we could do it. But then, after a week off from practice, a teammate failed to return to practices. The coaches removed her from the team, starting the frantic hunt for her substitute.

When we found a replacement, she had immense shoes to fill. The teammate she was replacing served a foundational role in lifting the team’s flyers. But our new teammate swiftly mastered the routine and practices flowed smoothly again, until 24 hours before we left for Florida when we lost her too due to a technical disqualification.

We were devastated.

Panicked and stressed, the coaches called every former, eligible cheerleader imaginable to replace her. One was willing to drop everything and join the team. She hadn’t cheered in two years, and she had 12 hours to learn the routine.

The four-hour final practice started in chaos as we shouted and guided our new teammate through counts and stunts. Miraculously, she learned the routine in three hours, something that had taken the rest of us three months to perfect.

Despite our struggles, our resilience, dedication and teamwork earned us sixth-place. Though this year’s national season was filled with more obstacles, stress and disappointment than prior seasons, the payoff was far more gratifying. Not only did we perform our routine nearly flawlessly and place in the top 10, but we learned how to adapt to change, how to learn from that change and how to use that change to our advantage. The lessons learned this season are ones we’ll value for years to come. Teamwork truly does make the dream work.

watch the team perform at [usi.edu/illum](https://usi.edu/illum)

*suggest a subject at [magazine@usi.edu](mailto:magazine@usi.edu)*



# DESK OF...

# FROM THE



I am a lifelong learner. I have a zeal for knowledge and understanding of ideas both big and small. I believe no stone should go unturned. I believe in the power of institutions and organizations that use it and their influence to make a difference in this world. I believe in the academy, its ability to seek truth, produce knowledge and ideas, and share its knowledge and ideas with others as the foundation for shaping people, inspiring them to reach their highest potential and achieve extraordinary things.

I believe in friendship and community, and how we can embrace people's differences and cultures. Community is in my bones and in my DNA. I believe in promoting peace and global understanding, and building goodwill and better friendships in my neighborhood, community, city and world. I believe in unity through diversity.

I believe in the importance of place and placemaking. I believe in the value and historical character of the neighborhoods in which we live. Living in an old house and preserving and protecting our old neighborhoods are vehicles to renewing, restoring and revitalizing communities. I believe in creating livable and sustainable neighborhoods, communities, cities and a world for us and for our future generations.

I believe in a global village. I believe in the United Nations, including its core mission of peace, collective security and human rights. I

## DR. MATTHEW HANKA

Associate Professor of Political Science

believe in promoting awareness and educating my community about the world around us, good and bad.

I believe in serving our most invisible, vulnerable and marginalized populations, including those who don't have a place to call home or a place to sleep at night. I believe housing is a right, a human right and not a privilege to be earned, and I believe in working tirelessly to ensure that no one is deprived of this fundamental human right.

I believe in the Rotary motto of service above self, and I believe in making a difference in this world—no matter how large or small. How we serve others is the best measure of a person. What we do for others is more important than who we are, why we are, where we are or how we are. It doesn't matter what a person's label, identity, class, race, gender, religion, political affiliation or socio-economic status is; what matters is what we are doing to serve others. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

I believe in leading by example. I believe in doing what is right, even if it's unpopular. I believe in fairness, justice and equality for everyone. I don't believe in doing anything at the expense of others, using people as means to my end or only valuing people insofar as they are useful to me. I believe in doing things that benefit everyone. The world is big enough for anyone to make a mark without trampling over another to get to that goal. I believe in doing things for others just because.

I believe in leaving things better than when I arrived. I believe in the power of legacy and the impact one's actions have on others. I believe that what I do, good or bad, can reflect on others.

I believe in the old Greek proverb that I may one day plant a tree in hope someday others will have an opportunity to enjoy its shade and reap the fruits of my labor. This is what I believe.

*Matthew J. Hanka*





## Where are they | **NOW?**

While at USI, Brittani Oliver '11, psychology, had a reputation for kills, digs, blocks and attacks, becoming the 10th volleyball athlete in USI's history to record 1,000 kills. Although she continues to pour time and energy into the sport by coaching a young women's team—ranked number one in California and fourth in the nation—the doctoral candidate's future is invested in the emotional wellbeing of others.

Specializing in grief and bereavement, Oliver believes her professional future and athletic past (and present) are tied to those who supported her when she lost her brother and both parents before she turned 21. Having survived blood clots expected to kill her, she takes her heart onto the court these days, knowing the impact of coach/player relationships can be huge. "I never want a kid to walk out on the court and





# MILESTONES: ELITE EIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

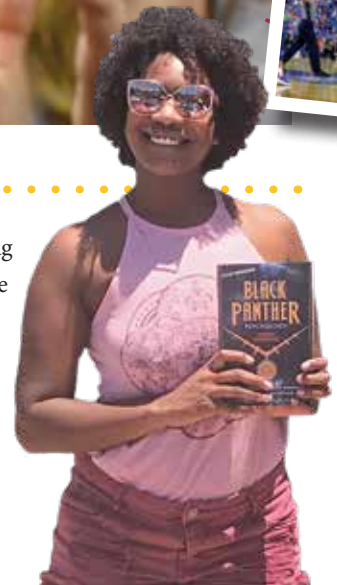
## Elite Team Strikes Again

The Cinderella run by USI Men's Basketball in the 2019 NCAA Division II Tournament, advancing to the Final Four the fourth time, adds another chapter to the program's storied history which began in 1970. The Screaming Eagles are currently one of the most successful basketball programs in Division II athletics, making 23 NCAA II Tournament appearances, winning the 1995 national title and finishing as the national finalist twice (1994 and 2004). USI also has captured four GLVC Tournament titles and 12 conference championships.



be just a number," she says. "I want to be a good role model."  
  
Oliver is helping people beyond the court too, with her chapter on grief and loss in a new book titled *Black Panther Psychology* that examines factors that influence the development of people who

experience loss. "I'm showcasing how two people who experience death can become either a hero or a villain."



# THE COLORful TRUTH

When you look at me, what do you see?  
They say, "Don't judge a book by its cover,"  
but we all know that's not really true because  
like it or not you are being judged no matter what you do  
how you look, dress, or if you "act a little strange,"  
but how you look should never dictate how you're treated,  
that's something that's got to change.  
So, when you look at me, what do you see?  
Is it... the curls in my fro? My own culturally crafted pillow?  
Or is it... my cheesy, cheeky smile, a contrast to my caramelized exterior?  
See, when I look in the mirror and I see my fro,  
I think of years of Black Suppression that can't fit through a comb!  
I see curls of little brown girls!  
Except... their curls aren't curls, just a flat ironed tress.  
They see our women on TVs, magazines, and the press  
with long, shiny, silky, straight hair. America's idea of the best.  
So instead of rocking the boat and making a mess,  
our little brown girls are going to school  
with burnt out, straight hair, not knowing it's their hair that's what's cool—  
their afro-textured hair, the authenticity!  
Their kinks, coils, curls, and ringlets are remnants of our Black ethnicity.  
So, when you look at me, what do you see?  
I see the Colorful Truth.

One of the colors I see is red!  
Red is the heat that burned underneath  
as our ancestors slaved but *still* stood on two feet.  
It's the blood that they bled, being whipped and beaten,  
the sun beating drums on their backs, picking cotton to their packs,  
from going days without eating!  
American history portrays blackness as weakness, oh but we're truly divine  
from our melanin muse to our cocoa butter spines,  
our brown sugar is the perfect concoction  
because we are *priority*, first-class, not the world's second-option.  
So, when you look at me, what do you see?  
Because I see the Colorful Truth.

You know a color that I hear? Like all the time?  
I sit there in grief and utter disbelief  
at that same six words that I have always received  
since I was a little girl. Tell me if you've gotten this one before.

It goes like this: "You're pretty for a black girl!"  
Excuse me?! Have you brown skinned ladies heard this before?  
As though the hue of our skin represents the beauty in our core?  
As if the measure of being pretty is dependent upon a standard  
"Be Pretty or Be Black"  
but apparently, we can't be both?!  
This pseudo-compliment conundrum is sickening and what's worst is that  
it is 2019, with not a change to be seen!  
Dr. King is shaking in his grave still dreaming his dream  
for the day we come together as one, UNITED.  
Not blacks and whites, but a community UNDIVIDED.

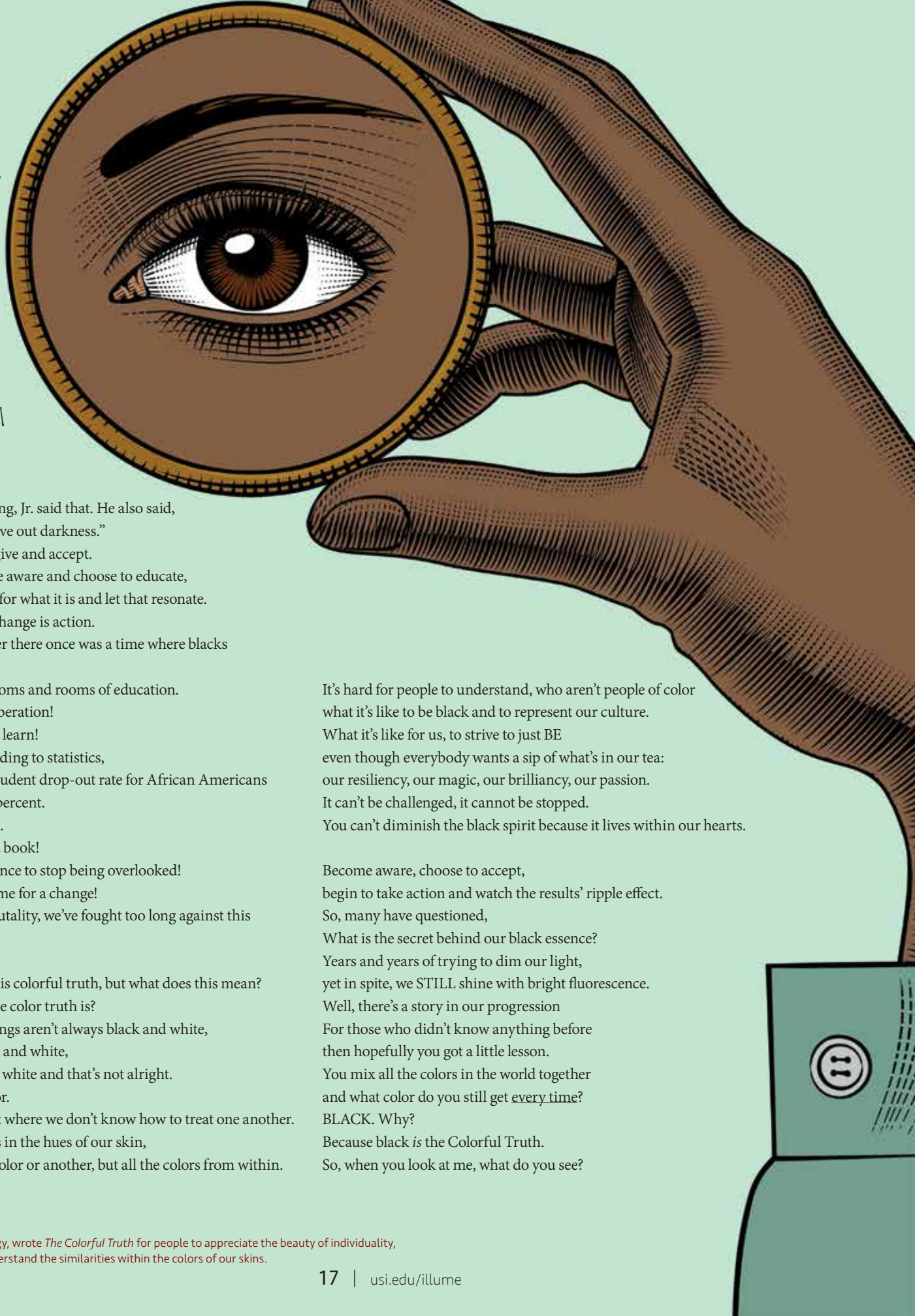
For the day that we can walk without being questioned or stalked.  
I fear the day my mother lets my brother leave home  
and a cop shows up at her door and tells her that he's gone  
because my brother is a black man against the criminal justice system  
of America  
where being black and wearing a hoodie will get you shot, unleash hysteria  
and all of this has got to stop, don't we all see there needs to be change?  
Where brown skinned girls can rock their curls  
and the world recognizes slavery as one of America's greatest shames?!  
Where I can go about my day, without being attacked  
for not only being Beauty and Brains  
but for being Beauty, Brains, AND BLACK.

There are three As to the elements of change: Awareness, Acceptance,  
and Action.  
James Baldwin, American novelist and civil rights activist once said,  
"Ignorance, allied with power, is the most *ferocious* enemy justice can have."  
What does this mean?  
Ignorance is not bliss.  
Lack of knowledge doesn't make it less true.  
Become aware of history so history won't define you.  
Awareness leads to acceptance.  
"We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive."



# TRUTH

by Ta'Meia Burleigh '21



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that. He also said,  
“Darkness cannot drive out darkness.”

So, we all need to forgive and accept.

And after you become aware and choose to educate,  
then accept the truth for what it is and let that resonate.

The final element to change is action.

Don't we all remember there once was a time where blacks  
were segregated?

From buses to bathrooms and rooms of education.

Oh, but now there's liberation!

We have the power to learn!

So why is it that according to statistics,  
the national college student drop-out rate for African Americans  
sits at 42 percent? 42 percent.

Step up and stand out.

Go put your head in a book!

We finally get the chance to stop being overlooked!

Action! Action! It's time for a change!

End racism, police brutality, we've fought too long against this  
endless cavalry.

I've said a lot about this colorful truth, but what does this mean?

Do you know what the color truth is?

The truth...is that things aren't always black and white,  
though it seems black and white,  
or rather black versus white and that's not alright.

There's too much color.

It's gotten to the point where we don't know how to treat one another.

The colorful truth lies in the hues of our skin,

where we're not one color or another, but all the colors from within.

It's hard for people to understand, who aren't people of color  
what it's like to be black and to represent our culture.

What it's like for us, to strive to just BE

even though everybody wants a sip of what's in our tea:  
our resiliency, our magic, our brilliancy, our passion.

It can't be challenged, it cannot be stopped.

You can't diminish the black spirit because it lives within our hearts.

Become aware, choose to accept,

begin to take action and watch the results' ripple effect.

So, many have questioned,

What is the secret behind our black essence?

Years and years of trying to dim our light,  
yet in spite, we STILL shine with bright fluorescence.

Well, there's a story in our progression

For those who didn't know anything before  
then hopefully you got a little lesson.

You mix all the colors in the world together  
and what color do you still get *every time*?

BLACK. Why?

Because black *is* the Colorful Truth.

So, when you look at me, what do you see?

“THE PEOPLE WHO FIND HAPPINESS IN LIFE, ARE THE ONES THAT *do not make excuses*. IF IT IS BROKEN, THEY FIX IT... IF IT IS WRONG, THEY *make it right*. AT THE END OF THE DAY, LET THERE BE NO EXCUSES, NO *explanations*, NO REGRETS.”

B. J. WATTS | Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education 2019 Spring Commencement speaker

# “OVERHEARD QUOTABLES”

“IN ALL MY ART, I *endeavor* TO CAPTURE THE ORDINARY AND VIEW IT WITH SOME *significance*.”

KATIE WATERS | professor emerita of art, Arrival/Departure lecture presentation

“IT'S *always* ABOUT THE MONEY, IT'S *always* ABOUT THE *money*.”

VIRGINIA WEILER | instructor of marketing, speaking on The Good, the Bad, the Ugly: Marketing in the Global Space

“A GUY TOLD ME WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, HE SAID, 'WE AS *survivors* NEVER FAIL.' HE SAID, 'WE ONLY EITHER *succeed* OR LEARN FROM IT, AND IF YOU 'WILL DO ONE OF THOSE TWO THINGS YOU 'WILL NEVER FAIL.' ”

JASON KOGER | a bilateral amputee who lost both arms beneath the elbow after being electrocuted following an ATV accident speaking at the 25th annual Midwest Care Coordination Conference

“I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE *incarceration*. I AM GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING I *endured* BECAUSE I CAN TALK ABOUT IT. IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO TALK ABOUT, AND THE REASON I TALK ABOUT IT IS BECAUSE SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE. I CAN NOT *change* IT, BUT YOU GUYS CAN CHANGE IT.”

TOMAS MONTALVO | convicted and sentenced to prison for possession of a controlled substance, speaking to criminal justice majors

“DO NOT CLOSE A DOOR, OPEN A DOOR. DO NOT THINK OF OBSTACLES, THINK OF *opportunity*. WE HAVE TO STOP PUTTING *obstacles* AHEAD OF OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND THAT 'IS WHAT KING DAY SHOULD BE ABOUT.’ ”

DONNA BRAZILE | American political strategist, campaign manager and author, speaking at the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day luncheon

“I HAVE KNOWN DR. ROCHON FOR YEARS, BUT SO HAVE ALL OF YOU. YOU KNOW HIS *character*, YOU KNOW HIS STRONG *focus* ON THE NEEDS OF *students*, YOU KNOW HIS INTEGRITY AND LEADERSHIP STYLE. OVER THE YEARS, HIS MILLION QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH *thoughtful* AND STRATEGIC IDEAS AND HE HAS BECOME A CARING AND COMPASSIONATE *leader*.”

DR. MURTEL HOWARD | speaking at the inauguration of President Ronald Rochon

“HIRING MANAGERS WILL *google* YOU AND LOOK AT YOUR SOCIAL NETWORKS. PLENTY OF PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN HIRED BECAUSE OF IT. SO, DO NOT POST PHOTOS THAT DO NOT *show* YOU AT *your best*.”

ERIC DECKER | author, blogger and humorist, speaking at the Romain College of Business' Lessons Beyond the Classroom Speaker Series



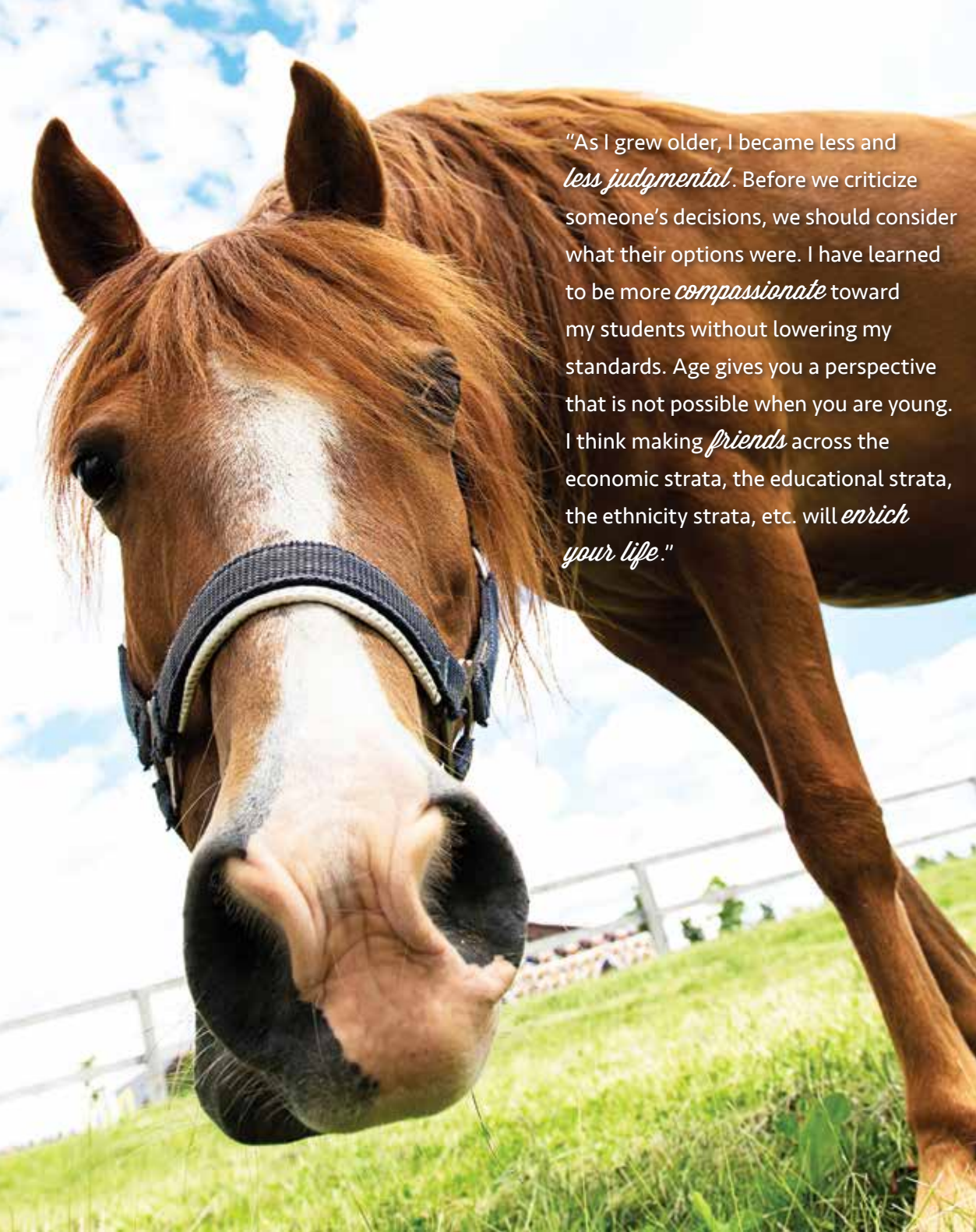


# Inside A Day

BY  
C. L. STAMBUSH

Whether we're in a career that fuels our passion, work in one field while pursuing it through a side hustle or are a student exploring opportunities while juggling academics, friends and an unknown future, our days are as diverse as we are. *illum* peeks in on six people's lives to learn a little something about each of them.





"As I grew older, I became less and *less judgmental*. Before we criticize someone's decisions, we should consider what their options were. I have learned to be more *compassionate* toward my students without lowering my standards. Age gives you a perspective that is not possible when you are young. I think making *friends* across the economic strata, the educational strata, the ethnicity strata, etc. will *enrich your life*."



*Glenn Ballard*, instructor in mathematics, celebrates life with an attitude of gratitude and has a passion for horses and numbers. His love of steeds began when he was 3 years old, but he had to wait until he was 51 to get his first, a Morgan named Cory. Retired after teaching math for 40 years at Evansville's Harrison High School, Glenn (grandfather to seven and recent great grandfather) joined USI's Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education faculty to continue teaching mathematics, a passion that has never dimmed. "Teaching it energizes me. Even if I go to class tired or saddened by an event, or not feeling well, I nearly always feel fine once I start talking about math with my students."

## MONDAY - FRIDAY 5 A.M.

Wake and head to the barn as the sun begins to rise, listening to rustling leaves, crowing roosters, meowing cats and nickering horses anticipating breakfast. "After graining the horses, I check on the chickens, ducks, rabbits, barn cats and dogs before turning the horses out." A light breakfast, then leave for campus.

### 7:30 A.M.

Arrive at USI and settle in, checking emails and polishing lessons. "I chose to be a math teacher as a lifetime career when I was a 17-year-old high school senior. I think the problem-solving skills learned in mathematics are transferable to other disciplines."

### 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Teach three algebra and/or calculus classes, with breaks and office hours in between. "I keep about 20 office hours. I like doing most of my preparation and grading at school, and I like being accessible to my students."

### 3 - 5 P.M.

Head home to corral and grain the horses, feed the fowl and other critters, do farm chores. "There is always something that needs fixing, repairing and tending. We have 11 acres with a Southern Colonial home and six outbuildings, including the horse barn. Friends and local grandchildren help me keep the horse barn clean and the property maintained."

### 5 - 7 P.M.

Dinner at favorite restaurant with love of life, wife Carol, often with friends and family. "On Thursday evenings we participate in Fresh Air Community of Faith, a young progressive church in which we are charter members."

### 7 - 10 P.M.

Read, watch TV or attend an athletic event one of the grandchildren might be playing in. "Before falling asleep, I try to catch up on some reading—periodicals, progressive Christianity, or math and science related. I often play a game of Tetris on an old Gameboy because it clears my head."



# M/W/F OR T/TH 8 A.M.

Wake. Spend an hour in bed scrolling Instagram admiring colorful city murals, creative photo manipulation and the “solipsistic yet aesthetic art of marketing your own ‘brand.’”

## 9–11 A.M.

Kickboxing or elliptical at the Y. Shower, eat a deconstructed sandwich or cold veggie hotdogs while watching Netflix reruns, select an outfit for work. “I’m into fashion and its myriad social, historical and environmental implications.”

## 11 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Arrive on campus to teach writing, literature and how to “adapt language, thought process and research skills to the shifting rhetorics in our digital society.” Hold office hours, grade small assignments, attempt to advise students on degree and life plans. Curate the drama section of *Southern Indiana Review*. Preside over a board meeting of WillowTree of Posey County, an advocacy center for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

## 6 – 10 P.M.

Explore Evansville’s food, bars and art scenes, participate in local theatre community, “I do some kind of theatre exercise, whether that be as an actor, playwright, musician, stage manager, designer, audience member or critic.” Attend a club meeting: Evansville Swing Cat, Bourbon Society or Uke.

## 10 P.M. – MIDNIGHT

Grade papers, work on own current creative projects, pay bills, plan out-of-town adventures via Airbnb. “For the past two years, I’ve been on a ‘life-share’ kick. Depending on the kindness of strangers does spark some joy within me.”

## MIDNIGHT – 2 A.M.

Shower and bed with a crossword puzzle or book. Check Facebook—passively catching up with friends and news. Asleep by two. “I can’t remember my dreams. They are blurry, like there’s a Hefe filter around the edges.”



*Yu-Li Alice Shen*, instructor in English, is an award-winning playwright and consummate giving millennial. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, she’s written four full-length, four one-act and three 10-minute plays. Two were produced in Evansville. Alice’s days are long and packed with academics, meetings, theatre, friends and more. “I’m in contact with my students and colleagues almost constantly. It’s a point of pride with me. I review and amend lesson plans, attend department/committee meetings or participate in professional development/training sessions. Ten minutes before class, I sit in my office, in the dark, and relish the calm before the storm.”

# COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



“I have a friend from college who jokes that I never left school. I go to *poetry* readings, science lectures, *world culture* celebrations and post pictures on social media as if I were still a student myself. Maybe it’s a crutch—never *exiting* the comforting womb of academe or the manufactured world of image-making. But maybe there’s just never a lack of new and beautiful things to *learn* and *appreciate*.”





Photo: Roberto Campos

"My fears are that I'll miss out on a great *opportunity* in life and become stagnant. This leads me to try and *pursue* whatever opportunities are presented to me—friendships, *experiences* and especially things off the beaten path."



*Roberto Campos '14*, journalism, is a communication specialist for a civil engineering company by day, with a side hustle passion for photographing music festivals and shows on nights and weekends. "Photographing a festival can be a mad rush. It's a lot of waiting with spurts of intense action trying to capture vivid moments in a short amount of time in unideal conditions—temperature, packed photo pits, lousy angles, etc. I love it." This passion has allowed him to travel domestically and abroad, a taste he acquired as a USI exchange student in Japan.

## SATURDAY - SUNDAY

### 9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Get up, drink mint tea, recheck packed gear—Canon camera and lens, Polaroid, notebook, SD cards, hard drives/ computers, clothes. Drive to Chicago. Look for free parking.

### 2 - 9 P.M.

Pick up press pass at festival media tent, wait in line to get into photo pit. Photo the first three songs allowed then rush to next stage to wait in line. Rinse and repeat until festival day ends. "I can usually sneak in food and a beer here and there."

### 9 P.M. - 2:30 A.M.

Head to after-show or bar with media friends. "We often discuss the trials and tribulations of what we do, how the advent of things like Instagram have desensitized people to the value of what we provide as photographers."

### 2:30 - 7:30 A.M.

Friend's house to sleep on floor/couch, charge iPhone, load SD card to MacBook Pro to transfer while sleeping, charge camera battery for next day.

### 7:30 - 9:30 A.M.

Wake and check images transferred, delete previous day's photos from SD card, shower.

### 9:30 - 11 A.M.

Edit and post three to five images on social media. "I go through the photos from the day before, write down the file numbers of the photos I'd like to edit, usually 15-20. I shoot around 250 per three songs, 10% of which are usable."

### 11 A.M.

Pack gear for second festival day, get breakfast/lunch at the festival, apply sunscreen—being sunburnt isn't fun while photographing. Repeat another day filled with amazing music, hopefully capturing amazing moments, and trying not to take a single moment for granted. Drive home.

Bulk editing photos. "Deadlines are Tuesday nights usually. I edit using Adobe Photoshop and upload photos to Dropbox to share the file with the publication that I'm covering the show or festival for, *NUVO* or *My Old Kentucky Blog*, usually.



# MONDAY - THURSDAY

5:45 A.M.

Wake to Benny (dwarf rabbit) digging at bed's blanket. Coffee, breakfast, fill water bottles and bladder, pack lunch, second breakfast and snacks. Feed and water Benny and Sandy (dwarf hamster).

7 - 7:30 A.M.

Arrive at office to pick up geographic information system (GIS) maps for that day's work site, and any other equipment. Gas up the truck and head out to field.

7:30 A.M. - NOON

Patrol known raptor territories or proposed timber sale sites. On raptor patrol—Northern Goshawk, Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, Osprey—surveying for active nest occupation. Listen for raptors, inspect ground for whitewash (bird poo), feathers, bones, dead prey, etc. Look out for silent birds flying around. "Northern Goshawks are aggressive, territorial raptors, and I am required to wear a hard hat and safety glasses." Eat a snack, more raptor or timber-sale site surveys, making sure there are no sensitive/endangered species or habitats that need protection—Oreohelix (snails), raptors, snakes, Horned Lizards, beavers, etc. in the sale sites.

NOON - 12:30 P.M.

Lunch in the field.

12:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Continue surveys, assist in building steel gates of closed caves/mines—confirmed White Nose Syndrome in bats, eat snacks.

"My baby this year is the Pollinator Project! There's not been much research or monitoring on the Black Hills with pollinators, specifically butterflies and bees."

6 - 9:30 P.M.

Return home, fix dinner, water porch garden, feed Benny, play with Sandy, fish for trout at nearby lakes with a worm and bobber, prep for next work day. Trivia at the local Irish pub Thursday nights.

9:30 P.M.

Bedtime. "Benny hops up and does laps on my bed, maybe licks my forehead, then hops down to his bed next to mine—his nightly routine—which signals to me it's time to sleep."

# SPEARFISH, SOUTH DAKOTA

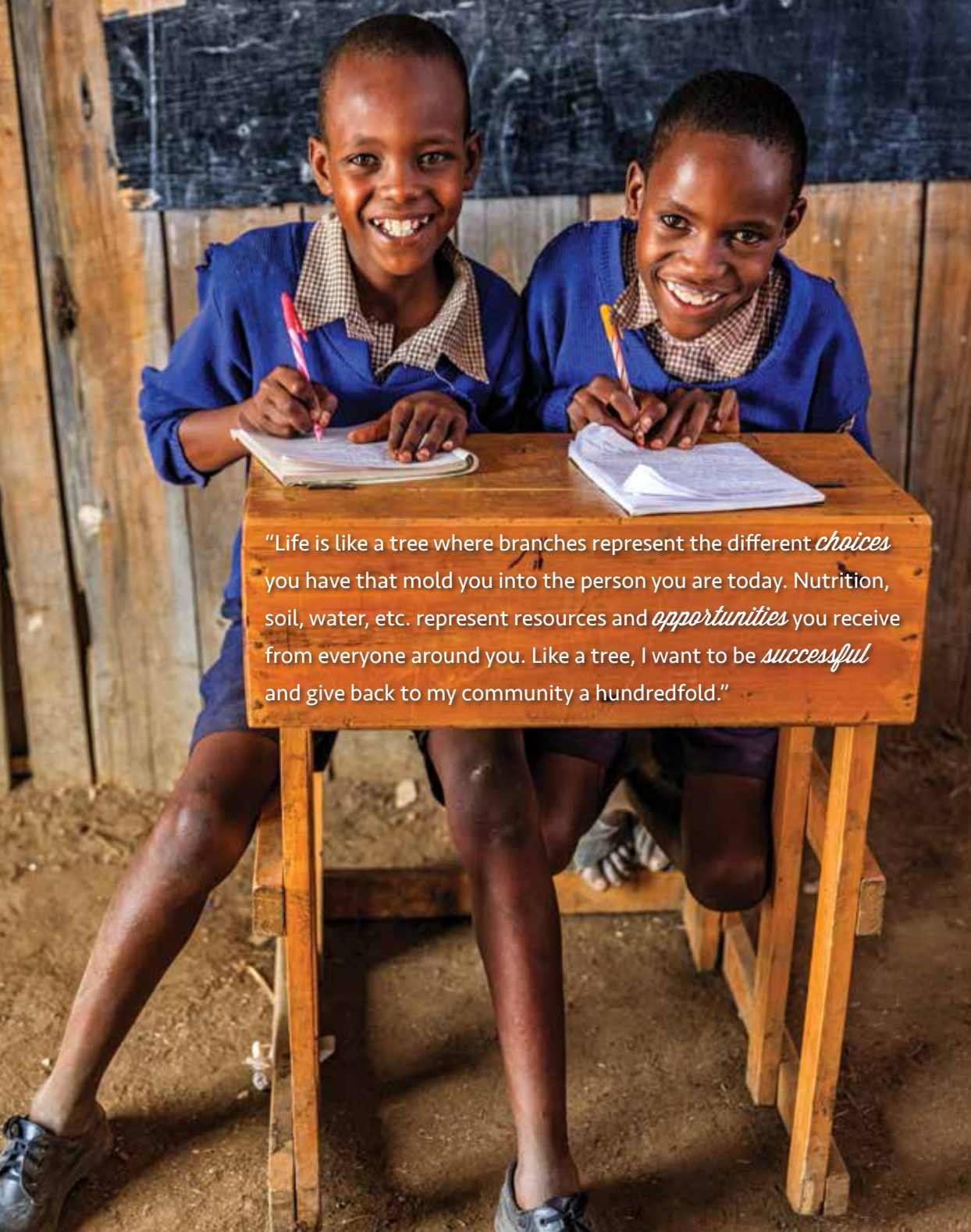


*Rachel Bacher '17*, environmental science, feels most alive when she is out in the woods alone working as a biological science technician for the Black Hills National Forest or hiking to the top of a mountain on weekends where she can see for miles. Her work, surveying raptor habitats for activity, has led to some dangerous situations, like an attack from a Northern Goshawk during a seasonal position in Michigan in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. "This goshawk was relentless. It kept hitting the back of my head with its feet and wings, even when I ran behind a tree."



"I strive to follow the *path* that makes me the happiest and has the most *impact*, whether that is with people, the world or just my community. Life has taught me that *nothing is guaranteed*. Nothing will be handed to you on a silver platter without hard work and determination. Life is unfair; how you deal with it determines who you are and how far you'll go in *life*."





"Life is like a tree where branches represent the different *choices* you have that mold you into the person you are today. Nutrition, soil, water, etc. represent resources and *opportunities* you receive from everyone around you. Like a tree, I want to be *successful* and give back to my community a hundredfold."



*Jean Marie Uwimana '20*, a triple major—mathematics, economics and computer science—with an 18-hour credit load who was born on the road to Zimbabwe, as his parents and 10 siblings fled the horrors of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. Although he has never met one of his seven brothers (but hopes to after graduation), he talks to another one daily about how far they've come since the Tongogara Refugee Camp in Zimbabwe and gets updates on their parents. He and a high school friend, Panashe, started the nonprofit AfriCan to educate, expose and empower high school students in Zimbabwe. "We do what we do to challenge the status quo that certain career paths are more valuable than others."

## MONDAY - SUNDAY 6-9 A.M.

Wake and run solo or with Screaming Eagles Running Team, training for 5K, 7K and 10K USI-hosted runs. Shower and check to-do list. If nothing is labeled "urgent," walk to the Loft for breakfast, read email, Yahoo Finance or listen to Ramin Djawadi's song *Light of the Seven*.

### 9 A.M. - NOON

Classes, meet with professors, check to-do list and complete tasks during class breaks. "I might have something like: Finish *Along Came A Spider*, book room for TechInclusion meeting or call mom etc. As I cancel out completed tasks, it feels great, no matter how small the task. Somedays, small wins make my day."

### NOON - 12:15 P.M.

Lunch at Chick-fil-A, Fiesta Fuego or The Loft. "Adjusting to new food was tough when I came to the United States. I stick to the food I know is good for me."

### 12:15 - 4:30 P.M.

Classes or job in Provost Office, touch base with Panashe in Zimbabwe on AfriCan projects, meet with professors. "I have amazing professors who are flexible and meet with me during my available hours. Juggling three majors, I take all the help I can get from my professors."

### 4:30 - 5 P.M.

Dinner in The Loft, mostly pasta, then study. If it's Friday, play pool or the video game FIFA with friends.

### 5 - 10 P.M.

Study in library's quiet room, cell on silent and out of sight. "I take study intervals of two hours because studying for long hours yields diminishing returns. I take 30 minutes to an hour breaks." Check to see daily tasks are complete. "If nothing is urgent, I read the book on my list. I always have an interesting book on my list, because growing up I never had novels or books to read."

### MIDNIGHT

Meditate for five to 10 minutes. "I sleep for six hours and then another beautiful day to be alive begins."



# MONDAY - SUNDAY

6:30 - 8 A.M.

Wake, eat breakfast—fried egg and avocado on toast—one cup of coffee with a splash of almond milk. Pack lunch if not done day before. Get ready while listening to podcasts: *Sawbones*, *Thoughtline*, *Hidden Brain*, *Planet Money*.

8 - 9 A.M.

Arrive on campus, plan the day, respond to emails, contact professors, take a walk or review notes for exams.

9 A.M. - NOON

Classes in major Monday/Wednesday/Friday, nonmajor classes Tuesday/Thursday. Lead Student Ambassador Organization tours. "I wanted to give back to USI, which worked out perfectly, since SAO is a volunteer position. I love being a member of this organization because I get to help foster curiosity and hopefully spark a passion in high school students."

NOON - 1:30 P.M.

Lunch from home or sushi from Simply to Go, Chick-fil-A, Red Mango in the Redwood Lounge or Chemistry Student Lounge. Relax, indulging in Netflix or Hulu: *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, *Shameless*, *New Girl*.

1:30 - 5 P.M.

Chemistry or biology labs. "We get to do a lot of interesting experiments at USI, and this time allows students and professors to get to know each other a lot better."

5 - 7 P.M.

Dinner packed from home and club meetings—American Chemical Society, Timmy Global Health. "Everyone in these organizations is extremely passionate about what we do. It's great to be in an environment where we feel like we can make a difference."


7 - 10:30 P.M.

Library's fourth floor to study in a cubby or table next to a window. "I always make sure I have a dry erase board with markers to study." Weekends—dinner with friends, watch a movie and hang out.

10:30 - 11 P.M.

Go home, brush teeth, wash face, put on pajamas and bed.



*Janvi Asthana '20*, biochemistry, is one of only four students in her incoming class to be awarded a B/MD scholarship. In addition to her academics, she is a volunteer in the Student Ambassador Organization, giving tours to potential high school students interested in USI and sharing her college experiences with them. She's involved with professional student chemistry organizations and has gone on a medical mission trip with USI's Timmy Global Health chapter. "As I educate myself, I try to think about how I can do my part in mitigating current issues in the world." 

"I am carving out a path where I can continue to *grow* as a person and continue to make myself better. If all goes well, the path will lead me to *achieve* my *aspirations*—both personal and professional. "





# TRAVERSING THE COST OF EDUCATION

BY C. L. STAMBUSH

## SETTING OUT

In many ways, Morgan Murphy's story is both unique and common. It began with a dream in a little house in Seymour, Indiana. One of six children, she grew up watching her mother ration her stepfather's paycheck into envelopes labeled food, housing, transportation, entertainment and such, and being told she'd one day earn a college education. "It was my mother's dream for me to go to college," she says, "so I made sure I had the grades I needed to get in."

The grades depended on the subjects. Morgan breezed through language arts classes, easily retaining the information, but STEM courses were challenging. "I have always pushed myself to get the best grades I could in both high school and college," she says. "The first time I got a C in geometry in high school, I went home and cried because I was so disappointed in myself."

Morgan graduated high school with academic honors—the start of her and her mother's dream shimmering at the end of summer. Months before, the two toured three Indiana institutions: a community college, a Big Ten and USI. "I had never been away from my family for more than a few nights, so going to school close to home appealed to me. I looked into IU because of the programs it offered," she says. Images of having to sprint across a campus the size of a small city in 10 minutes, however, flashed through her mind. When she visited USI, it beckoned like Shangri-La. "I fell in love with the campus; it's so beautiful. The size fit my personality."

As a first-generation student, Morgan arrived on campus in a bubble of excitement, anticipation and trepidation in early August 2015—with her parents, brothers, grandparents, furniture and more in





tow—and settled into O’Bannon Residence Hall. She’d received a 21st Century Scholars award in the eighth grade which covered her academic costs, but living necessities required federal loans. Debt.

Still, with her mother’s devotion to financial awareness ingrained in her psyche, Morgan was confident she could manage. “When I came to USI, I wasn’t the best at budgeting, but I had common sense,” she says. “If I didn’t have the money, I didn’t spend the money.”

Because she grew up on a shoestring, she selected a major that offered a solid financial future. “I went into dental hygiene because I wanted a profession I thought my family could be proud of. I always loved English, and I wanted to be an author when I was younger,

but I was told by my grandparents that it wasn’t a stable profession and I should look into others that would provide more money.”

Even though science classes weren’t Morgan’s strength, she settled into her new life thinking, *I got this*. Then, two weeks before spring registration, she received notification from the Bursar’s Office that she owed USI \$2,500. Somehow her FASFA\* form contained misinformation, including transposed figures in her social security number. “My financial aid wasn’t coming through properly, so some of the grants and scholarships I qualified for were no longer available,” she says. She wouldn’t be able to register for more classes until she paid the bill, but she didn’t have the funds. The dream began to dim. “I was terrified. I thought that was going to be the end of my college career,” she says. “I didn’t know what I was supposed to do.”

\* Free Application for Federal Student Aid



## SCALING THE IMPOSSIBLE

What to do is the question the Bursar's Office grapples with too, as currently-enrolled students owe USI a few million dollars—a figure in constant flux. The reasons for not paying vary. Some, like Morgan, have financial aid withheld due to problems with their FASFA form, some aren't prepared for the actual cost of attending college, some lose financial support when family circumstances change, some don't have jobs to generate incomes, and some don't want to take out educational loans for fear of going into debt, failing to understand unpaid bills amount to debt. "Some of them have true financial need and for some of them it's behavioral," says Jeff Sickman '94 M'00, USI controller and assistant treasurer.

A snapshot of students' accounts receivable in March 2019 revealed 1,460 students owe between \$1,000 and \$5,000 each, totaling \$10.5 million. When they received notifications of holds a month later, 54% were motivated to pay in full. "We had almost \$3 million in payments," says Jeff. "That tells us there is a group of students intentionally not paying their bills...and were incentivized by the holds."

If those who owe don't pay their bills—thus severing their relationship with the University—their files are referred to a third-party collection agency the following semester. The agency sends a letter stating the person has 30 days to pay before collection fees start racking up. "We like to avoid doing this because once you send somebody to collection, their likelihood of coming back to USI to reenroll is not good," Jeff says.

Those who made no attempt to pay and are no longer affiliated with the institution owe \$5 million. The recovery rate on accounts that go to collection is about 15%, resulting in an 85% loss for the University. These arrears are not unique to USI; every college in the country faces a percentage of people owing. "This is not insanely high for the higher-education industry, but it's higher than it used to be," Jeff says. "USI has a stable financial picture, which is good in today's higher education environment. However, when you see trends emerging in the opposite direction of what you are used to, you jump into action."

Many institutions require tuition payment up-front. That's not USI's way—but it doesn't want to chase remuneration either. "We try to remember the students we serve. We have a lot of first-generation students, so we like to extend the ability to pay over time, but sometimes a payment plan isn't enough," says Jeff. "Sometimes they simply haven't completed the steps necessary to get the aid they are entitled to; they don't understand the system, so they made a decision that wasn't in their best interest. The idea is to get them paying earlier so we can more quickly identify people in financial distress, to get them the resources and support available to help them."

Stress derails education, impacts students' mental and physical health, and increases the risk of disenfranchising them from the University. They are going to be saddled with debt they might have avoided, with no educational accomplishments to show for it. "Nobody wins in that scenario," says Jeff.

## MOUNTAINS TO CONQUER

Students in need of financial assistance show up in Mary Jo Harper's office. They're predominately middle class and eligible for loans, says the director of student financial assistance. "Only 30% are eligible for Pell Grants, and of them only about 5% receive the maximum\*\* award."

The cost of in-state tuition for 30 credit hours (15 per semester) per academic year is \$7,986, plus miscellaneous fees. Students can receive up to \$5,500 in federal loans, leaving a \$2,486 gap, plus the cost-of-living expenses. "That gap can be filled by making payments or a parent taking out a Parent PLUS Loan," says Mary Jo, "but it has to be filled."

Funding a college education is the most complex path in higher ed because there are so many different types of financial aid—federal aid has nine programs, the State of Indiana has eight, in addition to institutional and Foundation aid, and NCAA and athletic aid. There are loans and work-studies too, for qualifying students. "Our job is to determine exactly what types of aid the student is eligible for, and how we can best serve their financial need," says Mary Jo. "Our priority is to garner as much gift aid as possible, which students do not have to pay back."

To help students navigate the financial aid system and generate more funding for college, the department refined its communications to send notifications of critical information both electronically and physically at various timeline trigger points. The result has been a decrease in people showing up in financial crisis, but the process remains daunting for first-timers.

Since the phrase FASFA form is enough to give some people an eye twitch, the Department of Education took steps to simplify the filing process—the biggest change being which year's tax return is filed with the form. Until 2016, the prior year's return was required with a filing date in January. But many people hadn't completed their 1040s, which weren't due until April 15. Now the government allows two-year-prior returns with the FASFA filing date October 1. "This allows students to know in advance what type of aid they will get," says Mary Jo. "It allows us as administrators to send out award letters as early as December."

The government further eased the process in 2018 with the launch of Mobile FASFA for use in the 2019-2020 academic year, making it convenient for 300,000 more students to file than had in the previous year.

Getting an education is part of the American Dream for many, yet the ability to achieve it without debilitating debt is fading for more and more. Earlier this year, the Institute for College Access and Success reported 44 million borrowers nationally owe \$1.5 trillion collectively. Morgan and 49% of her USI peers are among those who leave with debt. Despite USI's affordability compared to other institutions, any debt can be difficult for recent graduates.

Raised to pay-as-you-go, Morgan's simple mistakes on her FASFA form jeopardized her dream. She didn't have a credit card or enough savings to

\*\* \$6,195 in 2019-2020

\*\*\* The national average undergraduate student debt is \$28,288.



pay her balance, and she worried she was letting her mother down. Fortunately, her grandparents were able to float her a loan. “It definitely taught me that no matter how financially aware you are, there are always going to be problems that come up,” she says. “You have to deal with them.”

Not everyone does, and when some don't pay, their debt trickles down to future dreamers, increasing *their* cost of education.

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Creating barriers to education is not in the interest of the students, the institution, the community, the city, the state or the nation. The first step USI took toward success was to shift billing dates to align with USI's percent refund period, a seemingly small act aimed to help ensure students don't overextend their financial obligations by taking classes they can't afford. “We are aligning our bill due date with the 100% refund period beginning in fall 2019,” says Jeff. “The idea is to identify students with financial difficulties earlier. The current due date of September 25 did not allow sufficient time for outreach and action before priority registration for the next term.”

Next, the University sought fundamental solutions that focused on supporting students before they defaulted on their financial obligations to USI by creating two independent, but connected, services. The Financial Care Team addresses University-related financial matters and the Student Financial Success Center provides students with financial education and mentoring. “It's not a single distribution channel solution,” says Jeff. “This is a comprehensive effort.”

The Care Team is a cross-functional initiative consisting of 15 to 20 people from 13 offices, ranging from the Bursar's Office and Dean of Students, to the Provost's Office and USI Foundation. The goal is both long- and short-term student financial, mental, emotional and physical wellness that results in recruitment, retention, success, accessibility and affordability for all students. “It's not about University versus student. This is University and student walking together to help both the student and the institution be successful,” says Jeff, “so we can keep the price manageable and affordable and be able to offer new programming and grow the institution.”

Wholistic education is at the heart of the team's purpose and it starts with providing students and families support and financial literacy skills says Jeff, who credits Steve Bridges '88 M'95, vice president for finance and administration, with the idea. “Right now, we have a cultural change to undertake. Having students pay is not antithetical to their success, it's part of their success because it's about barrier elimination.”

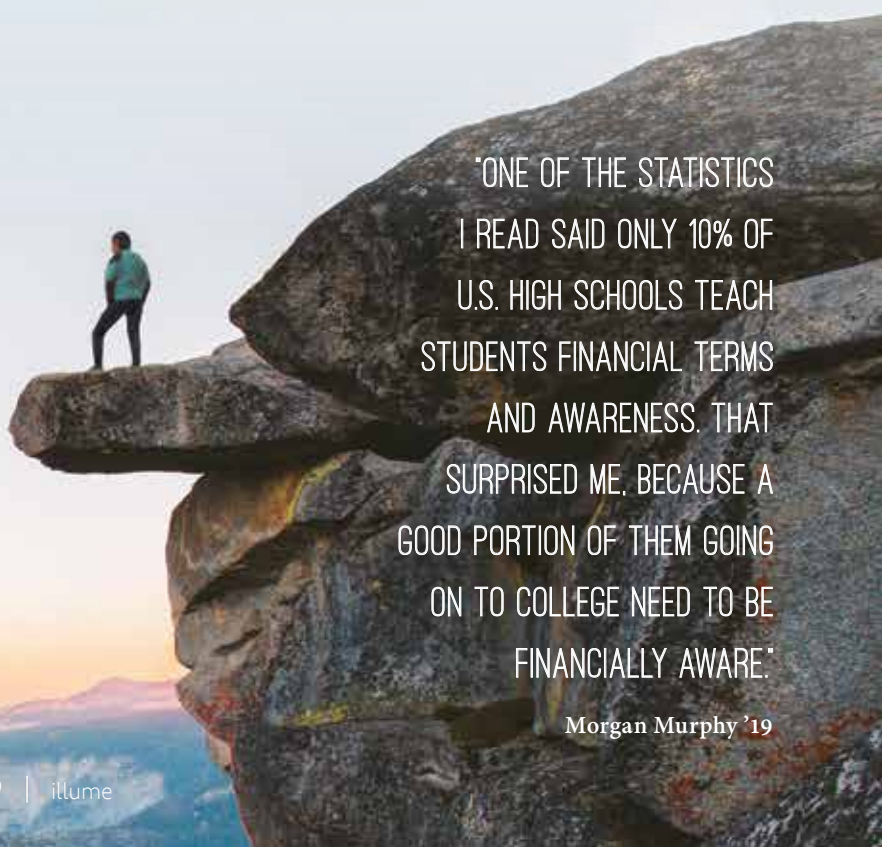
The barrier Morgan once faced led her to become part of the solution when Shawn Robey, instructor in finance, noticed her pecuniary acumen. Morgan and Jordan Winka '20, finance, were hired for the Student Financial Success Center last fall and trained to mentor students, using Dave

Ramsey's Financial Coach Master Training online program. “It's not our job to hand them \$20,” she says. “We have to teach them how to deal with money. How to budget. Otherwise, once they leave the office they will go right back to their old ways.”

Breaking cyclical behavior and establishing new pathways to financial success won't be simple. When the office opened last fall, students in precarious financial positions were contacted and offered mentoring and a course in financial awareness. Three accepted the assistance. The Care Team paused and pivoted, putting the two mentors to work creating marketing material, a website, a budget template and more, to realign the approach to reach students in need through awareness.

Keeping students on track to reach their goals and not accrue unsustainable debt requires involvement from everyone in USI's community, and this fall the Financial Care Team cast a wider educational net to develop resources and encourage faculty and staff to alert the team to students in financial distress using an online referral form. “Our enthusiasm on campus for engaging and helping people is very encouraging,” says Jeff. “People really do care.”

Morgan's education included lessons beyond the classroom that threatened to torpedo her dream—but didn't. She graduated *cum laude* this spring with a degree in English and a minor in business administration, and is working on embarking on a career as a medical technical writer, a path that will blend the science courses from her initial dental hygiene major with her love of writing and English degree. Yet, despite her scholarships and work-studies, she owes the government \$27,000\*\*\*. “It scares me to have to pay that money back, because it is a substantial amount,” she says, “but I also feel relieved that I got something out of it. There is a difference between going into debt and not receiving anything as a result, and going into debt for a purpose.”



“ONE OF THE STATISTICS I READ SAID ONLY 10% OF U.S. HIGH SCHOOLS TEACH STUDENTS FINANCIAL TERMS AND AWARENESS. THAT SURPRISED ME, BECAUSE A GOOD PORTION OF THEM GOING ON TO COLLEGE NEED TO BE FINANCIALLY AWARE.”

Morgan Murphy '19

# THE SCAVENGER HUNT

## LANDS

Phase I of the Screaming Eagles Complex—which includes the newly constructed Arena—was a long time coming, but its completion reflects the significant support and confidence USI has in its athletic teams and programs. The 90,000-square-foot arena has 4,800 seats, four box seats, three basketball and three volleyball courts, a spirit store, three concessions stands and more. Phase II, currently under way, includes a 25,000-square-foot Aquatic Center with a diving well, eight competitive and two warm-up lanes, and bench seating for 200 spectators, as well as renovation and expansion of the former Physical Actives Center (PAC), including additional instruction space for high-demand academic programs.

By  
C. L. Stambush  
and  
Dana Tang '17 M'19

## HOME COURT

USI's Men's and Women's Basketball and Volleyball teams have a new court now, but across the years the teams have had a succession of home courts that were anywhere but home. In the past 50 years, they've played at Plaza Park Elementary School (1968-1971), Roberts Municipal Stadium (1971-1974), Old Central High School Gymnasium (1974-1980), Old Central High School Gymnasium (1974-1980) and the PAC (1980-2018).

Roberts Municipal Stadium



Old Central High School Gymnasium



PAC



Throughout the journey, USI's teams have had champion players, coaches and you, the fans. Score yourself a seat and relive your own glory days at [usi.edu/Arena](http://usi.edu/Arena).

Plaza Park Elementary School's gym was the site of USI's first Men's Basketball game. It was against Lockyear Business College on November 13, 1968.



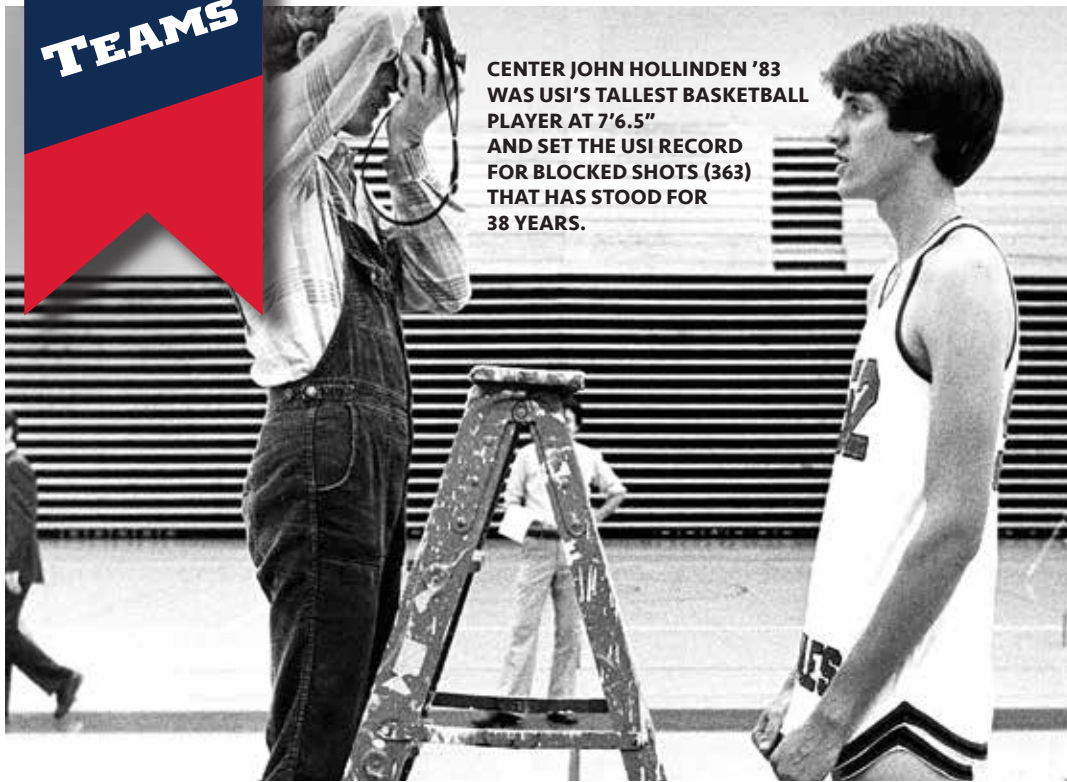


**“THERE’S NOSTALGIA FOR THE OLD TIMES AND THE OLD COURT, BUT WE TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING WE WERE A PART OF CREATING WHAT’S COMING.”**

Marc Hostetter '97

- Old Central High School Gymnasium (formerly the Downtown YMCA) basketball court was resurfaced and lengthened for college basketball to host USI's games, and the interior repainted USI red, white and blue.
- The PAC was originally called the Health and Physical Education Recreation (HPER) building, with a capacity of 3,300 (1980-2006) before being remodeled with all chairbacks to hold 2,278 spectators.
- The first Men's Basketball game at Central was against the Franklin College Grizzlies on December 14, 1974.
- Roberts Municipal Stadium's 13,000 seats didn't intimidate USI's 50 basketball fans who passionately and vocally showed up at games.
- USI's Screaming Eagles Arena is designed for games, with front-row seating 12 feet from the court's action.

## TEAMS



**CENTER JOHN HOLLINDEN '83 WAS USI'S TALLEST BASKETBALL PLAYER AT 7'6.5" AND SET THE USI RECORD FOR BLOCKED SHOTS (363) THAT HAS STOOD FOR 38 YEARS.**

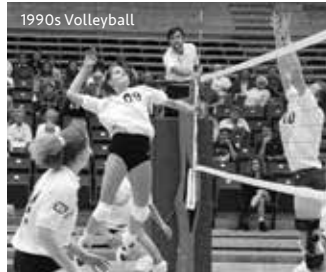
## COACHES



Spartans



Freeland



1990s Volleyball



Dugan



Boltinghouse

**"[JOHN HOLLINDEN] MAY NOT HAVE DOMINATED TO SOME PEOPLE'S STANDARDS, BUT HE DID FOR ME. HE WAS THE MAIN REASON WE WENT TO TWO STRAIGHT N.C.A.A. TOURNEYS AND HE ENDED UP MAKING ALL-AMERICAN."**

Former Coach Wayne Boltinghouse

**"ONCE YOU'RE A CHAMPION, YOU**

The Men's Basketball team was originally called The Spartans (1968-1970) but was renamed the Screaming Eagles because many students were returning from Vietnam and the student body wanted a team with a patriotic name.

Four basketball players have broken the 2,000-point record: Stephen Jackson '87, Chris Bowles '94, LeAnn Freeland '97 and Alex Stein '18. Freeland was a scoring machine, leading the pack as the all-time scorer with 2,269 career points.

Forward Stan Gouard '00 was nicknamed "Superman Stan" for his spectacular dunks and was NCAA II Player of the Year in 1995 and 1996.

Volleyball had just seven players on the team in 2000, yet they achieved the program's highest winning percentage .875 (28-4).

Women's Basketball teams have had three sets of twins: Annetta '96 M'03 and Jeanette Elkin '95, Lora '07 and Lydia Copelin, Becky and Janet Braun '87. Volleyball had twins Amy and Angie Hughes.

John Deem (1968-1970) was the coach of the first Men's Basketball teams the Spartans and Jerry Altstadt (1970-1974) was the coach of USI's first intercollegiate Men's Basketball teams.

Wayne Boltinghouse (1974-1981) jumpstarted Men's Basketball with the team's first NCAA II Tournament appearance and win in 1978.

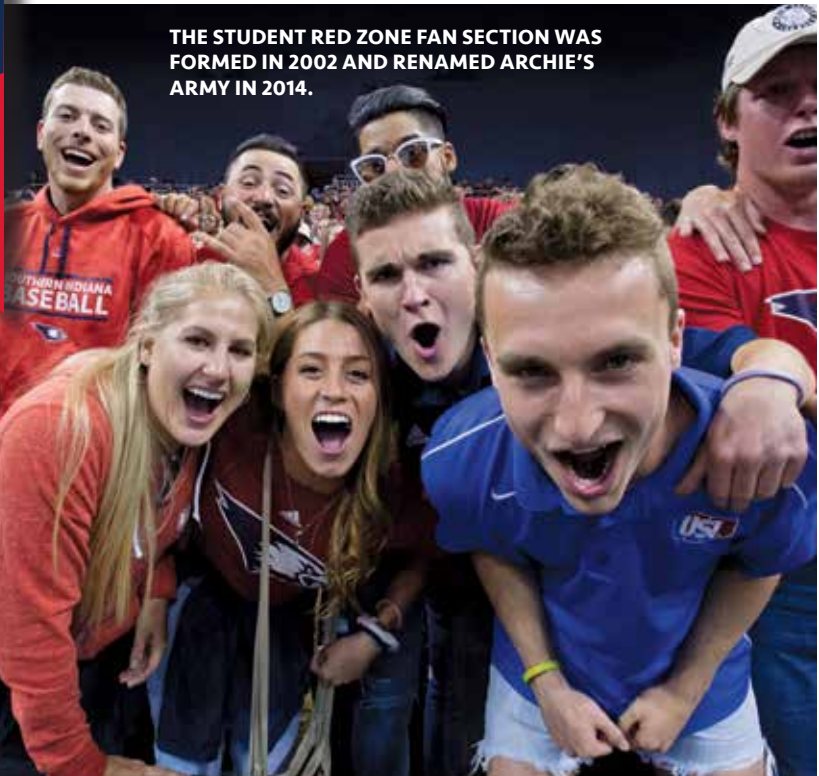
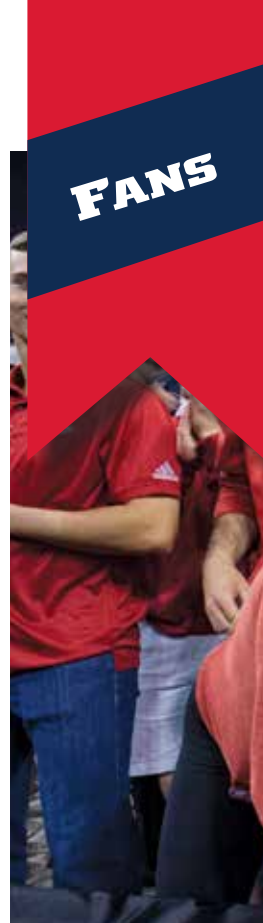
Ruth Ann Waller (1975-1985) established and pioneered women's athletics at USI and was the first head coach for Women's Basketball.





Stein

THERE HAVE BEEN 10 MEN'S BASKETBALL, 6 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AND 12 VOLLEYBALL COACHES SINCE 1970.



THE STUDENT RED ZONE FAN SECTION WAS FORMED IN 2002 AND RENAMED ARCHIE'S ARMY IN 2014.



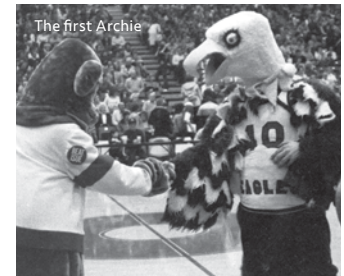
Waller



1973 cheer team



Douglas



The first Archie

**"DURING THE [CENTRAL GYMNASIUM] GAMES, THE ARE A CHAMPION FOR LIFE." DEAFENING NOISE OF 2,000 FANS REVERBERATED OFF THE WALLS, SOUNDING MORE LIKE 10,000."**

Former Men's Basketball Head Coach Bruce Pearl

Doug Claybourn '77, communication, his family boasts three generations of Screaming Eagles fans

Bruce Pearl (1992-2001), the eighth men's coach, delivered USI's first national championship in 1995.

Chancellor Dugan (1991-1999) was a swimmer in high school, yet she turned USI's Women's Basketball program into a national power, and was the second winningest coach in its history (159-73).

USI's first cheerleaders hit the court in 1973. Seven tried out and four were selected for their grace, poise, loud voice, made-up cheer and gymnastic abilities.

There have been six evolutions of Archibald T. Eagle.



Custodial employee James "Champ" Douglas was a huge fan who beat his drum at the games to inspire the Eagles and frustrate opponents. He was dedicated to USI for 31 years and walked from downtown Evansville to campus before there was reliable bus transportation.

The Varsity Club has raised more than \$4 million for athletic scholarships since 1986.

Archie's Army member Drew Deas '18 would shout "Birds of the forest unite!" as a cue for students to make random squawks and caws during opponents' free throws and volley serves.







4



1

CHOP 1/2 LB. BROWNE	1.75 A
LIGHTER NATURAL CREAM	1.75 A
STEAK FAMILY PIE	1.75 A
KILN ROAST SALMON FILLETS	2.89 A
KILN ROAST SALMON FILLETS	2.89 A
KILN ROAST SALMON FILLETS	2.89 A
SMOKED SALMON 200G	2.85 A
LASAGNE 1KG	2.69 A
AEROSOL CREAM	2.99 A
LEAN BEEF MINCE 500G	3.99 A



# BEHIND THE SCENE

The Food and Nutrition Program's high-end, industrial kitchen on the Health Professions Center's third floor wasn't created for culinary cooking (although that occurs), it was designed for thinking and learning. Those studying for careers in the three Food and Nutrition concentrations offered—food service management, dietetics, and nutrition and wellness—are equipped with the knowledge and technological skills necessary to excel in the food management and dietetic needs of school corporations, businesses, hospitals, senior living facilities and anywhere large quantities of food are prepared and served. Through engaged classrooms with smart technology and

hands-on practicums, students learn alongside USI food service employees on campus, from cultural-nutritional consultants in the kitchen's five food prep stations and Vanderburgh County Health Department food inspectors in the field. The program ensures everyone gains expertise in menu conception, recipe adaptation, budgeting, purchasing, service and more. Steeped in both food and science knowledge, students are skilled operators of leading-edge equipment and possess the ability to assess the role that behavior and economics have on planning and eating healthy diets. Since 2001, 100% of USI's Food and Nutrition students have passed the national ServSafe exam.

1. While the meal is the main event, developing food service management skills—finance, budgeting and purchasing know-how—are the foundation to ensuring food operations succeed and that quality, safe food is served.
2. Living in a global world means preparing cultural dishes and knowing their nutritional values. Students are educated by consulting chefs on ingredients, the history behind their use and cultural relevance.
3. Texture, taste and temperature play a large role in food prepared for people of all ages and health conditions. Understanding how to prepare food for people with diet-related diseases—such as cancer patients and the special needs of periodontal patients—is distinctive.
4. The cooking capacity of this equipment is unparalleled. The kitchen is designed so many pieces of equipment can be brought in for on-site teaching demos as well as remote video instructions.
5. Everything from menu conception and knowing how to prepare a quality, high-quantity meal from scratch, to adjusting a recipe to fit specific nutritional needs and correcting an ingredient mishap while remaining cost effective, are all part of the knowledge gained.
6. Traditional, large institutions aren't the only career options for Food and Nutrition students. Those with entrepreneurial spirits receive the skills necessary to strike out on their own to build a fleet of food trucks, open a boutique restaurant or become the snack curator for a company such as Google.





## EXPERT ADVICE

Your art may not be as extensive as USI's 3,500-ish pieces, or valued for as much, but you love it and want to preserve it too. Susan Colaricci Sauls, director of University Art Collections, has cared for the institution's multi-million-dollar collection since 2005. Here is her expert advice on how you can care for your art.



Susan Colaricci Sauls M'16, director of University Art Collections, holds a bachelor's degree in art with associated studies of business from the University of Evansville and a master's degree in public administration, non-profit administration from USI. With an arts or cultural heritage administration career, she never has the same day twice.

### PLACEMENT

Environment for artwork involves light and air quality. In this instance, artwork may be compared to people. If the light feels bright to your eyes or warm on your face, it will to the artwork. If your skin is dry or sweaty, your artwork may experience it as well.

Natural light coming through a window and the artificial light of a lamp or overhead lighting causes the pigment of artwork to fade and stains of wood to naturally bleach. Protect these items with light-filtering or blocking window coverings and keep items out of the spotlight of lighting fixtures.

Be sure to monitor air quality and temperature within your home. A steady temperature is best; not too humid or too dry. Humidity can add moisture to paper causing it to curl. While humidity isn't good, you also don't want it to be so dry that it wicks any natural moisture out of the artwork, causing it to become dry and brittle.

How to keep the environment art-friendly:

- Use UV glass, also called museum glass, for framed artwork to block damaging light.

- Monitor artwork inside the frame for signs of damage like fading, mold or insects.
- Prevent pockets of moisture and dust from forming behind the artwork by keeping a small space between the wall and artwork to allow for air circulation.

### CARE

Routine cleaning will enhance the look of your artwork. Dusting is your first line of defense and should be done before using any kind of damp-cleaning method. For regular cleanings of the artwork frame, an old-school feather duster or microfiber duster work well. Cleaning the glass or acrylic covering the art, also known as glazing, provides a clear view of the work. Spray cleaner onto a soft lint-free cloth first, then clean the glazing with the damp cloth.

Additional things to remember:

- For a deeper cleaning, use a soft, lint-free cloth (old t-shirts work best) that is damp with warm water and apply gentle pressure.
- Watch for any loose wood, gold leaf or paint on the frame as these could chip or break off when cleaning.

- Using ammonia-based window cleaners on Plexiglas or acrylic glazing can cause them to become cloudy, impeding a clear view of the art. Use a warm, damp cloth instead.

### INSURANCE

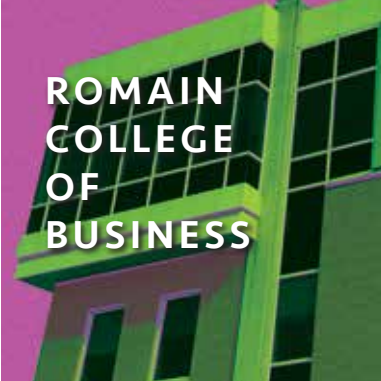
While works of art may not always be replaceable, reimbursement of the value to purchase another work of art is the benefit of insurance. Homeowner's insurance may cover artwork, so you want to be sure to keep an inventory. It is easy to maintain a digital file with an image of the artwork and scanned receipts for the purchase of the artwork and framing. It is common practice for many collectors to simply create a "house art tour" on video as a record of their possessions.

An inventory should include the following information:

- Image of the artwork
- Name of the artist, title, media and size of the artwork and frame
- Receipts or the date and amount paid for the artwork and framing







## SECURING CYBER SPACE

Phishing. Malware. Ransomware. Cryptojacking. Hacking. These are just a few of the threats each of us are exposed to daily. They can steal your personal information, lockup your computer and shut down your business. When they invade corporations, worms and bugs can infiltrate data banks and Hoover up every digital detail of your life, disrupting your credit, health records, online accounts and more.

The rapid escalation of attacks in recent years has left the industry suffering from a shortage of cyber security professionals and led USI's Romain College of Business to create a new certificate aimed at combating breaches, that are predicted to cost \$6 trillion in damage annually by 2021. Students completing the Cybersecurity Certificate gain an in-depth understanding of cybersecurity through the study of behavioral, technical, operational and strategic approaches to the issues associated with cyber threats.



## GOING DIGITAL

Have you ever googled something only to have similar items show up in your Facebook feed? Every online action leaves a trail of data that can be collected, analyzed and used to predict future needs and wants. Today, data drives decision-making by providing a window in the action of businesses, consumers and societies. It is the future of business and USI's new Certificate in Data Analytics for Business offers students an in-depth understanding and hands-on experience in data analysis through experiential learning in data visualization and storytelling, the use of advanced predictive analytics tools and methods, and data management and preparation.

For more information on either the cyber security or data management for systems certificates, contact Dr. Abbas Foroughi, chair of the Management and Information Sciences Department, at aforough@usi.edu or at 812-465-1667.

## LEADERSHIP LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Three things are important to Dr. Cathy Carey, new dean of the Romain College of Business,

1. Empowerment,
2. Distinctiveness,
3. Accreditation.

There's no hierarchal order to the three because they are not separate endeavors but equally interconnected to the College's purpose, mission, vision and future.

As dean, Carey's focus will be on faculty voices, giving them a crucial role in developing and implementing the College's strategic plan to shape its path and students' futures. This collaborative connection flows into

the larger aim of ensuring the community is fully apprised about all the College can do for business and development in the region. "If we have a mantra," she said, "it would be: Everything has a business side, and we are in the business of developing that business side."

The third is to make sure the College maintains its dual AACSB accreditation—of which 5% of business colleges worldwide possess—and that prospective students are aware of this prestigious fact when seeking a college to earn their business degree. "This accreditation signifies our ongoing commitment to high quality programs that meet the needs of our students, the business community and society."

**SHE HAS FIVE RABBITS AND THREE HORSES**  
(one is a special-needs horse that wandered onto her family's property).

### DR. CAREY FUN FACTS

**LIKE HER, ALL THREE OF HER CHILDREN ARE ECONOMISTS.**

"I am excited to be joining USI and the Romain College of Business faculty, staff and administration.

As a College, we look forward to transforming lives and producing graduates with highly marketable skills and degrees in strong demand. Every industry in Evansville and the surrounding region needs employees with business savvy, whether it's through a business degree, one of our specialized certificates or community engagement activities. This is how we can give back to the region."

**SHE IS A BIG FAN OF P90X WORKOUTS.**

## FINANCIAL INFUSION

Improving health care for underserved populations in southwestern Indiana got a shot in the arm with two grants totaling \$5.4 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The two grants will focus on implementing a geriatrics workforce enhancement program and developing a nurse practitioner residency program.

The larger grant, \$3.7 million, serves to improve health outcomes for older adults in underserved communities of southwest Indiana by developing a workforce to maximize patient and family engagement and integrate geriatrics into primary care. To implement the five-year project, USI will be working with three Deaconess primary care clinics, the Deaconess Family Medicine Residency Program and two Area Agencies on Aging (SWIRCA & More and Generations).

The \$1.7 million grant will develop a residency program for nurse practitioner graduates in four primary care settings that serve rural and underserved populations.

"While experienced as registered nurses, nurse practitioner graduates have less experience in the role of advanced practice. They need additional support and training to care for the complex patient cases that present in rural and underserved communities," said Dr. Lori Phillips, USI assistant professor of nursing and project director of the HRSA grant. "This residency program will match a new nurse practitioner graduate with a preceptor to support their transition and to enhance decision making and communication skill sets, with the ultimate goal to increase the number of nurse practitioners as primary care providers in these communities."

From June 2018 to June 2019, the College of Nursing and Health Professions has received four HRSA grants totaling more than \$8 million. "These newest grants will help us continue to expand partnerships and strengthen the relationships between academia, primary care sites and health systems to improve health outcomes in southwestern Indiana," said Dr. Ann White, dean of USI's College of Nursing and Health Professions.

According to a 2011 study from Harvard and the Asian Development Bank, only 6.7% of the world's population has a college degree. It is important for all of us to appreciate the resources and opportunities we have been given, and hopefully we understand our responsibility to therefore give back to others, with our time, money, knowledge and skills, so that we can help others.

Dr. Stanley Tretter M'17  
College of Nursing and  
Health Professions  
Commencement

## S.A.N.E. SOLUTIONS FOR ASSAULTS

Caring for victims of sexual assault requires nurses trained to work with injured and traumatized individuals to provide trauma-informed, personalized care, safety planning and to collect and secure potential specimens for use in criminal trials. While larger cities in Indiana have this specialized staff—Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE)—to perform sensitive procedures, many places in rural Indiana do not share this benefit.

That's a problem the College of Nursing and Health Professions is setting out to help fix through a \$1 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to improve health care and promote healing for victims by:

- Providing more nurses with evidence-based SANE training
- Supporting professional development of forensic nurses through mentoring and workshops
- Improving collection of data in Indiana related to care of sexual assault victims
- Strengthening partnerships and developing new collaborations

"There is a real need in Indiana for training with a focus on rural and underserved communities," said Jane Friona, project director and executive director of the Southwest Indiana AHEC. "According to research, if victims don't receive specialized care initially, there can be lifelong implications, such as increased chronic disease and mental health issues. In addition, healthy victims strengthen the possibility of successful prosecutions."



## OPPORTUNITY LEADS TO ACCESS

For mechanical engineering students Josef Winkler '20 and Koby Lindner '22, the opportunity to transform knowledge into life-saving results, by building a bridge to provide a connection to health care, education and markets for the people of Mdlasomi, eSwatini in Africa, was one they couldn't pass up.

The project was a partnership with Engineers in Action (EIA)—a nonprofit, bridge-building program that provides

Winkler and Lindner worked remotely with a team of eight students from Cornell University's EIA chapter during the spring semester doing design calculations, getting to know each other and learning the process, before taking 30-hours-worth of flights, layovers and bus rides to join them at the project site. "We are starting an EIA chapter at USI and part of the learning process is to be teamed up with another chapter to work on a project together," he said.

"We are doing what's called a tag-along."

The students are 100% in charge of construction activities for the project, holding key leadership positions such as project manager, bridge engineer, etc. The EIA bridge program members and university supervisors only intervene if there are

technical issues outside of the students' expertise or safety is a concern. While in the small country, bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, the team lived with local homesteaders sleeping on the ground in freezing night temps before spending grueling days in the heat working alongside crews of local community members. They all hauled sand and rock, dug footing foundations and constructed tiers and anchors, and more, for eight weeks. "I was very impressed with our students' work ethics and dedication to the project," said Hill.

The opportunity arose when engineering alumna Holly Bartelt '12 gave a presentation on campus about her work with Bridges to Prosperity. Pott College Dean Zane Mitchell spoke to her about student involvement after her presentation, and she directed him to student-propelled EIA, an offshoot of Bridges to Prosperity that employs professionals.

USI's EIA chapter plans to bring on board students from other disciplines to collaborate with engineering students on business fundraising and cultural awareness components to fulfill its mission. "When word gets out that the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education is doing cool projects like this," Hill said, "there will be a lot of people who want to be involved."



Photo: Engineers in Action

university students the chance to make a difference in the lives of people cut off from vital resources by rivers. "This particular stretch of the Ngwempisi River had 16 people die in it in the last three years," said Dr. Jason Hill, associate professor of engineering, their USI supervisor. The Mdlasomi Suspension Bridge was approved by a licensed engineer and spans 95 meters. It directly benefits 250 homesteads and helps more than 2,500 others stranded for three to four day stretches, 60 to 90 days out of the year.

**THIS HANDS-ON  
PROJECT TAPS  
INTO ONE OF THREE  
POINTS IN USI'S  
2016-2020  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
TO PROVIDE  
COLLABORATIVE  
AND DIVERSE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AMONG STUDENTS,  
FACULTY AND STAFF BY  
GENERATING GREATER  
ACCESS BETWEEN  
OUR EXPERTISE AND  
TALENTS AND THE  
ORGANIZATION WITH  
WHOM WE PARTNER.**





During the week we provided health care to approximately 400 patients. Most of them had symptoms and complaints caused by a lack of clean water and poor hygiene. We saw children as young as 6 years old who refused to eat because their teeth were rotting and 80-year-olds who still worked in the field every day with knees that needed to be replaced. It was an amazing experience that strengthened my desire to pursue a career in the medical field.

– Kennedy Stoll '21  
Biology



My passion for medicine was strengthened through interactions with patients and physicians while on USI's Timmy Chapter trip. I experienced and learned from the cultures of urban Ecuador and the indigenous population. I learned about their health care system's strengths and shortcomings. The beauty of the country and the kindness of its people stood out the most for me. It was truly a remarkable experience that changed my life for the better.

– Josi Barszcz '22  
Biochemistry

**Open Dialogue**  
ecuador timmy global health

While the trip was only nine days, the memories and impact will last a lifetime. From learning about the culture and the passions of the people in Ecuador, to taking blood pressures and temperatures for patients, I can confidently say volunteering was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Any opportunity you have to make the world a better place, you should go do it!

– Kristen Adler '22  
Psychology/Pre-Occupational Therapy



The trip taught me three things: **1.** Speaking to a person in her native language is like speaking to her soul. **2.** Our privilege gives us a responsibility to share our resources with those that need them most. We become indifferent to suffering when it's happening across borders, but my patients taught me that compassion must be global. **3.** There are kids in the world who would do anything to get their hands on a coloring book.

– Haley Flamion '22  
Anthropology and Spanish



The Timmy Trip this summer to Guangaje, Ecuador, was life changing. The clinic days were very eye opening. My favorite part of this adventure was meeting a little girl, Daisy, at the clinic. I was taking patients' vitals that day and she stood for an hour just watching me. I got her to tell me her name and asked her to be my friend. When I finished working, we hung out and bonded until her mom arrived to take her home. She cried and told me she would miss me.

– Avery Goodwin '22  
Special Education



Through the amazing health care trip with USI's Timmy Chapter, I was reminded of all the reasons I have for wanting to become a doctor. Since then, I have become more interested in global health care and plan on attending another medical service trip once I am a physician. I want to help increase access to health care on a global scale.

– Taylor Robinson '20  
Biology





# Class Notes

## STAY IN TOUCH

EMAIL us  
at [alumni@usi.edu](mailto:alumni@usi.edu).

UPDATE your information  
and send photos  
via the form  
at  
[usi.edu/AlumniUpdate](http://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.*

## 1980s

**Eric Williams '89**, management, has been elected to fill a seat on the Library Board for Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library.

## 1990s

**Dolli Kuehn Neikirk '90**, marketing and management, is CEO for Lifehouse Maternity Home in Louisville, Kentucky. [1]

**Antone (Tony) Greubel '92**, political science, and his wife **Izumi (Mochizuki) Greubel M'94**, secondary education, visited with their former professors Dr. Charles Barber, professor emeritus of political science, and his wife, Carolyn Roth, retired instructor of art, in Samoa, where Tony is deputy chief of mission at Embassy Apia, Samoa. (Left to right: Tony, Izumi, Charlie and Carolyn) [2]

**Tara Rasche '92**, English teaching, was named principal of Dubois and Celestine elementary schools in Dubois County in Indiana.

**Scott Cockrum '93**, English, joins the general liability and insurance coverage practice of Lewis Brisbois in Indianapolis, Indiana. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with Lewis Brisbois'

Indianapolis office, which has a strong reputation in and around the state's capital."

**Eric Crayner '95**, political science, was honored as 2018 Officer of the Year by the Lexington Police Department, where he has worked for 15 years. He is a firearms instructor in the training section. "This year was the first time, since its inception that a training section staff member has been chosen, out of over 600 law enforcement officers, for this award. The education I received at USI built a solid foundation for all of my career endeavors." (Left to right: Eric, Chief of Police Lawrence Weathers) [3]

**Kristin K. Tucker M'99**, liberal studies, was presented the Silver Medal Award by The American Advertising Federation of Greater Evansville for a lifetime of achievement in advertising. She started Tucker Publishing Group with her husband Todd Tucker back in 1999 and has served as publisher and editor for 20 years.

## 2000s

**Kristina (Flickner) Kiger '00**, nursing, and **Jeremy Kiger '01**, political science, moved from Indianapolis, Indiana, to San Francisco, California, in January. He was promoted to senior international

business leader for Roche Diagnostics, and she is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar PhD candidate at the IU School of Nursing. (Left to right: Norah, Kristina, Evelyn, Jeremy and Claire) [4]

**Scott Tieken '00**, communications, has been promoted to director of career services and employer relations for Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. [5]

**Jason Hiatt '01**, electrical engineering technology, was awarded Red Hat Certified Professional of the Year for his work at OneMain Financial and with Red Hat Technologies. He was recognized for his volunteer work within the community. This is Red Hat's highest award and is globally recognized. "I started my first Linux Users Group while I was a student worker at USI while working at the computer center." [6]

**Zachary Jackson '01**, economics, was named state budget director for the state of Indiana on June 14, 2019.

**Stephen Lucas '03**, art, was a guest speaker for the Artist on Art March 22, 2019. He uses acrylic glass and is inspired by how light is reflected and refracted through layers of acrylic.

**Robert Kozsan '04**, accounting and professional studies, has been promoted



to senior registered client service associate of Stifel Financial Corporation's Evansville office.

**Gregory Nixon '06**, graphic design, and his wife Dawn (McIlvried) Nixon traveled to Machu Pichu, Peru in May. He is chief marketing officer and branding manager at ICC Business Products in Indianapolis, Indiana. "Growing up in the small southern Indiana town of Princeton, it was hard to grasp how large and beautiful our planet is. I love visiting new places, seeing what was before us and learning about the culture past and present. Visiting Peru, the sights, sounds and immersion in ancient history was unforgettable. Next up is New Zealand and Belize." [7]

**Maria Sweat '06**, elementary education, has been named principal at Ferdinand Elementary School in Ferdinand, Indiana.

**Brittaney Johnson '08**, marketing, was named Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation president and CEO in Owensboro, Kentucky.

**Brandley Mull '09**, criminal justice and sociology, has been promoted from trooper to sergeant by the Indiana State Police Academy. He is a fire arms instructor, field training officer and a member of the all crimes policing squad.

## 2010s

**Wade Franchville '10**, marketing, was named division director for Beacon Hill Life Sciences in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Brook McGennis '10**, health services, M'13, health administration, was accepted into a PhD program for

organizational behavior and change management, and currently works in quality leadership for a medical group outside of St. Louis, Missouri.

**Michelle Kelley '11**, dental hygiene, has recently joined as a full-time dentist for St. Vincent Mobile Dental Clinic in Evansville.

**Donald Steen '11**, history, is lead reporter and managing editor for the *Spencer County Journal Democrat*.

**Ashlynn (Kemp) Johnson '14**, health services, M'18, health administration, works at Deaconess Women's Hospital as a regional strategic account manager. "Thanks to the support of my family, friends and work family, I was able to complete my master's degree." (Left to right, top to bottom: Jennifer Parker, Kendyl Burdette, Matt Fields, Lindsey

Johnson, Jess Thomas, Melody Gruber, Ashlynn Johnson) [8]

**Christina (Klausing) Mizerak '14**, art, lives in New York, New York, and has written, illustrated and published her first children's book, *Dat Dare Monster*. [9]

**Shelby Southard '14**, advertising and public relations, was named events and development manager at Youth First, Inc. in Evansville.

**Alexandria Craig '15**, elementary education, and **Dylan Winkler '17**, exercise science, are engaged and plan to marry June 6, 2020. She is a third-grade teacher at Daniel Wertz Elementary and he is a pharmacy technician at Deaconess Hospital. They both coach girls' basketball at Daniel Wertz. "He proposed at Daniel Wertz with all my students watching and gave them ring pops." [10]





**Travis Dickison '15**, political science, **M'18**, public/nonprofit administration, has moved to New York City after taking a position as registrar analyst at The New School in New York, New York. **[11]**

**Russ Runde '15**, management, '16, finance, has been appointed loan officer at Dieterich Bank in Teutopolis, Illinois. "I am excited to help make our customers' dreams obtainable, and I will strive to provide the best customer experience while doing so."

**Tanner Gellinger '16**, criminal justice, was named director of development for the Kappa Alpha Order Educational Foundation in Lexington, Virginia.

**Ashley Allen '17**, theatre, is a professional carpenter for Infinity Productions in Louisville, Kentucky. For the production of *Madame Butterfly*, performed at the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre in

March, she welded legs on a platform for the set. **[12]**

**Leslie (Sargent) Cooper '17**, biology, is studying to be a physician assistant at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Myers, Florida. She plans to graduate in 2020. **[13]**

**Christina Kropid '17**, marketing, **M'19**, human resources, was named event coordinator for the Chicago Chamber of Commerce in Chicago, Illinois.

**Natasha Awbrey '18**, art, '19, anthropology, has been accepted into the Master of Visual Anthropology program at the University of Manchester in England, and has moved overseas to start this next chapter of her life. **[14]**

**Kaitlin King '18**, health services, got engaged to Ricky Smith December 28, 2018. He popped the question on their second anniversary while at West Baden

Springs Hotel in French Lick, Indiana. She is employed at Schneck Medical Center in Seymour, Indiana. They plan to marry June 20, 2020. **[15]**

**Robert Lynn '18**, history, was named a religious program specialist for the United States Navy. He is currently deployed to Soto Cano air base in Honduras and will be traveling around Central and South America.

**Rebecca Mackey '18**, public relations, was named coordinator of public relations and marketing for the Knox County Arc (KCARC) in Vincennes, Indiana.

## Marriages

**Timothy Joseph Goad '79**, chemistry, and Vita Kaye Amick, January 6, 2018 at The River Church in Evansville. **[16]**

**Alyssa (Koleszar) Akin '14**, psychology, and Christopher Akin October 12, 2018. She is currently in USI's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program and lives with her husband and three cats. **[17]**

**Rachel (Runyon) Lortie '15**, occupational therapy, **M'15**, occupational therapy, and Neil Lortie April 21, 2018. **[18]**

**Ali Hill '16**, elementary education, and **Dylan Pirnat '16**, electrical engineering, June 16, 2018. **[19]**

**Lexis (Schue) Will '18**, chemistry and biophysics, **Austin Will '19**, business management, December 28, 2018 at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, Florida. She is in her second year of medical school at Indiana University. He owns the Great Steak restaurant in the Evansville mall and is currently an intern at Berry Global's corporate offices. **[20]**



## Births and Adoptions

**Jennifer (Harrison) Cole '04**, business administration, and Andrew Cole welcomed Taylen on October 15, 2018.

**Kaitlin (Farley) Hernandez '04**, respiratory therapy, and Eduardo Hernandez welcomed Cora on July 30, 2018.

**Eric Kassenbrock '04**, accounting and professional services, and **Kristen (Schmitt) Kassenbrock '06**, accounting and professional services, **M'09**, social work, welcomed Clay on January 9, 2019.

**Ryan Scheu '04**, mathematics, and **Hallie (Denstorff) Scheu M'12**, education, welcomed Matthew on April 8, 2019.

**Jeff Polding '06**, management, and Mary Polding welcomed Elena Marie on April 24, 2019. **[21]**

**Jacob Bessler '07**, engineering, and **Janel (Dennis) Bessler '06**, psychology, welcomed Nora on March 3, 2019.

**Erin (Ennes) Hansert '08**, advertising and Spanish, and Kevin Hansert welcomed Elaine on August 30, 2018.

**Emily (Esche) Chamberlain '09**, management, and Darryl Chamberlain welcomed Claire Ann on September 5, 2018. (Left to right: Darryl, Addyson, Emily and Claire) **[22]**

**Alison (Eaton) Furrer '09**, elementary education, and Blaine Furrer welcomed Ender Eaton on May 10, 2018. (Left to right: Daxton, Blaine, Ender, Alison) **[23]**

**Melissa Bullock '10**, radiologic and imaging sciences, **M'13**, health administration, **M'17**, business administration, and her family adopted their foster daughter 16-year-old Jada. (Left to right: Easton, Kevin, Melissa, Owen, Jada, Emma, Elly, Olivia) **[24]**

**Brittani (Johnson) Cohee '10**, marketing, and **Travis Cohee '10**, business administration, welcomed Monroe Kay on May 3, 2019. **[25]**

**Matthew Grisham '10**, marketing, and **Lindsay (Hawes) Grisham '13**, psychology, welcomed Jensen on July 2, 2019. **[26]**

**Brent Seibert '10**, marketing, and **Chelsea (Taylor) Seibert '11**, public relations and advertising, welcomed Millie on July 19, 2018.

**Kasee (Mosier) Hobbs '11**, social science, and Cody Hobbs welcomed twins Rhett and Baker on March 30, 2019.

**Ashli (House) Koressel '12**, radiologic imaging, and Scott Koressel welcomed Olivia on January 21, 2019. **[27]**

**Maggie (Hurm) Carnahan '13**, public relations, **M'18**, communication, and Max Carnahan welcomed Margaret "Maisie" on April 17, 2019. **[28]**

**Rachel (Freyberger) Fenneman '13**, mathematics teaching, **M'19**, data analytics, and Samuel Fenneman welcomed Josie Mae on May 6, 2019.

**Alicen (Schwartz) Williams '13**, chemistry and psychology, and **Bret Williams '13**, chemistry, welcomed Bailee Jennifer on September 28, 2018. **[29]**





## In Memoriam

**Galen Graves '73**, elementary education, of New Harmony, Indiana, died March 26, 2019.

**Leonard "Skip" Jochim '73**, marketing, of Evansville, died May 3, 2019. Skip was a veteran of the United States Navy, and owned and operated the Leather Man. He was known as "The Leather Man."

**Eleanor "Ellie" (Ikin) Rush '73**, dental hygiene, of Evansville, died April 18, 2019.

**Rolla "Mac" McIntyre Dyer III '74**, elementary education, of Sellersburg, Indiana, died January 20, 2019. Mac served his country in the United States Marine Corps and was recently retired from West Clark Community Schools as associate superintendent.

**Clara Roberts '75**, sociology, of Evansville, died January 25, 2019. Clara worked for Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation for 30 years as a counselor at Bosse High School.

**Dennis Blakely '78**, of Newburgh, Indiana, died March 3, 2019. Dennis' interests were art, reading, studying and researching. He was a self-taught artist and did fine oil paintings.

**Tim France '79**, economics, of Evansville, died February 24, 2019. Tim was an entrepreneur and self-proclaimed adventurer. He began his career as a professional pilot, spent a period of time working in the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and ultimately starting his own business, Fluid Systems, Inc.

**Russell Woosley '79**, accounting, of Evansville, died May 21, 2019. Russell

worked for Mulzer Crushed Stone for 39 years. He enjoyed traveling, spending time with his grandchildren and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.

**Jan Adriann Bond '80**, biology, of Boonville, Indiana, died May 18, 2019. Jan channeled her artistic flare into creating jewelry, drawing and recreations from the renaissance period.

**Norma Feldaus '80**, elementary education, of Evansville, died April 25, 2019. Norma was a counselor at the Community Action Program of Evansville (CAPE) and a school teacher at St. Anthony's, retiring from St. Matthew's in Mount Vernon, Indiana. She loved camping, reading, traveling and especially being with her grandchildren.

**Marilyn Holloman '83**, psychology, of Evansville, died June 9, 2019. Marilyn

was the voice of the local Red Cross. She loved the people and mission of the Red Cross, and looked forward to her three afternoons there each week.

**David Musgrave '85**, marketing and computer information systems, of Evansville, died May 11, 2019.

**Mark Seifert '85**, marketing, of Evansville, died April 20, 2019. Mark always enjoyed sports, playing both baseball and basketball. His favorite teams were the Detroit Lions, the St. Louis Cardinals and any college basketball team.

**Marshall Harris '88**, computer information systems, of Evansville, died January 29, 2019. Marshall served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. He retired from Berry Plastics after 20 years as IT director. He enjoyed fishing, boating, water skiing, vacationing



in Florida, was an avid Patriots fan and especially loved being a “Pops”.

**David Verner '90**, electrical engineering technology, of Evansville, died May 8, 2019. David served three years in the United States Navy and was the damage control officer of the bridge during general quarters. His enjoyment of music involved both listening and playing keyboards and playing guitar. He enjoyed fishing, canoeing, rowing and hiking.

**Mary (Boyle) Griggs '91**, early childhood education, of Evansville, died July 25, 2019 at the Linda E. White Hospice House. Mary worked for Historic New Harmony for 27 years as an interpreter, and passionately shared her knowledge of New Harmony history with hundreds of visitors to the town.

**Deborah Lupton '91**, social work, of Evansville, died February 17, 2019. After

Deborah graduated high school, she joined the United States Army. Following her service, she attended USI and received her degree in social work because of her willingness to help others. Deborah was involved in the VFW, American Legion, AMVETS and many other organizations.

**Dawn McCoy '91**, elementary education, of Rockport, Indiana, died February 4, 2019. Dawn was a homemaker and loved her husband, kids and grandkids. She was an avid lover of Mickey Mouse and angels.

**Patricia “Tricia” Ann Davenport '94 M'95**, social work, of Evansville, died July 21, 2019. Tricia's hobbies were traveling with her husband, children and grandchildren, and gardening. Her love of scrapbooking won her the 2019 volunteer of the year from United Methodist Youth Home.

**Robert “Bob” Hicks '94**, English, M'01, secondary education, of Evansville, died

April 20, 2019. Bob taught English and served as assistant athletic director as well as assistant junior varsity and varsity football coach at Central High School where he retired in 2017. He was a big Colts and Patriots fan and attended many games with his son. He enjoyed spending time with his children, attending WWE matches with his son and watching the TV series, *Bones* and *Grimm*, with his daughter.

**Vicki (Sickbert) Pendleton '95**, business, of Evansville, died March 26, 2019. Vicki was a senior recruiter for Cielo Talent Company.

**Amy Renae (Koch) Kirsch '97**, respiratory therapy, of Evansville, died June 20, 2019. Amy worked as the lead educational coordinator for the respiratory therapy department at Deaconess Hospital. She loved the beach, dancing, traveling with her family, the outdoors, camping, photography and gatherings with friends and family.

**Angela “Angie” (Devine) Merrick '97**, nursing, of Evansville, died March 27, 2019. Angie worked as a neo-natal intensive care unit nurse at St. Vincent Hospital. She loved life and her family dearly.

**Danny Givens '00**, occupational therapy, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died March 29, 2019. Danny was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He was a self-employed pediatric occupational therapist. He enjoyed fishing, camping, reading, history and aviation.

**Katherine “Kate” (Zehr) Raben '04**, radiologic and imaging sciences, of Newburgh, Indiana, died May 1, 2019. Kate lived for her children. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, reading, planting flowers, the outdoors and having a beautiful lawn. More than anything, she enjoyed watching her kids play sports.

**Zachary Scott '05**, chemistry and mathematics, of Tucson, Arizona, died





25



26



29



27



28

January 21, 2019. Zachary worked for Syncardia in Tucson as the head chemist. He was an avid hiker and rock climber.

**Amanda (Bush) Gidcumb '06**, elementary education, of Evansville, died March 15, 2019. Amanda worked as a life skills teacher at Gibson Southern High School.

**Joshua Varner '07**, marketing, of Newburgh, Indiana, died April 4, 2019. Josh enjoyed music, playing the guitar, flying his drone, the outdoors, his dogs Bella and Mocha, professional sports teams and anything that his wife and daughter were into.

**Chelsea (Blackburn) Mercer '11**, health services, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, died May 21, 2019.

**Matthew Rider '11**, computer information systems, of Shawneetown, Illinois, died May 9, 2019. Matt was a free spirit with

a kind and gentle heart. He was very creative, loved to draw, write poetry and work with computers. He enjoyed skateboarding and anything outdoors.

**Jerry Leon Hodges '12**, nursing, of Boonville, Indiana, died July 22, 2019. Jerry was a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Medical Center. He attended Boonville First Assembly of God, loved life to the fullest and always left you with a laugh or smile.

## Honorary Degrees

USI's Board of Trustees conferred **General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)** with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Southern Indiana.

## USI FAMILY Retiring

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Kathryn Waters**, professor of art  
38.5 years

**Matthew Graham**, professor of English  
35.5 years

### COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**Dr. Roberta Hoebeke**, professor of nursing  
17 years

### ROMAIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Dr. Brett Long**, associate professor of accounting and business law  
26 years

**Dr. Carl Saxby**, associate professor of marketing  
22.5 years

## In Memoriam

**Dr. Rolla McIntyre Dyer, Jr.**, professor emeritus of chemistry, died March 17, 2019. He was born in 1923 and served in the United States Navy between 1944 and 1946. He owned and operated a jewelry and watch sales and repair store before joining USI's faculty in 1967. He served as head of the Math and Science Department and was a chemistry professor before he retired in 1992.

**Dr. J. Eliseo Da Rosa**, professor emeritus of economics, died November 14, 2018. He was born in Asunción, Paraguay in 1924 where he received his law degree. He joined USI's faculty in 1968 as an associate professor of economics, teaching at the University's original campus at Centennial School. He received his PhD in economics from the University of Kentucky and an MA in Economics from the University of Chicago. Promoted to professor of economics in 1972, he was active in faculty affairs and served as Economics Department chair from 1971 to 1989 and Social Science Division acting chair from 1988 to 1989. He retired from USI in December 1989.



Started guitar lessons in September 2017 and has played in three recitals.

Purchased part of a mountain in North Carolina to build a retirement home on.

In high school, Jeanette Maier-Lytle '88 M'95 realized she had a talent for accounting after winning second place at a regional accounting competition, going on to place third at the state level and finishing eighth at the national level. During her 22 years at USI, the instructor in accounting has led 40-plus teams to win multiple accounting and international business competitions in the United States, Canada and the Netherlands.

Before joining the USI Romain College of Business faculty, she spent nine years as an accountant and consultant. During her teaching career, she has witnessed notable changes in student anxiety and depression, a concern that led her to create Hug Alliance in 2016. The non-profit focuses on "healing through giving," and provides free support and life coaching to individuals and the community.

**What is your secret to creating so many winning accounting competition teams?** You must be willing to commit the time and effort

to building a successful team, which involves countless hours of preparation and practice.

**Describe your teaching style and its impact on students.** I prefer an interactive style of learning, where I prompt students with questions. However, each classroom has its own personality, so I do my best to adapt to the various student-learning styles throughout the semester. I communicate to students that I am available outside the classroom if they need more time to learn a challenging problem or concept, and they know they can count on me

to discuss their personal issues as well. The students are my highest priority at the University and why I go to work each day.

**'Healing through giving' is the motto of your nonprofit organization. What does that mean to you?** I have experienced many bouts with depression and stress during my lifetime, and found the fastest way out of those dark

valleys was through giving.

When I sacrifice my time and money toward a greater cause, my problems are no longer the focus and the healing process begins.

**What services does Hug Alliance provide?** Hug Alliance offers free life coaching, as well as journals and self-help books for its clients. Hug also engages in community outreach activities and has filled and distributed more than 100 blessing bags to the homeless. The bags contain food, drink and hygiene items. Hug also donated 2x4s to Habitat for Humanity. Planned activities for 2019 include assisting other food donation programs, volunteering at the Humane Society and continuing our blessing bag program.

**What book should everyone read and why?** "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck, M.D. It provides brilliant insight for healthy, emotional growth through a detailed discussion of how one can confront their problems, suffer through necessary changes and develop healthy, loving relationships.

**What would you like to do when you retire from teaching?** I would like to write and publish a book on spiritual and emotional growth, based on my personal experiences.

**What one word describes you?** Compassionate

**What is one life lesson you would like to pass along to readers?** No matter what life you are born into or obstacles you must face, you can overcome the odds through hard work, commitment and persistence. For me, faith in God is the secret to sustenance.

First trip abroad was with a USI case-study team.







# *It's the small things* **THAT MEAN THE MOST TO USI STUDENTS.**

NO MATTER THE AMOUNT, YOUR GIFT IS AN INVESTMENT IN USI STUDENTS.

THE HERE & NOW FUND PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH DIRECT ASSISTANCE IN TIMES OF NEED. BECAUSE IT'S THE SMALL THINGS THAT CREATE TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY.

Performing Arts students are perfecting their talents in costume design, acting, lighting and sound on The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival's national stage to enthrall audiences.

Emerging and established artists and writers are publishing their work in *Southern Indiana Review* and influencing thinking.

Business students are involved in creating innovative solutions to international case challenges and help to shape the future of business.

Students are expanding their minds through travel, bringing new ways of thinking home.

Future engineers understand the foundational elements of designing and implementing robotic systems because of their involvement in the USI Robotics Competition.

Students and faculty focus on STEM education to advance society.

Students facing financial hardship continue their education, because of your investment in scholarships and tuition assistance.

MAKE YOUR  
GIFT AT  
[USI.EDU/INVEST](http://USI.EDU/INVEST)



*Spirit and Heart of USI*



**As the fourth speaker in the University's Romain College of Business Innovative Speaker Series, General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) delivered life lessons on failure and leadership. Despite the serious subject matter, there was banter between the four-star general and USI President Ronald Rochon, moderator, that he should "drop down and give me 10," to which Dr. Rochon quickly countered, "I'll give you five."**

*Visit [USI.edu/spiritheart](http://USI.edu/spiritheart) for student submission guidelines.*