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Music takes center stage for Sweetwater Sound founder and CEO Chuck Surack. What began as a mobile sound studio in a Volkswagen bus in 1979 has driven to the center of the music equipment and instrument industry through Surack’s hard work, planning, passion and a commitment to good works—including jump-starting the USF music technology program.
Being in the catbird seat professionally feels good to Allyson Tracey, left, and Cassandra Gulley as they join other nursing professionals, students, instructors and administrators at “The Future of Nursing.” Hundreds gathered in the USF Performing Arts Center for the first “Future of” series lecture, which detailed the crucial role nurses will play as the population ages.

Getting and staying fit was the goal of a start-up student organization, USF Stay Fit, this past semester. Student Government Association Senator Joe Torres modeled the project after TV’s “Biggest Loser” show, with cash prizes for “winners” who were “losers.” To help, USF faculty lent their expertise to seminars and sessions focused on healthy living.

Keep on truckin’ is the mantra of junior business administration major Matt Tippmann and his EPIC program project for SIRVA Relocation. Tippmann and fellow Busse School of Business student Zach Baron contributed to projects that made their employers’ operations greener and more earth-friendly. Both see sustainability as key to business success.

Bring it on, says USF alumna Chris Brown, after embarking on an 18-month journey to lose half her body weight. Chris recreated her life after losing 135 pounds, and now works out six days a week, runs 5k events, coaches her kids’ ball teams and maintains a Facebook page about her weight loss to encourage others. No more sitting on the sidelines for her!

On the cover Nationally acclaimed Christian rock band Jars of Clay takes the stage of the new USF Performing Arts Center as part of Spring Fling Week. The concert was just one of the shows at the PAC since USF purchased the former Scottish Rite Center in January.

Cover photo by Tim Brumbeloe; on this spread, photos by Steve Vorderman
Dear University of Saint Francis Friend,

What an exciting spring semester! Our success continues to show our vitality as a place to learn and grow. I hope you enjoy hearing about our momentum in this edition of Saint Francis magazine.

The USF Performing Arts Center became a busy hub for entertainment, events and conferences after we acquired the former Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne in January. We also anticipate enrolling students in the Media Entrepreneurship Training the Arts (META) program the center will house in 2013. We will play a key economic development role, as our community leaders have expressed interest in a downtown university with cultural and social opportunities to draw visitors. Already, we have attracted thousands to the USF PAC for a music competition, Christian concert, play and lecture.

We continue to expand programs for working adults, leading to online options for the MBA, Master of Health Administration and the registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing. In keeping with our Franciscan values and university mission, we have combined the business school’s MBA and the School of Arts and Sciences’ Master of Science in Environmental Science in the new MBA in Sustainability. This innovative degree prepares graduates to protect the environment while increasing profits and efficiency through sustainable business practices.

We cannot offer the best education without benefactors like Sweetwater Sound CEO Chuck Surack, who continually helps those around him. You will learn how his generous contributions have benefited the School of Creative Arts’ music technology program, as it moves downtown with META.

Our role as a community educator expanded with the launching of the “Future of” lecture series. Hundreds of nursing professionals and students gathered for “The Future of Nursing” in Fort Wayne and Crown Point to hear about the profession’s direction in the coming decades.

Our alumni continue as standard-bearers for success and values. Several have contributed their unique stories to keep you in touch with how USF has impacted their lives. And our students always make us proud. Once again our athletes earned praise for academics and talent, while others worked creatively to better USF and the global community.

Please visit campus to see how ideals, commitment and friendship meet at USF. The first night football game in our newly-lit D’Arcy Stadium—with fireworks—is Homecoming weekend. Join the fun!

Many blessings,

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF
President

Above photo and photo on next page by Steve Vorderman
encourage a TRUSTFUL, PRAYERFUL COMMUNITY of LEARNERS
As light winks off the glistening surfaces of black grand pianos, music company giants—Yamaha, Roland, Kurzweil, Cordoba and Lauten Audio—announce themselves from colorful overhead banners.

From the décor’s soothing neutrals and black accents to the expansive showroom to the 250-seat theater, where rising stars showcase instruments for buyers, Sweetwater Sound’s 150,000-square-foot headquarters rightfully claims its spot at the epicenter of the music instrument and equipment industry.

And though this symphony of success might sound like the lavish orchestration of big business and big money, it follows a simple score of hard work, painstaking planning, passion and a steadfast belief in doing the right thing—right here in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

A graduate of Wayne High School, Sweetwater founder and president Chuck Surack chose to play sax and keyboards with bands on the road rather than attend college. Early on, he recognized and addressed area musicians’ needs. In 1979, he equipped a Volkswagen bus with a reel-to-reel four-track tape recorder, creating a convenient mobile studio for local bands. That placed the bow on the string for the complex chord that was to become the 430-employee, $200-million national music retail power hitter, Sweetwater Sound.

Surack recognizes his nearly unprecedented success in building the country’s third-largest retailer of music instruments and equipment on little more than intuition, guts and drive. But he shares the credit. “My dad was an entrepreneur, and although a chemical engineer, he had 15 to 20 side jobs. Like him, I have
multiple interests, and he and my mom instilled in me the idea that anything is possible,” he said.

Supported by a family tradition of empowerment and imagination, Surack also soaked up the leadership and character taught by the Boy Scouts of America. “Scouting was a huge influence, and it gave me great skills that I use to run my life today. It stressed doing the right thing,” he said.

And Surack has done a lot of the right thing, including providing guidance, information, equipment, and assistance to develop and launch USF’s music technology degree in 2007. With a focus on technology that produces recordings and enhances live performance, the program prepares USF students not only for employment by Sweetwater, but also for a broad range of forward-looking technical jobs.

“We’ve hired several USF grads already, and they couldn’t be better for us. The technology they learn is more necessary than ever. But beyond employment with us, they could take these skills to Microsoft or Google,” Surack added.

To further support music technology students, he and his wife founded the Sweetwater/Chuck and Lisa Surack Endowed Scholarship to assist those with financial needs. USF students also have access to Sweetwater’s headquarters and in-house seminars and education events.

“I have lots of respect for Sister Elise and the USF School of Creative Arts Dean, Rick Cartwright. When the program expanded to include music, I wanted to jump on that. I love the school’s philosophy and think the downtown theater is an exciting development. I ushered there during junior high,” he said.

But USF is only one Sweetwater beneficiary. “We support every organization we can, for the arts as well as for children and those with special needs. We encourage our employees to donate and serve on boards,” he said.

It all points to the guiding principles in his life and what he finds most important: his relationships with God, his wife, and his daughter and sons, as well as his goal to make the world he leaves better than the one he found. “You can’t take it with you,” Surack said. “I’ve set up Sweetwater as an economic engine for the 400 nonprofits we support each year. We also operate Sweetwater like one big family. We celebrate new babies, graduations, new cars—big moments in our lives.”

He has one piece of advice for young people eyeing the future: don’t compromise. “Go with your heart, your passion. Life is too short, so give it 100 percent. But you’ve gotta earn it. I didn’t have two nickels, but I worked really hard to give my life more value.”

Surack counts USF as a place to follow those dreams. “I didn’t have the luxury of school, but if I had, USF would have been perfect. That’s why the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters I received from USF at commencement this year means so much to me.”
THE FUTURE OF NURSING

USF BOASTS A RICH TRADITION AS AN EDUCATOR OF ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS ITS STUDENTS.

With the acquisition of the former Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne, and its renaming as the USF Performing Arts Center, the university has expanded public education through a premier lecture series to act as a compass for the direction of a number of professions. Appropriately, it takes the theme “The Future of.”

“The Future of Nursing” launched the new series in April. Hundreds of healthcare professionals, educators, students and experts joined the public in the USF Performing Arts Center to hear research from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and how it translates into change for the nursing profession.

As part of the lecture, University of Saint Francis BSN/Graduate Nursing Program Director Mindy Yoder highlighted information from the IOM report in a presentation, bringing numerous factors to bear on the direction of nursing over the next few decades.

Nationally, U.S. healthcare is experiencing unsustainable costs, with 17 percent of gross domestic product focused upon healthcare, she pointed out from the studies. Compounding the situation are issues impacting nursing itself. Among those are education that does not prepare for the profession’s demands and a shortage of nurses, nursing faculty and doctoral-level nurses. The study projects a shortage of 1 million nurses by 2050.

She then moderated a panel discussion by chief nursing officers and other Indiana healthcare professionals on the study’s findings locally and across the state. After the presentation and panel discussion, the functions of METIman, a simulator that emulates physical responses of patients during training scenarios,
WHERE IS IT HEADED?

were demonstrated. Professionals received continuing education credits for the free event.

Cinamon Donley, 2011 USF family nurse practitioner graduate, attended the lecture. “I highly commend the University of Saint Francis for putting together this presentation,” she said. “The topics discussed will impact nursing in a major way, and it will be important for nurses to stay on top of the information.”

She sees organization and education as keys to a successful nursing future. “Nurses are a large group of professionals who can strongly influence the future of healthcare,” she said. “I hope this presentation encourages nurses from all levels of education to be more involved in their professional organizations, because that is where these topics are being discussed. I also hope it inspires nurses and nursing students to keep expanding their education, so that our voices become stronger, with the credentials to back it up!” The University of Saint Francis, Parkview Health, Lutheran Health Network and Franciscan Alliance sponsored the Fort Wayne lecture.

CROWN POINT ENGAGES

The presentation repeated for the USF Crown Point community at Crown Point High School in June, with USF Crown Point, Community Hospital, Franciscan Alliance and Methodist Hospital as sponsors. “The Future of” lecture series continues with “The Future of Sustainability: Impact on Efficiency, Innovation and Profit,” the 19th annual CEO Forum hosted by the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership, on Oct. 18.

Above, left: Healthcare professionals participate in a panel discussion during “The Future of Nursing” at the University of Saint Francis Crown Point June 12. From left are Tracey Franovich, Franciscan Physicians Hospital, Vice President of Operations; Kimberly Harper, Indiana Center for Nursing, Executive Director; Amy Knepp, USF Department of Nursing chair; Shelly Major, Methodist Hospital, Vice President for Patient Care Services; Ronda McKay, Community Hospital, Vice President for Patient Care Services; Carol Schuster, Franciscan Alliance, Vice President for Patient Care Services; and Paula Swenson, St. Catherine’s Hospital, Vice President for Patient Care Services.

Above, right: Jaclyn Murzyn of Dyer, Ind. welcomes northwest Indiana and northeast Illinois nursing professionals and students to “The Future of Nursing” at Crown Point High School.

Photos by Steve Vonderman and Pete Doherty, Doherty Images
When USF purchased the former Scottish Rite Center in November, all involved envisioned the elaborate theater alive with entertainment.
USF forged ties with the community and local business with Battle of the Streets in February. The Music Technology Department teamed up with radio station WILD 96.3 on a competition of local music talent. Artists from the greater Fort Wayne area pitted their music talents against each other in a live battle that brought record label executives from across the country to judge the musicians. A winner won cash, prizes and a chance to perform before a national producer.

In March, large crowds gathered for the School of Creative Arts’ first stage play in the new center, enjoying gales of laughter and a few moments of heartfelt grief in SOCA’s delivery of “Steel Magnolias.”

“Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion,” Truvvy observes during the show, and laughter was an important component of show rehearsals, said director Brad Beauchamp. Cast members drew from the local and USF communities and became good friends as they portrayed the play’s fictional friendships between Southern belles. “They bonded, and that’s what needs to happen for a show like this,” Beauchamp said.

But while the show was much about laughter, it drew from a tragic event. Playwright Robert Harling wrote it at the encouragement of his friends as a way to cope with the grief of losing his closest friend, his sister Susan, to diabetes. The cast gave strong performances as a group of friends who gather
BUSY ENTERTAINMENT HUB
The facility did not disappoint. From national acts to local music competitions to USF theatrical productions, the new USF Performing Arts Center has spotlighted a variety of shows to entertain the public, preserving the grand past of the ornate, 2,000-seat performance hall in the process.

A national act caught the lights in April, when USF’s Campus Ministry sponsored a concert by Grammy-winning Christian rock band Jars of Clay in a multi-band venue as part of Spring Fling Week.

The performance drew a large crowd for its blend of alternative rock, folk, acoustic and rhythm and blues styles in a musical celebration of God. Deriving its name from II Corinthians 4:7 in the New International Version translation of the Bible, the band has sold millions of recordings from its song collections, including the latest, “The Shelter.” Performing with them were special guests Leagues and Matthew Perryman Jones, both of whom joined Jars on the road nationally in the spring.

each week at a salon in Chinquapin, La. to gossip, tease, laugh, fight, cajole and comfort each other as they experienced life’s big joys and challenges.

USF Office of Admissions staff member Kristen Jones joined a cadre of community actresses, TJ McCombs, Molly McCray and Suzan Moriarty, in playing the strong principal roles.

The beautiful theater will be a decided plus as USF expands its usage of the facility, Beauchamp said. “It’s a beautiful auditorium and will give our students a wealth of opportunities for hands-on experiences they wouldn’t have had before.”
Athletes With Purpose (AWP) Sports Performance, co-founded by 2006 business administration graduate and USF football player Michael Ledo, boasts some impressive statistics. But while CEO Ledo and Chief Performance Officer Bryan Bourcier take pride in AWP’s ability to develop college and professional athletes, they place equal emphasis on leadership development—building the inside qualities that make up a successful individual.
The high-level, multi-sport professional training organization began as a seasonal program with a vision to develop athletes mentally, physically and spiritually. Partnering with SportONE, a division of Ortho NorthEast, AWP opened a 7,800-square-foot facility in 2010, located inside the Ash Centre in Fort Wayne, Ind.

The collaborators recently received approval on the $7 million Parkview Sport One Fieldhouse at Lima Road and Coliseum Boulevard in Fort Wayne, providing volleyball and basketball courts, outdoor volleyball pits, a restaurant and 10,000 feet for performance training.

Now top athletes routinely seek out AWP to realize their potential. A number of factors—values developed through Fort Wayne’s Catholic school system, a mentor in his uncle, Eugene Parker, a sports agent, his status as a state high school and USF national-level football contender and a firmly implanted business plan—led Ledo to co-found AWP.

“Bryan and I are strong men of faith, and saw an issue with character versus talent,” Ledo said. “Talent can take you only so far, but character sustains you. We decided to develop athletes with purpose.”

So he built prayer into every training session, and conducts weekly “purpose calls,” conference calls in which he and others give testimony about the role of faith in their lives. “We’re building from the inside out,” Ledo said.

But he and Bourcier are doing more than developing young talent and character—they’re using local talent to provide jobs. With a doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Indianapolis, Bourcier manages rehabilitation. Ledo’s USF teammate and fellow All-American Carl Thomas, a CSCS certified trainer, is director of sports performance. Purdue grad Aaron Lane specializes in speed and agility for all major sports, while Geoff King, a Bethel College All-American in track, works with linear speed.

“Talent can take you only so far, but character sustains you.”

He points to his Catholic faith and USF education as the basis for his ambitious goal of becoming the Midwest’s premier sports performance company. “The faith component has been one of the best things I’ve experienced, and laid the foundation for my relationship with Christ. I also learned a whole lot from USF football coach Kevin Donley and the business professors at USF,” he said.

“I always respected Coach Donley as a football coach, but he was entrepreneurial as well, and I always admired his business aspect. He ran an organized program, like a CEO/coach. At the beginning, he helped me when others were naysayers.”

The support carried over into the classroom at USF. “I had my business vision early, so I did my papers on it and talked to professors Karen Palumbo and Mike O’Neil. They encouraged me to believe in my vision and move forward. I had a beautiful experience at USF. They didn’t lower my expectations as a businessperson, athlete or person.”

Young athletes dreaming of a college or professional athletic career need focus and realistic expectations, he said. “Come in with a plan—like ‘I want to play baseball at Purdue’—and we will support your hopes and dreams. But you still need to find out what God’s vision is for you, and believe in that,” he said.

“I try to build staff specialists in specific areas,” Ledo said. “I tell people, ‘If you’re having surgery, do you want a specialist or a general physician?’”

He’s applying that very ideal to his hopes and dreams for AWP. He plans to rename it AWP Sports, using the motto “Get Purpose. See Results.” The renamed company will take performance to its own division and add specific sports academies to offer athletes more choices.

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-MICHAEL LEDO, BBA ’06
Could a chance to become more fit, lose weight and earn a nice cash bonus for doing it jump-start healthier living? USF Student Government Association (SGA) senator and junior political science/philosophy dual major Joe Torres thought so, and got 55 students active, moving and losing in a new SGA-inspired group, USF Stay Fit, this semester.

Using SGA program funding, he, President Derek Atwood and three other senators put their heads together and designed the program after TV's "Biggest Loser" show.

"Every Saturday when SGA met, we would consider what we wanted to bring to the university. I wanted to bring strong health and wellness to campus, because I thought there was a need. I was not seeing much of it. I watched 'Biggest Loser,' we had the funds, and I thought, why not?"

"We hammered out some rules from what we'd seen on TV, with our own tweaks," Torres said. "We had male and female divisions, with men in teams of two and women in teams of three."

It didn't take long for USF faculty to become involved. "We got together with the School of Health Science and they put on qualified and certified events related to proper diet and exercise," Torres said. "The events were for points, to keep them focused. Other seminars and classes and weight room sessions were on"

SGA Senator Joe Torres, front, formed USF Stay Fit during spring semester. With him, from left, are participants Samantha Hickle, Abby Lauck, Jon Riesterer, Amanda Lease, Matt Carden and Kari Mudrack.
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With $3,000 to work with, SGA members voted on its allocation and decided on four top prizes of $600, with team members splitting their winnings. The women combined for a 16 percent weight loss, while the men stepped on the scale for a combined 14 percent less weight.

As he assumes the mantle of SGA president this fall, Torres plans to expand on the first-year venture. “Now we have a template to take and work with, and as president I can really grow it and touch a lot of lives,” he said. “More prizes and participants are coming, and we will include more faculty, staff and departments. Professors wanted to be involved, so now they will have a chance.”

Although it’s too soon to judge a lasting impact from a six-week trial, he got positive student feedback and looks forward to the next installment of USF Stay Fit. “Several students thanked us for what they learned about how a lifestyle change makes a difference,” he said.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but the specific events for points made it interesting,” said program participant Samantha Hickle, a sophomore communication/graphic art design major. “I had been trying to work out for two years, but this gave me a schedule and helped me reduce what I was eating and think more about how I live.”

“I watched ‘Biggest Loser,’ we had the funds, and I thought, why not?”

-JOE TORRES, JUNIOR POLITICAL SCIENCE/PHILOSOPHY DUAL MAJOR
For Farah Elifils, a Haiti native and USF sophomore nursing major, a meaningful life means caring for others.

“I always knew I wanted to have a caring major like nursing,” she said. “In Haiti, I love being around schools and churches helping out, and visiting at hospitals, just to hold someone’s hand. Nursing will help me do that.”

When she completes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2014, she plans to expand her education with a Master of Science in Nursing before returning to her island nation for a life of compassionate service.

She won’t lack opportunities. “They only have two or three medical schools in Haiti, and no master degree in nursing,” she said. “I want to go back to Haiti and be able to teach and contribute to expanding the nursing profession. Not every child has a doctor, and healthcare is very expensive.” Her arsenal of communication skills—French, Creole, English and Spanish—will help.

She came to USF on the advice of a nursing alumna she met at a health fair while attending community college in south Florida. “She said USF is a great nursing school where you get the personal attention from professors, and she was right,” Elifils said. “I really love the small classes. The school I went to before had over 70 students per class and a very different environment. Now all the professors remember my name.”

It’s a big change, including a climate jolt—last winter’s snow. “That was the first time I saw snow. It’s amazing to see how your body can adjust to it,” she said. Overcoming her initial shyness, she now contributes as a student ambassador and tour guide.

The gaping hole of need left by the 2010 earthquake will be the target of her advanced nursing skills when she returns to Haiti. “The healthcare needs so much help, and I’d love to be able to contribute a little bit to make a difference,” she said.

That will bring her full circle back home to the driving force in her life: being the hand that holds others in a crisis of need.
Formula for Life Haiti mission flourishing

By Cortney Shepard, BS biology, 2009
MS, OMS II, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

It was a gorgeous spring morning; the sun was shining, the birds chirping, and a crowd of people began lining up to walk a few thousand feet. On April 15, hundreds of people came out to the fourth annual Formula for Life 5k walk/run. Each registration provided 36 meals for hungry children in Haiti, and the people of the university and Fort Wayne community were excited to participate.

I began the project as a student in 2009, with the support of Dr. Amy Obringer, after completing a medical mission during which I encountered a starving infant. Upon my return, I was inspired to start something that could make a difference. I never dreamed it would become so large.

The first year was exciting and scary. A 5k walk/run, silent auction, lunch and live music were involved, and it took a lot of hard work and dedication from the organizers. We were excited to raise a small amount of money and hoped for continued growth.

Each year the event continues to grow and improve. This year it was filled with hardworking students and smiling participants. A different USF student leader organizes the event each year, and like always, the leadership was superb and the outcome incredible. Participants were excited for such a beautiful day and fun event, some running a 5k for the first time, while others walked to make a difference.

Since 2009, the event has grown enough to fully fund the nutritional needs of Our Lady of Perpetual Help orphanage in Haiti. I am humbled by the growth and expansion of the event, which provides valuable nutrition to some of Haiti’s most vulnerable people. I hope the students working on the project each year are touched, just as I am, to work for such a life-saving cause with hundreds of people’s support. I cannot express enough my gratitude for the support and my excitement for the continuing growth and success of Formula for Life.

I was inspired to start something that could make a difference.

When they returned, they enjoyed lunch, live music and silent auction bidding.

Photos by Steve Vorderman and William Bryant Rozier
That sustainable business practices benefit the environment is beyond debate. More and more businesses are turning an eye toward greener, more earth-friendly operations, and students in the USF EPIC business program are helping out on the front lines.

Matt Tippmann
Junior business administration major Matt Tippmann has hands-on experience with a sustainability project as a co-op employee of SIRVA Relocation, a worldwide relocator for companies, government employees and individuals.

As a USF co-op employee, he is working to optimize ReVAMP, a comprehensive solution to simplify moving operations and revenue accounting and processes in North America.

The project moves SIRVA agents to a web-based platform with common policies, procedures and economic structures. It adds flexibility and functionality to meet the demands of current and future moving services. It also analyzes in-place systems in terms of the new process.

For his part of the three-year project, Tippmann manages the logistics for all agent training, from negotiations to reviewing contracts. It all adds up to leaner, greener operations for the company, he said.

“SIRVA is switching from a very old operations system to completely new and efficient software,” he said. “We are in the process of training agents and getting feedback and making adjustments as we go. Not only will we have a great new system, but we also are adding engine and truck monitors to each driver. We now will know their diagnostics, whether they did their pre- and post-inspections, and their load situation in order to match them up with a new shipment.”

The system automatically finds the best truck for the new shipment and creates a more automated system between operations, agents and drivers. That means less empty trailers, a reduced carbon imprint, gasoline savings and much less paper.

“First off, the accessibility of this program compared to the one we had will cut costs,” Tippmann said. “Also, implementing engine monitors and GPS devices on trucks will cut down on engine idling and ensure they pass pre- and post-inspections. That should take a large load off the driver services department. Once people adjust to the new system, it should be a huge savings and asset to this company.”

Zach Baron
Junior Zach Baron is a co-op student employee for Indiana Michigan Power, and worked with a team to save paper by moving the work order process toward an electronic version and eliminating multiple copies. With the project in the planning stages, Baron was dialed in on the creation of the new electronic process, its implementation through training sessions and its refinement through the feedback of employees using it.

“It was something the company wanted to do, but no one had the time to get it started,” he said. “None of the details had been worked out, which is what I was part of when I got here. It saved paper and made the process much more efficient. It does not take nearly as long as it used to.”

He sees sustainable business practices as a permanent fixture of the future. “It should not only be important to companies for reasons of social responsibility, but also to reduce costs. Things like eliminating waste and using less resources can significantly impact a company’s bottom line,” he said.

Tippmann agrees. “I believe there are huge opportunities with sustainable business practices, especially in new business startups. Not only will it benefit the globe and your local environment, but usually sustainability and efficiency go hand in hand,” he said.

“I would venture that is absolutely necessary for success. In the companies I have toured in my three years at USF, all are in the process of implementing lean systems, which is directly related to an increase in profits.”
The Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership has collaborated with the School of Arts and Sciences to offer the MBA in Sustainability this fall. The program combines the business school’s Master of Business Administration with the arts and sciences school’s Master of Science in Environmental Science.

With many companies implementing green initiatives, the MBA in Sustainability prepares graduates for real-world situations. This will be one of very few such programs offered in and centered upon the environmental issues of the Midwest industrial heartland. The mostly online program requires very limited engagements on campus for lab experiences.

USF’s Matt Tippmann worked on a sustainable business practice for SIRVA Relocation in Fort Wayne.
1. Standing Against Racism — USF joins the YMCA-sponsored national event, Stand Against Racism, by forming a human chain across the Mirror Lake causeway in April. The cause brought together like-minded organizations that share a vision of eliminating racism and celebrating the richness of diversity.

2. Doing Things Differently — Todd Whitaker, one of the nation’s leading authorities on staff motivation, teacher leadership and principal effectiveness, makes a presentation at USF in March. The Department of Education brought Whitaker’s lecture, “What Great Teachers Do Differently,” to campus.

3. Drumbeats of Truth — Professional drummer Bill Nathan visits campus to perform and tell his story of becoming a musician after his rescue from slavery as an orphaned Haitian child. He also appeared at Formula for Life, USF’s April 5K walk/run that raises funds for food for Haitian orphanages.

4. Stellar Student Art — The School of Creative Arts opened its 35th annual Student Exhibition on April 14. Scholarships and awards, including Best in Show, were given to outstanding student work. The exhibition ran through May 4.

5. Black History Focus — Well-known local citizens make their points in the panel “Fort Wayne History: 1950s and Beyond” hosted by USF in February in celebration of Black History Month. Panelists discussed the changes in the Fort Wayne area in regard to race relations in the decades following the 1950s.

6. Spring Fling — USF students ham it up at one of many crazy events highlighting Spring Fling week April 9-15. Activities including a women’s soccer competition punctuated the seven-day stretch.

7. From Top Model to Role Model — America’s Next Top Model star and Catholic Answers apologist Leah Darrow delivers her story of conversion, courage and fortitude to Fort Wayne-area residents in March at Gunderson Auditorium. She drew upon her experiences in fashion, reality TV and the moments during and after her re-conversion to emphasize the call to greatness within us all.
8. Learning Leadership — High school students learn team building and leadership through exercises at the Youth Leadership and Ministry Conference in February. USF originated the first such conference of this type in the region.

9. Saying Y.E.S. — High school and college students participate in the Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium presented by the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership on March 20. The free workshop offered exercises and presentations to help students turn creativity into a solid business plan.

10. Marathon of Movement — Dancers move to the music during a dance marathon sponsored by the Department of Education in March to raise funds for Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House. Participants raised $25 each in donations to be part of the evening of games, food and learning dances to perform at the end of the evening.

11. Cats are All That — Cougar athletes visit local grade schools to read Dr. Seuss books to students. The visits and readings recognized Dr. Seuss’s birthday as part of Read Across America on March 2.

12. Caring for the Elderly — A participant explains services during a Proactive Elder Care Workshop USF hosted in April to provide valuable information for people with lives impacted by the care of elderly loved ones. Caregivers, elderly people, employed caregivers and employers benefited from the workshop.

13. The Value of a Visit — High school students and their supporters explore USF as a college choice during Spring Campus Visit Day in March. A range of meetings and activities allowed them to experience the special place that is USF.

14. Paws for Applause — Paw Print student newspaper staff and writers were recognized for their strong work at the annual Indiana Collegiate Press Association Convention in April. Editor Amy McKee won first for an entertainment story and staffer Kayla Reed won third for a feature.

15. Running the Numbers — Homestead High School junior Steven Buuck, right, was the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) 12 winner and Bishop Luers sophomore Samuel Stein was the AMC 10 winner from the AMC 10/12 hosted by USF for high school students in February. The competition was the only AMC 10/12 held in the state.

Photos by Steve Vorderman and William Bryant Rozier
Accreditations, accolades show USF programs tops

USF demonstrated its academic excellence by earning prestigious accreditations and accolades during the spring semester.

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners awarded the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership initial accreditation of business programs in December.

ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes within the business school meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP. “This accreditation is evidence the University of Saint Francis is committed to providing the highest quality business education for its students,” said ACBSP Director of Accreditation Steve Parscale.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program at the University of Saint Francis also received reaffirmed accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education of the American Physical Therapy Association through 2021.

“The organization of the (self-study report), thoughtfulness of assembly and quality of program responses throughout the narrative made the report one of the easiest for the panel to review in many years,” the commission noted.

USF also received the annual Merit Award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting for achieving a 92 percent graduate pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist examination for 2011. Comparatively, the national CST examination pass rate was 57 percent last year.

USF students earn $5,000 grant, national leadership award

Representatives of the Physician Assistant Student Society at the University of Saint Francis (USF PASS) received free travel to Dallas May 30 to accept a Student Leadership Award and $5,000 grant from the Jenzabar Foundation to continue their work in Haiti. The Jenzabar Foundation issues grants to institutions of higher education and other nonprofit organizations to promote recipients’ activities within their communities and on a global level. In March 2011, USF PASS members traveled to Haiti during spring break of their clinical year to provide medical services through free healthcare clinics. Over 1,000 patients were assessed, evaluated and treated in four days at the makeshift clinic. Through the established Haiti Outreach Ministries, a permanent clinic was organized to create continuity of care for the Haitian people. In March of 2012, a USF PASS group of 15 again traveled to Haiti to provide free medical clinics/care, establishing what will be an annual program for PASS participants.

Andrea Moll, MS, PA-C, an instructor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Saint Francis, left, Bob Maginn, Jenzabar CEO and Jenzabar Foundation chairman, and Justine Moder, USF Physician Assistant Student Society (USF PASS) member are pictured as USF PASS receives a Student Leadership Award in Dallas for work in Haiti.
USF hosts Best Practices

Education and social work professionals from across the state shared their successful, evidence-based best practices and “what-works” responses to real world challenges at USF’s sixth annual Best Practices Showcase March 3.

Grades K-12 educators, social workers, counselors and psychologists in public, private, parochial and charter schools chose from over 60 workshops in a broad range of topics. Project-based learning in the 21st century classroom, safe dating, research-based methods to engage students in reading, the 40 Developmental Assets and differentiating instruction and assessment for diverse learners were some subjects the showcase explored.

It all ADDs up to excellence

School of Creative Arts students won 37 ADDY awards, including two prestigious Judges’ Choice awards, at the American Ad Federation of Fort Wayne’s February award ceremony. Molly Stronczek and Ashleigh Kiester were Judges’ Choice winners. The students claimed 18 gold and 17 silver awards, with Casey Beaver, Michael Bianski and Kelsey Ruddell earning two golds and Ashleigh Kiester, Jeffrey Bostelman, Ashley Ruland, Nicole Alspaugh, Meghan Kiester, Patrick Ranschert and USF Student AAF Chapter members Ashleigh Kiester, Jacob Hochstedler, Caitlin Nelson and Christina Calhoun, Jenne Sprunger, Danielle Hartman, Kaitlin Binkley, Morgan Ellis and Katie Knott winning one.

USF staffs safe viewing for rare transit of Venus

USF’s Schouweiler Planetarium and the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society teamed up to offer education and safe public viewing opportunities for a rare astronomical event, the transit of Venus, on June 5. During a transit of Venus, the planet Venus can be seen as a dot crossing the face of the sun. The partners staffed safe viewing sites at the USF soccer field parking lot behind Achatz Hall and the New Haven branch of the Allen County Public Library. Several hundred visitors took advantage of the telescopes and other safe viewing devices USF provided, along with Internet viewing via broadcast from Hawaii in Gunderson Auditorium. The transit was the last that will be seen from earth until the year 2125.

Alumni service opportunities

Alumni, students and staff can connect with community service opportunities through USF.

Join a volunteer team serving lunch at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission on Sept. 14, Oct. 12 and Nov. 28 from 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m., or help with the Rescue Mission’s Treasure House thrift store on Nov. 13 from 1-4 p.m.

Opportunities also exist at other agencies. For more information or to sign up a week ahead of time, contact Center for Service Engagement Director Katrina Boedeker at 260-399-7700, ext. 6791 or kboedeker@sf.edu.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
DON’T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE

Photos on this page by William Bryant Rozier
The unseeded Cougars upset 10th-seeded and ninth-ranked Jamestown (N.D.) 64-63 in the first round and advanced to the Elite Eight for a third consecutive year by upsetting No. 7-seed and No. 7-ranked Bellevue (Neb.) 61-58.

“I am so proud of this team,” LaCross said. “It was a different group from the previous two, much less experienced, and yet for the third consecutive season we were the last conference team to either win it all or get knocked out. That’s quite an accomplishment in the MCC. Q and Kevin Dawson stepped up as leaders. We got significant contributions from senior LaRon Bryant and Daniel Palombizio, as well as Ethan Hussey, Kevin Bloom and Brad Sneary.

“Sophomore Scott Kohne took a huge step forward, and we got major, major contributions from freshmen Seth Small, Spencer Comer, T.K. Fashawe and Josh Hogan.”

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The Cougars finished 23-13, falling to second-ranked and eventual NAIA championship winner Oregon Tech 100-67.

Owens scored 14 points in the loss and was named to the NAIA Championship All-Tournament Team for a USF record third consecutive season, after averaging 15.7 points in three games in 2012. He finished with 227 points in
Baseball notches
BEST-EVER RECORD

For perspective on the second-place finish in the MCC and a USF record 33-win season, remember that the Cougars were not picked to finish in the top five in the MCC preseason poll announced in November 2011.

The Cougars produced their best-ever MCC record with a 27-9 slate, most-ever conference wins in a season, and finished 33-24. USF finished two games behind MCC regular season champ and 25th-ranked Taylor University. In the 10-team MCC, only the top five teams qualified for the tournament. Unfortunately, second-seeded USF dropped a 4-1 decision in the opener to eventual winner Mount Vernon Nazarene, and then a 7-6, 11-inning heartbreaker to Huntington.

Senior catcher Derek Coverstone was All-MCC first team and was also named to the MCC Gold Glove Team. Junior outfielder Tyler Gregory and sophomore pitcher Wesley Hunsucker were also All-MCC first team picks. Hunsucker (9-3) set a USF record for consecutive wins on the mound with nine, and finished the season with 10 innings and a no-decision in the loss to HU. USF head coach Greg Roberts was MCC Co-Coach of the Year, his second such honor. Senior shortstop Ben Martin and junior second baseman Blayke Kaufman were NAIA Scholar Athletes. Other seniors included Dan Beer, Chris Howell and Tyler Painter.

LADY COUGARS
REBOUND FROM INJURIES

Injury had a major impact on the season when junior guard Kayla Drake sustained a broken bone in her left ankle late in a 62-56 win at 16th-ranked Grace in January. She had five 20-plus games in her first 10 in the season for Coach Gary Andrews.

With a roster reduced to seven, the Lady Cougars finished fourth in the conference and advanced to the MCC tournament semifinals at top-ranked Indiana Wesleyan before falling to the top-ranked Wildcats 53-50. Senior guard Kayla Mullins closed out her USF career with a team-high 19 points and finished No. 9 on the USF career scoring list. USF finished 19-13. Sophomore Jenelle Wilson was second-team All-MCC and senior Amanda Pedro was All-MCC honorable mention. Senior Myqueisha Bratton also saw action.

Photos on this page by Bill Scott, USF sports information director, and Jared Haagen, USF web developer.
SPRING FLING 2012 Extends Fundraising Success

Despite a wet, chilly day for soccer, the University of Saint Francis women’s soccer team raised nearly $3,000 at the seventh annual USF Spring Fling for the Pat Teagarden Coaching Education Scholarship and Seth Rider.

“We really appreciate all the support of fans through attendance and the silent auction,” USF head coach Christy Young said. “It was especially gratifying to see so many fans come out to support these two causes when the weather wasn’t the best. All six teams gave all-out effort, and we sure appreciate the team support from Notre Dame, IPFW, Indiana Tech, Dayton and Spring Arbor. We raised $2,000 from our silent auction, with more than 50 items.”

With teams made up primarily of players who will return this fall to play for their respective schools, six college teams and two local club teams made up the field on April 14.

In the first game, IPFW scored four times to wipe out a 1-0 deficit to defeat NAIA-member Spring Arbor University 4-1. Indiana Tech prevailed in a “friendly” renewal of its cross-town rivalry with the University of Saint Francis, 2-0. In the marquee match, the University of Dayton edged the University of Notre Dame 2-1.

“What matters most is that we all came together to raise money for soccer education and somebody who needs assistance with significant medical issues who is part of our extended family,” Young said.

Winter and Spring SPORTS RECAP Paws-itively Phenomenal

Softball

• The Lady Cougars won 16 more games than in 2011, finishing at 23-21 for their first overall winning season since 2001. USF also finished fifth in the MCC with a 10-8 record to qualify for the post-season tournament.

• Four underclassmen earned All-MCC, including three first-team selections in centerfielder Taylor Sherritt (junior) and sophomores Alyssa Kumpfmiller (left field) and Melissa Harber (shortstop). Sophomore Stephanie Whitman, who led USF in MCC-play with a .378 average and tied for the MCC-only home run lead with five, was All-MCC honorable mention.

• In his eighth season, USF head coach Ryan Bolyn picked up his 100th win on March 25, a 2-1 nail-biter over Siena Heights in Adrian, Mich.

Women’s Track and Field

• USF’s women tied for eighth with 8.5 points in the MCC meet. Sophomore Mallory Vandersaul had the best finish on either side with a tie for third in the women’s pole vault at 3.05 meters (10 feet) and 5.5 points. Senior Brittany Hutker finished sixth in the javelin with a best of 30.92 meters for sixth place (3 points).

Men’s Track and Field

• USF finished ninth in the men’s standings with four points under head coach Sarah Thrall. Freshman James Brames finished seventh in the men’s hammer with a best of 43.75 meters for seventh place (2 points). Freshman Paul Grote finished seventh in the pole vault with a best of 4.10 meters (13 feet, 5 ¼ inches) for two points. Sophomore Nick Brand finished just out of the points with a ninth in the 5000-meter run (16:00.01).

Women’s Golf

• Sophomore Lakin Davis led USF golfers at the UAC championship at Glendarin Hills Golf Course (Angola, Ind.) with a tie for eighth place at a two-round total 171 (86-85) on April 20-21. The Lady Cougars finished fourth out of nine teams with a 714 (Bethel won with a 655). Amber Black, the lone senior on the team, tied for 16th with a 179 and sophomore Darcy Allman tied for 20th with a 181.

Men’s Golf

• Freshman Nik Cross was the top finisher in the men’s MCC championship meet at Orchard Ridge in Fort Wayne, but the Cougars finished eighth of nine challengers. Cross finished with a three-round total 239 (86-70-83) to tie for 27th. Senior Bob Bragg finished 31st (243) and junior Nick Kelley tied for 39th (253). USF finished at 976 (334-312-330). Both teams are under the direction of Michelle Smith.

Find all athletics schedules, the most up-to-date results and news at saintfranciscougars.com.

Kudos to COUGARS

USF athletes also scored academically, finishing with a grade point average of 3.1 for varsity players. Senior basketball forward Kevin Dawson was named USF’s third-ever Capital One Academic All-America® College Division Men’s Basketball Team first team selection. Senior basketball forward Amanda Pedro earned NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athlete status and was named to the Capital One Academic All-America® College Division Women’s Basketball District Three Team.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
3-4 p.m. Classes without Quizzes
6 p.m. Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner [North Campus gymnasium]
7 p.m. USF Men’s Soccer Game vs. Indiana Wesleyan University [D’Arcy Stadium]
Alumni Tent during soccer game [D’Arcy Stadium, south end zone]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
9:15 a.m. Check-in for Cougar Spirit 5k Run/Walk [Hutzell Athletic Center]
10 a.m. Cougar Spirit 5k Run/Walk [Hutzell Athletic Center]
Alumni vs. Alumni Men’s Soccer Game [D’Arcy Stadium]
School of Creative Arts exhibit: “Fashionable Art—Apparel from the 1920s and 1930s” [Rolland Art Center, Weatherhead Gallery]
11 a.m. Alumni vs. Alumni Softball Game [Softball Field]
Noon-6 p.m. Giant Twister [Lawn area between Trinity Hall and Brookside]
Noon Alumni Baseball Game [Baseball Field]
1 p.m. Alumni Women’s Basketball Game [Hutzell Athletic Center]
2:4 p.m. USF Nursing Heritage: A Journey through Time [Doermer Health Sciences Building]
2:30 p.m. Alumni Men’s Basketball Game [Hutzell Athletic Center]
4 p.m. “Meet the Football Coaches” Barbecue Dinner [Clare parking lot]
4 & 5 p.m. Tailgates [Clare and Bonzel parking lots]
7 p.m. Alumni Tent, D’Arcy Stadium [south end zone]
USF Football Game vs. Concordia University [D’Arcy Stadium]
Fireworks right after Football Game [D’Arcy Stadium]

CONGRATULATIONS to our distinguished alums and Athletic Hall of Fame recipients!

Alumni awards:
Terry Growcock ’83, Distinguished Alumnus
Alex Cornwell ’09, Distinguished Young Alumnus
Jane Gerardot, Honorary Alumna
Leanne Mensing ’60, ’67, Distinguished Service by an Alumna

Athletic Hall of Fame awards:
James Bettcher ’03, Football and Track & Field
Chris Bramell ’06, Football
Allison Horn ’04, Volleyball
J. Webb Horton, former SFC tennis coach

Alumni of Achievement award recognition:
John Gensic ’05, School of Arts and Sciences
Alan Nauts ’82, ’06, School of Creative Arts
Andrea Moll ’05, School of Health Sciences
Linda Hartley ’77, School of Professional Studies

Need more information? Visit sf.edu/homecoming
Megan Weber faced daunting challenges during her quest for a USF nursing degree. As Commencement approached, she attributed her success to the support of her dad, who died from a rare cancer in November, and USF friends, who unflaggingly met her needs. During the past year, she assumed head-of-household responsibilities over two younger brothers while attending college, working and caring for a father struggling with terminal illness.

“Last Easter my dad was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain cancer,” she said. “His treatments ended two weeks before my spring finals, so I took on the primary caretaker role. He couldn’t communicate well because of the location of the tumor. That bothered him so much. School started in August, and we found out the tumor had grown. He passed on Nov. 3.”

She drew support from standards set by him. “My dad was my strong support system and proud of his kids. I couldn’t disappoint him, and knew I needed to focus. I was working two jobs, but spent time with him and studied sometimes while he napped,” she said.

She overcame it all, pulling A’s in her classes. USF was with her every step of the way. “I made amazing friends who took time out to study with me and spent time outside the classroom making sure I was okay. I’m not sure I could have done this someplace else,” she said. She draws her mission—supporting others in crisis—from the experience. “I want to provide the compassion, care and support I’ve received. I want to comfort other families and let them know that no matter how rough it gets, they need to stay positive.”
About Commencement

USF Fort Wayne and Crown Point graduates received diplomas May 5 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Alumnus and professor of English Dr. Stephen Sullivan delivered the address. University President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF welcomed the assembly, and members of the class of 1962 stood in recognition of their 50 years since graduation. Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel also made comments. Academic deans presented degrees, and Fort Wayne business owner and leader Chuck Surack received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Biology and pre-physician assistant major William Robert Kammel delivered the invocation, and the University Singers and Fort Wayne Area Community Band provided ceremonial music.

A baccalaureate Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne preceded the commencement, with Bishop Kevin Rhoades as celebrant.

Few graduates transform their lives like Geoff Gephart, who completed his master’s degree in the nurse practitioner program.

“I’m 60 years old, and doing this after 25 years in nonprofit management,” said Gephart, the president of Arts United in Fort Wayne for 14 years. His early career in high school English led to a master’s in social science and nonprofit management. After maximizing that career, he longed for a job change with no change in geography. Testing pointed him toward healthcare, and he began his exploration at USF. “I started classes, liked it, and began in 2005 to become a nurse practitioner,” he said. But there’s another little twist to the story—actually, a couple.

“When I was 52, my wife Betsy and I had our first child, and thought she would be our only one. Sixteen months later another came along, so now we have 6- and 7-year-olds at home,” Gephart said. “It’s all been a tremendous blessing. I wouldn’t change anything. I come home and the kids are there and there’s nothing more refreshing and revitalizing.”

He found graduate studies a great equalizer. “People were 20 to 50, and my age was no factor in how we related as students,” he said. “I made great friends, and relied upon the younger ones to steer me through the technology.”

He will pattern his practice upon family doctors. “I’ve had those doctors in my life, and the way they conduct themselves serves as my model,” he said. “I see myself working 10 to 15 years, and know nurse practitioners in their seventies who are marvelous clinicians,” he said.

“It’s never too late to change who you are. If I can do it, anybody can.”
Mix together 130 University of Saint Francis scholarship recipients, donors and university representatives and you get the eighth annual University of Saint Francis Scholarship Luncheon. They not only enjoyed conversation and good food at the April 25 luncheon, but also perspectives on what the university means to both students and donors.

For Ryan Ulch, this is a school where you aren’t a number, where you really know your professors and where doors open for new opportunities. Scholarships will help Ryan, from Kendallville, graduate debt-free as an accounting major in the EPIC track. He received a Business Education Foundation scholarship.

Gilbert J. Fox, a loyal friend of the university, called upon students to let the Holy Spirit work in their lives; he is there to help, especially at low points. Don’t confuse the quality of how you live with the quantity of money you make, Fox said. Take time before deciding on your path of life, including marriage, to make sure it’s the right decision, he advised. Gil endowed the Marian A. Fox Scholarship and sponsors an annual scholarship.

This annual event recognizes both donors and the students who receive endowed and annual scholarships.

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Seraphs’ heavenly generosity celebrated

For over 10 years, USF has celebrated special benefactors—Seraph Society members—at a luncheon to honor their extreme selflessness in giving to the university through their wills.

This year’s event took place May 7 in the Brookside ballroom. Four new members were inducted, and each received a certificate of thanks for the commitment. Dr. Joe Steensma of the USF business school spoke to the group about his early education at Saint Francis, thanking donors for their role in the profound experience.

The group is diverse in age, from those with young families to middle-aged and elderly members. Not all are USF alumni. “These are deep and generous commitments by exceptionally dedicated people,” said Director of Planned Giving Sister Marilyn Oliver, OSF.

For information about the Seraph Society, email moliver@sf.edu or call 260-399-7782.
Adam: Give it your all

Adam King has made doing his best the goal ever since he came to USF from Griffith, Ind. in 1998 as a soccer recruit.

“If it takes studying for that A or B or extra work on the sports field, you get out of it what you put in. My parents pushed for the hard work,” Adam said. “My senior year, I told myself that to give soccer my all, I needed to stay and train all summer. Then I was named all-conference, all-region, and all-American honorable mention.

“I didn’t expect any of it because I set those goals higher than I thought I could achieve. It was the same with the classroom when I became an Academic All-American. That was the best I could do.”

His mother, Marsha, steered him toward the medical field post-graduation, and he appreciates the guidance. “She’s the cream of the crop. She’s done it all,” he said.

Now a nuclear medicine technologist at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Hobart, Ind., he uses radioactive medicines to detect or treat diseases. He’s still doing his best.

Marsha: A match made in heaven

Marsha King had a strong connection with USF before she joined the faculty of USF Crown Point this year to develop its simulation lab. Watching her son Adam play soccer and basketball here was a family routine.

“We were very supportive of him and took in any home game we could get to. I was working on my MBA, so I studied during trips to the games. I still remember sitting at the soccer field in the lawn chairs with blankets,” she said.

So when her husband suggested contacting USF Crown Point for a teaching position, she didn’t hesitate. A Doctor in Nursing Practice candidate, she discussed possibilities with nursing program director Margaret Stoffregen-DeYoung, and they agreed her doctoral studies dovetailed nicely with the development of USF Crown Point’s simulation lab. “I told her, ‘I feel like God sent you to me,’ and she felt the same way. It’s a match made in heaven for me.”

When an initial goal of one simulation per semester was suggested, “I said we’ll do better than that,” King recalled. During the spring semester, two simulations were each presented six times. “They got very good reviews, and prior to end of the semester, I met with core coordinators to decide on fall simulations so I could prepare this summer.”

With Adam living and working nearby, they are back together, doing what they love. “I’m so proud of him. He is just really making a difference in patients’ lives,” she said.
She had no reason to believe the Jan. 1, 2011 goal would stick. Like most of us, she’d made and broken many before. But this time something clicked, setting in motion an 18-month journey to lose half her body weight. Succeeding meant a new mindset and lifestyle. “I’m all or nothing,” she said. “I’m trying to learn to have one treat and be satisfied, but old habits are hard to break, so I’d rather not indulge at all. It’s a whole lifestyle change.”
The next time a USF student calls as a member of the Annual Fund Phonathon team, consider that young person more than just a voice at the end of the line. He or she is a voice for others.

Phonathon students call university alumni and friends because they know every Annual Fund gift, no matter the size, helps to reduce tuition for a fellow student. They know what scholarships have meant to their success, and they want all USF students to share in the benefit. They are earnest students with high aspirations.

**meet SARA WAGNER**

Take sophomore Physical Therapist Assistant program and health sciences major Sara Wagner. A member of the USF equestrian team, she hopes to use her degree and love of riding to establish a therapy stable for physically and mentally handicapped children.

“Phonathon is relevant because we connect with alumni to help students so they can enjoy USF the same way our alumni have,” she said.

**meet AMBER WHARTON**

Sophomore special education major Amber Wharton’s handicapped sister has inspired Amber to spend her life helping others like her 11-year-old sibling at home. “She is the sweetest thing on the face of the earth,” Amber said. “She can be helped so much by just 15 minutes of reading or physical therapy. She had one teacher who was unbelievable in helping her, and that inspired me to major in special education.”

She hopes to help other students through the Annual Fund. “If some students don’t have the funds, then they can’t take the courses to help people like my sister,” she said.

**meet EMILY THORNBURG**

Sophomore graphic design major Emily Thornburg appreciates all she can learn from alumni through Phonathon. “It has helped me gain skills I can use post-graduation when dealing with clients in the real world,” she said. “So I’m helping students by raising funds through Phonathon, and learning at the same time. The advice they give me is very helpful.”

Different voices and faces, all with the same mission—to give every person a chance to be his or her best.
1970s

Patricia Watson (MS ’77) will take lots of good memories of Schoolcraft College to Arizona in June, when she and husband, Charles Jerzycke, move there for retirement. Watson, a Northville resident, was elected to a third six-year term on the community college board of trustees in May 2005. She was first appointed to fill a vacancy in October 1991 through June 1993. Since then, she’s served as secretary, chair and treasurer. She has been the board’s representative to the Michigan Community College Association and served on the Schoolcraft Development Authority, which oversees development of assets as a result of land lease arrangements. She earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit, and works as a clinical and forensic psychologist in private practice. She has also taught at Madonna University as an adjunct associate instructor in the graduate division. A consultant to the Detroit Area Salvation Army Corps and the Denby Children’s Home in Detroit, she was appointed a commissioner to the Northville Youth Assistance Program (1998 to 2002). She is a member of the American Psychological Association and Michigan Psychological Association. In September 1996, Gov. John Engler appointed her to the Board of Psychology for the State of Michigan, and she has served as chair. • Danny Jeftich (BA ’78) is a full-time faculty member and regional chair for student success at Ivy Tech Community College in Valparaiso, Ind. Danny is also head soccer coach at Valparaiso High School, the 2004 I.H.S.A.A state champions. He was named state and Midwest N.S.C.A.A. coach of the year and nominated for national coach of the year. For the past 26 years, he has served as a staff coach for the Olympic Development Program. He took the 1996 boys’ soccer team to the national finals in Frisco, Texas. Danny also serves as director of coaching with the Chicago Fire Junior Program, and has a U.S.S.F. National Youth Coaching license and U.S.S.F. “A” license. His wife, Christine, also graduated from USF in 1978. They have been married for 27 years and have three children: Jovan, Daniel and Nikolas.

1980s

Kim McDonald (BA ’85) is working at Catalyst Marketing Design as a special projects coordinator.

1990s

Scott Tippin (BBA ’95) and Stephanie (Ray) Tippin (BSN ’00) recently moved to Phoenix, Ariz. Scott works for Molex as a district sales manager. • Clay Bolser (BA ’98) recently accepted a position as boys’ varsity basketball head coach and art teacher at North Miami High School in Denver, Ind. • Jason McLain (BS ’98) and wife, Hollie, are proud parents of a baby boy, Jaxon Koewler McLain, born on April 28. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Jaxon is joined by older siblings, Marlie, 3, and Logan, 1. Jason purchased Mountain Lake Camp in Fannettberg, Pa., a co-ed summer camp for children ages 6-16, in March. The camp specializes in YMCA-style camps and has 23 acres bordered by a 7,000-acre scenic preserve. This camp area is designed to be used as a lodge during hunting season. Contact Jason at Mclaij@sidney.k12.oh.us for further details or check out the camp’s website. Jason also purchased a sports bar called Z’s Food and Spirits in Piqua, Ohio. • Carey (Bendele) Smith (BA ’98) and Greg Smith (BA ’96) welcomed a son, Mattux, on May 20. Mattux weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz. and was 20 inches long. He joins his big sister, Larkin, in the Smith home. • Kathleen (Sparrow) Fisher (MSE ’98) was awarded the Golden Apple Award, Educator of the Year 2011-2012 by the Chamber of Commerce of Sherwood, Ore. in recognition of her outstanding leadership in the business community of Sherwood. • Justin Johnson (BA ’99) and wife Angie welcomed their son, Adam Paul Johnson, on Saturday, June 9. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. He joins his big sister, Gracie. • Julie (Yoder) Taylor (BBA ’99, MBA ’04) gave birth to Caleb Joseph on Sunday, May 27 at 1:10 p.m. He weighed 5 pounds 13 ounces and was 19 inches long. Big brothers Noah and Luke are excited!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

HAVE A CLASS NOTE?
To update information, simply go to sf.edu/alumni and click on “Stay Connected” or send information to: Jessica Swinford at jswinford@sf.edu or mail it to University of Saint Francis Alumni Office, 2701 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. Thanks for keeping in touch with your alma mater!
2000s

Amie Kiefer (BA ’00) works as a school psychologist for the MSD of Decatur Township on the southwest side of Indianapolis. She has been working there for the past 10 years and recently was promoted to department chair. *Jeremy Moore (BS ’00) and wife, Julia, welcomed Evan David into the world on July 17. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was welcomed home by older siblings Lauren, Xavier and Eliana. *Mike Bonacci (BBA ’02) is working for Vantiv as executive sales manager/vice president. *Michelle (Pray) Boroff (BSE ’02, MSE ’07) gave birth to Jackson Edward Boroff on March 12 at 12:26 p.m. He was 7 pounds, 4 ounces and 20 inches long. *Rachel (Stauffer) Pritz (ASN ’02) is clinical coordinator for Indiana Mother’s Milk Bank, a nonprofit human milk bank that supplies donated breast milk to neonatal intensive care units for sick babies. She coordinates marketing and education for hospitals, the review and approval of patient charts, and pasteurization and approval of milk. *Cecilia (Goebel) Snyder (ASN ’02, MSN ’12) graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing, family nurse practitioner track. Cecilia is so thankful to USF for the professional and personal growth while a student here, times two. She is looking forward to beginning her new career. *Brian Anthony (BBA ’03) was recently promoted to associate director with the ad agency Starcom. Brian has been with this company for six years, and relocated from Detroit to Chicago. *Rodney King (BLS ’03) is the department manager for Harvest Operations at Weaver Popcorn. He has been with the company for almost seven years, and has been managing the Harvest Department for the past two years. *Deanna Mettler (BS ’03) accepted a new position in December 2011 at Slingshot SEO as vice president for finance. She has been with the company for 18 months. *Anthony Papa (BA ’03) has worked at Promark International Inc. since April 2007. As a product manager, he prepares photos for websites and media publications and creates advertisements, flyers and social media graphics. He also does freelance work and recently taped/produced a Jet Ski TV show for BSN (Beach Sports Network), airing nationwide on MAV TV (a Dish Network channel/local affiliate). *Mitchell Thornton (BBA ’03) is a senior sales representative for Shire Pharmaceuticals, where he has worked three years. He finished second in the nation for sales in 2011, and won the President’s Club Award. He is also the national sales director for The Red Carpet Events, holding different events across the country. *Tony Mayer Jr. (BBA ’04) is working for Proctor & Gamble as a category development manager. *Aaron Minier (BA ’04) released his “Battle of Destiny” trade paperback comic book written by Chuck Dixon. Aaron was the illustrator of this publication, which tells the story of King David in the Bible.
Joshua Ackerman (BA '10) is the creative lead at Digital Entourage in San Diego, Calif. • Michael Alberico (BA '10) and Emily Ottenweller (BS '10) are engaged and will be married in spring 2013. Michael is co-owner of the Waynedale News. Emily is working on a doctorate at the University of Notre Dame. • Jennifer Fisher (MBA '10) recently accepted a position at Group Dekko as their human resources director. • Jay Horning (BA '10) is the high school youth ministry director at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, Ind. Jay’s life and faith have undergone dramatic conversion since rediscovering his Catholic faith at USF. He was baptized, confirmed and received first communion at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton church on April 3, 2010. After two years at St. Elizabeth’s, Jay applied to the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend in November, and in April was accepted by Bishop Kevin Rhoades as a seminarian. He begins his first year of pre-theology this fall at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md. • Melissa Martin (BSN '10) married Daniel Debolt, a graduate of Ball State University, on June 23. Melissa works for Parkview Regional Medical Center as an RN in the Heart Institute pre-recovery area. • Emily (Cebalt) Overmyer (BS '10) and Tyler Overmyer (BS '10) were married in May 2011 and are living in Ohio. They became friends during their freshman year and have been together ever since. • Jessica Taghon (BS '10) received her Master of Science degree in biology from Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne in December. • Katie Fox (BA '11) received the Lifetime Sports Academy Scholarship to USF, established to honor USF benefactor Tom Jehl, after years in the academy as a child and teen. "The Lifetime Sports Academy taught me to be involved and face challenges. Student Activities Council, orientation team, American Advertising Federation treasurer, bridge program leader, president of the Honors Club and the National Honors representative of the Mid-Eastern Honors Association are just some roles I’ve taken on. While at USF, I always remembered the dedicated men and women who helped me come so far," she said. • Krista Fultz (BA '11) will be working on the ministry staff at Pines Catholic Camp in Big Sandy, Texas, serving as one of eight staff members who live in the camp and run the retreats for various age groups. (Pictured on left.) • Adam Greene (BBA '11) is working as a sales representative at UniFirst. • Amy Roberts (BS '11) is in graduate school at Alaska Pacific University, studying mud seals. • Maggie Ward (BA '11) spoke about horror film history at Tippecanoe County Library in June. Her obsession with cinema began with the University Film Club. In the dark screening room with her peers, she learned how to watch and analyze film. In her last semester, the club screened “Poltergeist,” which lodged itself in her heart. After college, she started MK Horror (formerly known as Maggie Kay’s Horror Blog) to fill the void created when she left school and the film club. You may follow her at www.mkhorror.com. • Annette Wellman (BA '11) is pursuing graduate studies in canon law this fall at Saint Paul University.
in Ottawa, Canada. She is working in the Allen County Superior Court and studying abroad with USF prior to her departure in the fall. She received scholarships from the Faculty of Canon Law at Saint Paul University and the Canon Law Society of America.

- **Jordan Wise (BBA ’11)**, a former wide receiver for the USF football team, is now employed at Lincoln Financial Group as part of the leadership preparation program in client and administrative services.

- **Joelle Anderson (ASN ’12)** recently graduated from USF Crown Point and is working as a CNA/NE II.

- **Aimee (Blombach) Bierbaum (MSN ’12)** graduated with a Master of Science in Nursing, family nurse practitioner track. She is a nurse practitioner for Dr. G. Verrula at Jefferson Park Pediatrics.

- **Melissa Carter (ASN ’12)** graduated from USF Crown Point and is working at St. Anthony Medical Hospital in Crown Point, Ind. as an LPN.

- **Brittney Godbolt (ASN ’12)** graduated from USF Crown Point and is working at Community Hospital in Munster, Ind. as an RN fellow.

- **Jennifer Hagerty (ASN ’12)** graduated from USF Crown Point and is working at USS Family Medical as a nurse.

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**leaders pass away**

**SUE NATION**

Associate Professor of Nursing emeritus Sue Nation, 70, died July 10. She worked for the University of Saint Francis and Lutheran College of Health Professions for 20 years, retiring in 2000. She was a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the honor society of nursing. Her husband, James, preceded her in death and her children, Phillip Nation of Tucson, Ariz. and daughter, Deborah Lankford of Fort Wayne, survive. Services were July 13 in Fort Wayne. Memorials are to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

**JIM CLARK**

Tennis coach for USF in 2010-2011, Jim Clark, 66, died May 30 at his home after a lengthy battle with cancer. He came to USF after completing a career at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne that included a state-record 31 straight sectional titles and 18 state match appearances. He announced his retirement from Homestead in 2009 and became USF tennis coach the next year. He was inducted into the Fort Wayne Tennis Hall of Fame in 2011. Donations are to S.A.C.S. Tennis Foundation at www.coachjimmyclark.com.

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**in memoriam**

**1930s**

- Mary Ann Noonan, Class of 1939**

**1940s**

- Marie Kriebaum, Class of 1941*
- Cecelia M. Wright, Class of 1943
- Marjorie Hoover, Class of 1945*
- Joan Frances Keever, Class of 1946**
- Wanda Marvynne Hageman, Class of 1947**
- Dorothy Wade, Class of 1949*
- Lois Ann Koehlinger, Class of 1949*

**1950s**

- Helen Ho, Class of 1953*
- Monica Louise Jennings, Class of 1953*
- Wilma Jarrett, Class of 1954*
- Ann Eileen Mullins, Class of 1957**
- Eleanor Mary Schneiders, Class of 1957**
- Joan Eileen Gospodareck, Class of 1958**
- Linda K. Downing, Class of 1958**
- Donna Riley, Class of 1958*

**1960s**

- Cheryl Mae Fletcher, Class of 1962
- Nancy Tucker, Class of 1962*
- Joan Marie Allen, Class of 1963
- Donna M. Mitchell, Class of 1965
- Gordon E. Grabill, Class of 1966
- Ruth Haines Rasp, Class of 1966
- Phyllis E. Eckmann, Class of 1967
- Verl A. Oberlin, Class of 1967
- Keith L. Fritz, Class of 1968

**1970s**

- Donna M. Clark, Class of 1971
- Marjorie Michel, Class of 1971
- Nancy J. Weirich, Class of 1971
- Norma J. Stech, Class of 1972
- Denis G. Muckenaupt, Class of 1973
- Randall F. Hoblet, Class of 1973
- Sister M. Theresita Strasburger, Class of 1973
- Agnes Ruth Baker, Class of 1974
- John E. Studer, Class of 1974
- James P. Weins, Class of 1975
- Kathleen Hippensteel, Class of 1975
- Daniel English, Class of 1977
- Joy M. Gerig, Class of 1977

**1980s**

- Regina M. Busse, Class of 1980
- Paul Richard Crandall, Class of 1981
- Emmett E. Krouse, Class of 1983
- Donald Maller, Class of 1983*
- Nancy A. Brown, Class of 1989

**1990s**

- Donald P. Graham, Class of 1991*
- Cynthia A. Rahon, Class of 1991*
- Nelda F. McNary, Class of 1996*

**2000s**

- Michael E. Failor, Class of 2009

*From Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing—Lutheran College of Health Professions
**From St. Joseph School of Nursing
Love Connections

Told by Erin Patton-McFarren—Erin Patton-McFarren (BA ’99) and Jeremy McFarren (BA ’98), knew each other in high school, but “met” at a punk show in college. He started the courtship by shooting wads of paper at her across the table. When School of Creative Arts Dean Rick Cartwright started taking groups to Europe again, they went so they could see the masterpieces they studied. By the time they got to Florence, she knew something was up, but thought he was contemplating getting the big chunk of Parmesan cheese through customs. He was thinking about the ring he bought. She doesn’t think she let him finish asking. Now looking forward to their (lucky) 13th anniversary, with their beautiful kids, Olivia, 9, and Nigel, 6, they’ll go to dinner, and talk and talk and talk—mostly about how lucky they are to have one another. And listen to some old punk-rock songs.

Told by Michael Alberico—Love has a special chemistry for Michael Alberico (BA ’10), co-owner of The Waynedale News, and Emily Ottenweller (BS ’10), University of Notre Dame grad student, who met in chemistry class at Fort Wayne’s Bishop Luers. Emily’s tutoring helped him survive class. At prom time, Mike asked a cheerleader who already had a date, but knew a girl in Mike’s chemistry class who talked about him a lot. So Mike asked Emily. After graduation, Mike wanted to stay nearby while she finished high school. USF’s welcoming feeling and computer graphic design program won him over. Emily came to USF, and their love grew during an Italy study trip. When Mike’s family planned a summer 2011 Italy trip and invited Emily, he knew he wanted to propose. “We were ready for the future together and the timing was perfect,” he said. The relationship that ignited in chemistry class burned brightly throughout college, and the couple plans on April 2013 wedding in Fort Wayne.

WANT TO SUBMIT A LOVE CONNECTION? Just email Jessica Swinford, director of alumni relations, at jswinford@sf.edu or mail to Jessica’s attention: University of Saint Francis, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne, IN 46808.
A View from the Treetops

The Treetops Rooftop party area at Parkview Field afforded more than 183 USF alumni, employees and their families a bird’s-eye view of the baseball field during the TinCaps alumni event Saturday, June 9. The Rooftop was reserved exclusively for USF alumni that night, so attendees not only had an awesome view—they also had a private area to watch the game with loved ones, network with classmates and enjoy the great food provided by the Treetops Grill. Those who needed a break from the heat had access to air conditioning on the facility’s first floor, and everyone was entertained by the spectacular fireworks display at the end of the evening.

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 22; Oct. 27; Nov. 3
GAME DAYS IN THE ALUMNI TENT

You’ll see the Alumni Association banner proudly waving at the alumni tent, located at the south end zone of USF’s Bishop D’Arcy Stadium. Come enjoy food, giveaways and the excitement of all the games while catching up with classmates on careers, kids and more. Remember, it’s all happening at the alumni tent on the following dates:

• Homecoming/home football game vs. Concordia University, Sept. 22
• Home football game vs. Siena Heights, Oct. 27
• Home football game vs. Taylor, Nov. 3

Oct. 6
USF DAY AT THE ZOO

The ninth annual USF Zoo Day will be Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo. Zoo hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the cost is $10.50 for adults, $8 for seniors age 60 and over and $6 for children ages 2-14. Children under 2 are admitted free. Price includes one complimentary ride on one of the following: train ride, sky safari ride, carousel or river ride. The USF lunch and activities will be located at the Foellinger Theater lawn area. A complimentary lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (sandwich, chips, fruit, drink and cookie). Activities including balloon artists, face painting, a children’s entertainer and more will also take place. Tickets must be obtained through the University of Saint Francis and cannot be purchased at the zoo. For more information, call 260-399-8037.

Photos by William Bryant Rozier
where are they NOW?
God, family, music guide SFC alum

Supple fingers move effortlessly across white piano keys, and harmonies of peace, tranquility and reverence begin to weave their magic. Jim Didier’s in The Zone.
If constants create circularity, the Saint Francis College graduate and former administrator, music professor and Jesters director’s life proves it. Draw a line to trace his path, and you’ll find intersecting lines of music, family, Most Precious Blood Church and Saint Francis College/University of Saint Francis crossing and re-crossing it, bringing it back to the Fort Wayne origins that drive it all.

Now music director for Most Precious Blood Church near USF, Jim continues a music journey begun as a 10-year-old choir boy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Shortly after graduation from Saint Francis College in 1972, he took his first music director position at St. Andrew’s. He came to Most Precious Blood in 1980 to teach math, religion and music, completing his SFC master’s degree during that time. In 1989, he became Director of Student Affairs and part-time SFC instructor. He began teaching full-time in 1998, when SFC became University of Saint Francis.

When much-loved Jesters director Hal Gunderson passed away in 1992, Jim took over the program for artists with disabilities for nine years. “That was a time of immense personal growth,” Jim said. “We did fun shows like ‘If It Ain’t Country, It Ain’t Music.’ We tailor-wrote scripts to fit individual talents. One young man was autistic. When he came to us at age 10, he barely spoke. Ten years later, he was my leading man.”

During Jim’s USF tenure, courses in rock-and-roll history, jazz history and American musical theater were added and the University Singers formed. He also directed Drama Club productions. When he retired in 2002, “life got lots simpler,” he said.

But it still boils down to the same set of constants—family, church, and always, music. Married 39 years to his wife, Shari, he has four children and eight grandchildren, all in Fort Wayne. With grandkids now attending Most Precious Blood School, the circle continues.

So does the music. He sings folk and rock with his kids at the Green Frog down the street from the church. Sometimes the Fort Wayne Komets hockey season opens with a quartet by Jim, his sons and brother. Over the years he’s played with Fort Wayne’s East Bank Boogie Band and Junkyard Band. And he still plays with the Knights on the Town, the Saint Francis Jazz Ensemble which was joined in 1968.

But sacred music remains his motivator and mission. “I’ve loved liturgy since grade school, and I never tire of it, even though it means lots of meeting with couples to plan weddings and helping people through the grief of funerals. It’s all part of the ministry. Music is an important way for people to emote,” he said.

With three Masses every weekend and two a week for the church’s children, he creates over 250 programs a year for the church alone. He has composed five albums and writes music for the choir. “The liturgies and recordings are how I serve God’s people as music minister,” he said.

He applies a simple, time-honored formula. “My God and my family are the greatest loves in my life. I love being the music minister at PB and I love being with Shari and our family. I don’t have much money, but I’m a millionaire many times over.”

“My God and my family are the greatest loves in my life.”

-JIM DIDIER, SFC ’72

Photos by Steve Vorderman

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“Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.”
- Psalm 119:105

USF degree candidates gather in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for a baccalaureate Mass before commencement. (See commencement story on pages 30 and 31.)