Beautiful USF Jesters display the theme for a self-portrait project they undertook this year, now displayed at the Arts United Center. The performing arts group for people with mild to severe disabilities received funding from the AWS Foundation to sustain and expand it for the next five years. Jesters Director Allison Ballard and AWS Foundation Director Lynne Gilmore share the group’s mission.
A unique view of the underwater world of the Bahamas near Forfar Field Station on Andros Island allowed USF environmental science master degree candidates Ashley Meehan and Luanette Colebrooke to research two new techniques to create an underwater map of a small patch reef and quickly assess its health. Colebrooke presented the findings at the second Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas.

Excellent career preparation by USF allowed spring MSN-FNP graduate Ben Giarmo to be recruited by a local dermatology group before his graduation. Ben now sees patients of his own, after working for the group as an undergraduate, joining the group and passing his board exams. A USF federal grant for the Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner degree helped fund his final year.

Frozen forever into the Disney Animation history books will be 2002 BA graduate Adam Green’s work on “Frozen,” the highest grossing animated film and number-five movie of all time, world-wide. He says rich opportunities exist for animators who work hard, learn continually and refuse to let obstacles discourage them. He uses the artistic foundation he built at USF’s School of Creative Arts every day.

A sweet retreat from the ordinary came to the stage of the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center this spring, when the School of Creative Arts performed “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” for a packed house of kids and families. Fort Wayne Youtheatre and DeBrand Fine Chocolates partnered to provide youthful actors and chocolate treats to heighten the experience.
Dear alumni and friends,

This past semester held some remarkable blessings, and we are grateful for our talented students and the support of our alumni and community as we reach out to expand our mission for even greater impact.

What further proof is needed of our university’s champion status than our Lady Cougars’ national basketball championship in March? Their dedication and character allowed the nation to see what USF students are made of. We are proud of them.

The world has taken notice of USF, and demonstrated its faith with generous support. Our downtown campus plan is marching forward. Given strong legs by the Robert Goldstine and English Bonter Mitchell foundations, Sweetwater Sound and numerous others, we are three-quarters of the way toward our fundraising goal. With Design Collaborative as architect, we begin construction early next year.

Our academic excellence has also received support. Steel Dynamics and National Science Foundation grants will benefit students studying science or mathematics. A federal Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship grant will fund the education of working students in their final year of the Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner. The Lilly Endowment has funded a new Risk Management and Insurance program and Career Outreach Center to professionally equip our students. Our Jesters performing arts program for people with disabilities also received five-year funding from the AWS Foundation.

While we are grateful for this generous support, we like to give back. This year’s student-led Formula for Life generated $12,000 to add to $75,000 already raised for a new orphanage and clean wells in Haiti. Construction is underway, as our students discovered during a Haiti visit this spring. Our free “Future of Civil Rights” event brought the community to the performing arts center to discuss the impact of the Civil Rights Act on the 50th anniversary of its enactment. A related event, our student-led Stand Against Racism, was a community-wide recognition of the evils of social injustice.

Our Office of Service and Social Action took students to South Africa this spring for a broader understanding of the issues of apartheid and AIDS infection. The life-changing experience gave our nursing and education majors perspective on how their disciplines impact lives globally.

We are busily engaged now in a new semester, and invite you to enjoy our many activities. Our art galleries bid you to stroll through, our lectures are bringing national figures to campus, our performance hall is drawing thousands, and as always, our Cougar athletes are providing on-field excitement. Don’t forget our Homecoming Oct. 3 and 4.

Many blessings,

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF
President
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PEACE and JUSTICE

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The magazine of the University of Saint Francis is published twice annually by the USF Marketing Department and distributed without cost to alumni, faculty, staff and other friends of the university.
Dr. Matt Smith, USF Vice President of Institutional Advancement, left; Nancy Jordan, Senior Vice President, Individual Annuity Operations, Lincoln Financial Group; Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, USF President; and John Ferguson, President/Principal, Ferguson Advertising share a vision for the vitality of downtown Fort Wayne and the economic development of this region.
As USF moves forward with its downtown campus, it expands the city’s efforts to build a central arts and culture corridor, while providing qualified graduates for downtown companies. Neighbors-to-be are excited about the intersection of USF programs with their businesses and the impact this may have on employment and growth.

Ferguson Advertising has an established relationship with the USF School of Creative Arts, which offers the downtown Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program, said President/Principal John Ferguson. “A Ferguson creative director and a number of art directors are USF grads, so hopefully this leads to more collaboration. It’s great for downtown Fort Wayne for higher education to move to its core. It helps on many levels. The investment in downtown is positive and the focus on the creative class is beneficial,” he said. “In this area, with Ash Brokerage to our east and USF to our west, there are very exciting things happening.”

Ash Brokerage is making a multi-million-dollar expansion downtown, and looks forward to partnering with USF on a new Risk Management and Insurance program in the former Chamber of Commerce building, the new home of the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. Ash CFO Joe Svitek has collaborated with Butler University in Indianapolis on its Risk Management and Insurance program, and sees a win-win situation with USF downtown.

“I have been part of the northeast Indiana insurance conversation, and it would be great to retain talent in the areas of risk management and insurance. Let’s keep students here, so they become part of the community and also quality prospects for jobs,” he said. USF EPIC program participant Brad Hartman is in a two-year Ash co-op program, and the prospect of similar candidates excites Ash. “We need to show the younger generation the opportunities are here. There will be excitement in knowing you can be an insurance professional specific to the risk management segment,” Svitek said.

“"We fully support Saint Francis’ Risk Management and Insurance program and look forward to partnering with our new neighbors to retain more Fort Wayne graduates. Baby boomers are retiring at an increasing rate, and Lincoln anticipates the new Risk Management and Insurance program will serve as an important source for recruiting new talent. A strong group of insurance companies organized by the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership also support the new program.”

USF Music Technology Program Director Jeff Rodgers sees many benefits from his program’s downtown move. “It provides a facility designed to meet the authentic and project-based ways in which we teach,” he said. “Multiple recording studios and a performance venue give our students more than just classrooms, and being downtown supports internships and collaborations with other performance halls, venues and churches. Many of our recording and production majors minor in business, marketing or related fields. They and our sales and marketing majors will benefit from having the school of business next door.”

As momentum and excitement for the downtown campus build, key elements have aligned for a smooth path ahead. In January, Fort Wayne announced its backing through a $3 million three-to-one matching award from its Legacy Fort Wayne Fund. Other contributions, including $750,000 from English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation, have supported USF’s mission to develop the $12.3 million project. The design work, awarded in June to local firm Design Collaborative, will include renovations to the Chamber of Commerce building to support programs, including accounting, business, finance, risk management, entrepreneurship, marketing, management, sports management and EPIC—USF’s signature cooperative program.

Modifications are not anticipated for the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center to preserve its historical integrity, but the center’s west end will receive major renovations to meet the Music Technology Program’s acoustic and technical needs. The project size is approximately 69,700 square feet. A construction date will be announced soon.

"We’re proud of our 100-year downtown Fort Wayne heritage and thrilled that Saint Francis will be adding to the downtown revitalization.”

—Nancy Jordan, Senior Vice President, Individual Annuity Operations and Fort Wayne site leader, Lincoln Financial Group
Donors Joan and Ron Venderly view their scholarship recipients as investments in the future.
When asked about her motives, Joan takes a pragmatic approach. Instead of spending their hard-earned money on luxuries, Joan said she prefers to invest in students, whom she refers to as her “jewels.” She said her husband did quite well in the financial services industry, so they feel compelled to give back. What started as a way to spread Christmas cheer one year turned into a longstanding tradition.

“When fancy clothes and jewelry you always have to worry about them, but with scholarships it’s taken care of,” she said. “It’s like throwing a pebble in a pond.”

That intended ripple effect created by her philanthropy is her way of taking care of the future long after her passing. She said it’s important to encourage young people to pursue careers in education and nursing for the “good of society.” As the cost of higher education continues to rise, Joan said she hopes to help lighten that load. What’s more, she shared how the USF nursing school impressed her. Students can earn an associate, bachelor and master degree in nursing at the Fort Wayne campus. Each of the nursing programs is fully accredited by national nursing organizations.

The fields of education and nursing also have a special place in the couple’s hearts due to their respective educational and career paths. Her husband received his bachelor’s degree in education from Indiana University in 1960 and a master’s in guidance and counseling from Ball State in 1964. Two of the couple’s three daughters attended Ball State.

Although she’s fairly humble about it, she was the first of her immediate family to attend college, which was fairly typical for her time. It was common for women to stay at home with children and not work outside the home. But Joan says her education began long before entering nursing school. The daughter of a minister, reading was emphasized in her family.

When it was time for the next step in her education, Joan looked to the sciences. In 1946, she entered the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing near Foster Park, before working as an instructor there for five years and starting a family. (The University of Saint Francis later acquired the school.) Joan, who lives in Fort Wayne, said she still has a great deal of respect for the profession and is the first to recognize the significant advances and changes in the approach to medicine. For example, when she was in school, the antibiotic penicillin had just come on the scene, which really changed the way medical professionals treated bacterial diseases. In general, she said today’s nurses are better trained holistically in the process of healing and other specialties.

More specifically, she said it wasn’t uncommon to care for a patient in the hospital for a week at a time. As a result it was easy for the nurses to develop a tight bond with the patient and the doctor on duty. Joan said she recalls some patients entering the hospital very ill and watching them recover.

“You knew your patients really well because they stayed with you,” she said.

Speaking of relationships, Joan said she made some good friends while in training. In fact, eight classmates are still living and get together on an annual basis for reunions. She also keeps busy with activities like going to the theater, reading, bridge club and travel. They enjoy patronizing the arts, such as the local PBS station. They are members of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne. She and her husband have traveled the globe to places like Europe, China and Australia. They spend the winters in Florida. In short, Joan said she couldn’t have asked for a more fulfilling life. They are both in good health and still enjoy each other’s company.

“I’m enjoying life,” she said. “I always have.”

End note: To qualify for and to continue to receive Venderly Scholarships, students must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average. Ninety percent of Venderly Scholarship recipients are from Allen County. Each year, the scholarship makes it possible for Fort Wayne area students to pursue education at Indiana schools.

Thanks to Joan Venderly, the future is a bit brighter for several students at the University of Saint Francis. The octogenarian and her husband currently sponsor 34 students at USF and beyond.
ROOM TO GROW
USF Jesters enjoy new opportunities with AWS grant

NEED. INTEREST. PEOPLE.

With the combination set to lock in even more success, all the USF Jesters needed was a helping hand. They got one this spring when established friend AWS Foundation granted $250,000 over five years to the creative arts program for people with disabilities.

The grant continues a pattern of AWS support. Over the past five years of AWS funding, the group blossomed from 35 to 70 participants, and Director Allison Ballard was hired. Ballard’s background in multi-media performance and nonprofit management melded well with the Jesters’ mission, and the rest is history in the making.

Founded at the university in 1978, Jesters engages individuals with disabilities in the creative arts to enhance their quality of life. It develops self-expression, self-esteem, socialization and other life skills while providing learning opportunities to USF and the community. AWS was established to help children and adults with enduring intellectual and physical disabilities live as independently as possible, and has provided Jesters funding since 2010.

Ballard arrived at USF in 2008 with a unique skill set and a drive to serve. “For several years, I worked to develop a program to meet the needs and interests of the participants, community and university,” she said.

A budget, diversified funding base, strategic plan, paid teaching staff and collaborations with Fort Wayne Youtheatre, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Arts United and the university resulted. “We provide USF students paid opportunities to assist teachers with art education and technical support. They build skills and relationships and learn to engage people with disabilities,” she said.
It all struck the right chord for those orchestrating grants at AWS, said Executive Director Lynne Gilmore.

"From the first grant to fund a strategic plan, we could see Jesters positioned for bigger things. It now has a strong infrastructure, expanded university involvement and a children’s program," she said. "It is exciting the Foundation’s investment had such impact."

“We support programs providing quality of life for individuals with disabilities, and Jesters addresses all aspects—developing fine and gross motor skills, focus, memorization, following directions, teamwork and honoring a commitment. Allison’s approach cognitively ignites their entire being, giving way to new forms of expression for many.”

Jesters provides 20 weeks of movement, music, theatre and visual arts from September to March for people age 6 through seniors, culminating with an original production. A performance outreach with Easter Seals/ARC extends the program through May, and a summer program prepares participants and artists for the coming year.

AWS Foundation Executive Director Lynne Gilmore, left, and USF Jesters Director Allison Ballard look forward to further development of the Jesters program.

**IT CHANGES LIVES.**

“We maximize their strengths and create meaningful opportunities,” Ballard said. “We meet them where they are, with activities to encourage growth while providing boundaries and structure. Degrees of function vary. We ask, ‘What is this person’s strength? What is the starting point, and how can this person grow from there?’

“One scene required performers to walk to center stage and hand a piece of mail to an approaching postman. It took weeks, but it was a huge success. While the audience may not understand the difficulty of such a seemingly simple action, we know and celebrate their accomplishments.”

“Allison integrates every individual’s unique quality into Saturday morning sessions and the year-end performance,” Gilmore said. “Her original work incorporating every Jester testifies to that. I liken her to a ‘people whisperer’ because she innately taps into each Jester’s ability, sees what they’re capable of, and gets them to do it!”

“It’s about the moments leading to the performance, not the show itself,” Ballard said. “It’s important to me because I see the importance to participants and their families. They have such pride of accomplishment—and I’m so happy to serve in this way.”

“Nobody in northeast Indiana does anything close to this quality creative work,” Gilmore said. “That’s why more families want their child involved, and why Jesters of many years want to stay. It’s the year-round learning opportunities and the friendships Jesters develop.”

[QR Code]

JESTERS VIDEO

Learn more about the Jesters’ impact at art.sf.edu/community-programs/jesters.
USF’S GREEN ON A HIGH AFTER DISNEY’S “FROZEN”
Adam Green’s résumé includes some of Walt Disney Animation Studios’ most well-known and highly-regarded films: “Bolt,” “Tangled,” “Wreck-It Ralph,” Emmy Award-winning TV special “Prep & Landing 2” and now “Frozen”—the highest grossing animated film and number-five movie of all time.

It’s pretty giddy stuff, enough to put anyone on cloud nine. But Green, a 2002 USF Bachelor of Arts graduate, knows where he’s been and what it took to get here. With feet planted firmly on the ground, he’s taken on some new roles, including head of animation for the short film, “Get a Horse.” The opener for “Frozen” earned an Annie award and academy award nomination. Now he’s busy animating “Big Hero 6,” which he’s sure people will love.

He shares “Get a Horse” credit with industry greats. “Lauren MacMullan directed, so she deserves the accolades,” he said. “The studio set out to make a very faithful 1928 Mickey Mouse cartoon, and we did our best to make every detail loyal to the period. I jumped at the chance to work with legend Eric Goldberg to create the first-ever computer-animated Mickey from Disney Animation, especially since we were using Walt’s voice for the audio.”

Although he’s proud as head animator for the short, he also animated for “Frozen.” “We like to talk shop with our characters’ voices,” he said. “When we were on ‘Frozen,’ Idina Menzel (Elsa) came by to talk about how actors sing from their core. This input heavily influences our performances. We enjoy it when they come to visit, and I think they get a kick out of seeing how we work. And then they come to the wrap parties and we get to cut loose, which is fun too.”

He never forgets his roots, or the path that brought him here. “I’ve always loved animation, and was heavily influenced by the ’90s era of Disney films,” he said. “Beauty and the Beast,” “Aladdin” and “The Lion King” were probably my favorites. So I drew constantly as a kid, and when I got to Elmhurst High School in Fort Wayne, I took an animation course taught by Don Goss. That was really the start for me, and it grew from there.”

His love of drawing flourished at USF. “What USF provided me was that artistic foundation: drawing, sculpture and 2D composition, whose principles and techniques I still use every day. Things like understanding anatomy, structure, focal points, mass, volume, balance, and how to exaggerate and caricature those into a believable and entertaining performance.”

The California transplant carries Indiana with him. “My wife Kristi and I moved to California Thanksgiving Day, 2004. Different world cultures live and work together here, and I find that enriching. The saying that in California you can surf in the morning and snow ski in the afternoon is absolutely true. However, since we were both born and raised in Indiana, we still like the peace and quiet of home and found a house we love away from the city noise. So I guess we have the best of both worlds.”

Rich possibilities exist for those who work hard. “It is such a great time to be an aspiring animator,” he said. “Television, film, games and the Internet are all huge markets. But it’s also a difficult road. It took me five years working my way through Web, advertising, small animation and video game jobs until being brought on to my first film seven years ago.

“It doesn’t happen overnight, and you’ll be tempted to quit. Don’t. Remember what drove you to become an artist in the first place, that desire to connect to your audience visually. Remember you have something to say, and don’t let anything get in your way. Be hard on yourself, and expect greatness. Surround yourself with peers who challenge you and vice-versa.”

The career fits perfectly. “It never gets old,” Green said. “Sometimes you have to pinch yourself and remember what we do in our everyday job will live on in the Disney history books. But we’re also just a bunch of silly animators having fun at work. I couldn’t be more proud of our team.”
“Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”
-MATTHEW 25:40

EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA

USF EMBARKS WITH COLLEGE GROUP

USF Director of Student Activities Meghan McArdle, BA 2012, traveled to South Africa this spring with USF.
Three University of Saint Francis students, their activities director and Office for Service and Social Action Director Katrina Boecker traveled to South Africa in May to expand their global awareness and perform mission work.

Senior education major Meagan Scott, senior nursing majors Jenna Burke and Kendra Kremer, Director of Student Activities Meghan McArdle and Boecker joined students and chaperones from the University of Georgia and fellow Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities member school Siena College in a trip to Johannesburg, Durban and Rustenburg, led by Brother Paul O’Keefe, a Franciscan friar who has worked for Franciscan Mission Service.

A native guide traveled with them the entire time, and “we came to know and love him as a friend and brother,” Boecker said. “Molefi gave us a unique perspective of the history of apartheid and South Africa today (he was a freedom fighter against the system of segregation). We also spent considerable time with a young Nigerian priest, and young South African men and women from a local parish.”

The university group focused on apartheid and HIV/AIDS in South Africa and practiced the “ministry of presence,” entering the culture to be seen and known by the people and get to know them in return. They also served at two orphanage-communities and talked to many students at various schools and education centers.

“We learned a lot about apartheid, and found that it is really not entirely over. Similarities to the civil rights movement in the U.S. and even the Holocaust in Europe were amazing and sad,” Boecker said. “It was eye-opening to be the minority race, especially since until we opened our mouths, it was assumed we were Afrikaners (white South Africa natives of Dutch descent). When folks found out we were from America, everyone wanted to talk to us, take a picture and learn more about our lives. Hospitality was amazing, always.”

The group found South Africa a grim statistic in terms of HIV/AIDS, with 60 percent of young women ages 16-25 infected. They also visited Botshabelo, an orphanage, school, animal shelter and community made the subject of a 2007 documentary. Established and operated by an Afrikaner family who left wealth and privilege behind to serve black Africans in need, it has an immense impact on marginalized people.

North of Johannesburg in an area known as a trouble spot, they visited St. Anthony’s Education Centre, where students can learn the basics of education, finish their high school degree or receive vocational training. They also visited Topologo hospice, an outreach program for shantytown settlements around the mines.

Other high points: “Eating South African food, going to a real Zulu village and meeting their head man, traditional healer, and women and children and seeing their homes,” Boecker said. The final day took them to Pilanesburg National Park to view the native animals.

“It was truly one of my top life experiences,” Boecker said. “I hope we are able to get more funding for these trips, such as the Brotherhood Mutual scholarships that helped this year’s students, as the students ranked it as a life-changing experience.”

Kremer saw a vast disparity in healthcare options for black South Africans. “It was shocking that the elderly who are sick go to the hospital and are turned away,” she said. “That’s hard to see, because we do anything to prolong life. HIV/AIDS has taken a major toll on families, she said. “You see kids taking care of their dying parents.” Health education is needed, she said. “Everybody smokes. The life expectancy is 54. That’s so young.”

The trip increased her appreciation of life in America. “The simplicity is unbelievable there. They live in a little shack and have each other and are happy with it. Americans have so much and still complain a lot. It makes you appreciate what we have here,” she said.
At age 49, newly married, teaching and finishing the first year of her Master of Science in Nursing, USF Crown Point maternal nursing instructor Jeannette Zalhart-Smith received unimaginable news: she had breast cancer.
The diagnosis, triple-negative type, came with the grimmest of statistics—it was aggressive and fast-growing, with a high mortality rate.

While some may have given up, Jeannette charged through with her signature pluck, earning her MSN pin a year later on May 6, with help from her husband, children and USF Crown Point.

That she was prepared for the fight seemed pre-destined, and stemmed from her role as a nursing educator.

“I’ve always worked to educate people on breast cancer, and the previous semester I did a huge guideline on screenings and revised the old data, because it was missing a large population of women,” she said. “Had I not learned from adjusting those statistics, I would not be here today. Women are developing sub-types of aggressive breast cancer at younger and younger ages,” she said.

After the diagnosis March 22, 2013, she started chemotherapy at Indiana University Indianapolis, which was studying her cancer type, three weeks later. “It was rough,” she said. “It was spring semester, and I had Women’s Health, Communities and clinicals for my own classes, and I was teaching full-time.”

Asked if she could finish out the semester, “I never thought of anything else,” she said. “Working was a challenge, because the first couple chemo sessions your body is not used to the poison yet. I had remarried the October before the diagnosis. I felt so badly for him, because who signs up for that? He said for better or worse, and never blinked an eye. I was getting chemo every two weeks, and side effects would hit on the third day when your white cell count is nearly zero. It was hard for my family.”

She was used to fighting, though, because she came from strong stock. “My dad was ill for a long time, and never complained. He said get up, get up, do it. Just keep going. My mom is just a rock. It’s hereditary,” she said.

Jeannette escaped an abusive first marriage with her two daughters and nothing else, raising them alone and earning her RN degree. Her daughters, now ages 22 and 28, got used to hearing going out for lunch meant heading to Costco for free samples. Strong women themselves now, they pushed her not to give up. “It takes your family to do it,” she said.

At USF, she was empowered to continue learning and could earn at the same time. “I wanted my master’s, and an opportunity came up for an adjunct faculty position. So I took it and then became full-time maternity teacher and received free tuition,” she said.

USF sheltered and protected her throughout her ordeal. “There was concern about my coming back in the fall, so they opened a fall class in the summer for me. I could look at the curriculum and requirements and hit the books in the summer during treatment and get projects ready. It was tremendous,” she said.

She was able to return to USF Crown Point in fall 2013, shocking everyone. “When I came back to teach, I had no hair. I joked with students, ‘Whatever you think of for excuses, it’s not gonna wash for me,’ and I didn’t hear any.” She took her last treatment in July and underwent a double mastectomy on Aug. 12, returning as an MSN student two weeks later and not missing a class.

“My co-workers were very supportive,” she said. “Dean Marsha King sent me care packages, cards, letters and texts. (Former Nursing Department Chair) Amy Knepp said, ‘Let us know whatever you need so you can finish and be successful.’ You wouldn’t see that elsewhere. I would never have been able to work the floor, so having the summer to work on my health seemed planned.”

She can speak with authority on USF Crown Point’s impact—she got her ASN in the second graduating class and worked full-time. “It really helps the older students. I have seen students waver as they deal with kids or divorces, but I say don’t give up, because it’s amazing when you’re through.”

Since graduation, her lymph nodes tested cancer-free, and she will not require radiation. “I feel overwhelmingly blessed. I want to wake up and not waste a minute. If I can give any encouragement, it’s to say nothing’s impossible. I want to help students get through school and continue to enlighten on this huge killer of women.”
Kids of all ages with their families and friends packed the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center on March 21, eager for USF’s opening night production of “Willy Wonka.” And while so many kids in a performance hall can become wiggly or distracted, they instead remained fascinated throughout the tale of an eccentric chocolate factory owner and a poor boy as sweet as candy.
The USF collaboration with the Fort Wayne Youtheatre enthralled children, as they watched some of their own, costumed, singing and dancing on stage. Co-directing with Brad Beuchamp, Youtheatre’s Leslie Hormann staged a troupe of youthful performers who knocked viewers out with their solos, acting and choreography. Blue-haired Oompa Loompas as young as 5 or 6 danced and moved precisely about the stage in colorful, choreographed numbers.

And then there was the chocolate. Sponsor DeBrand Fine Chocolate provided specially-made Wonka Bars for every child attending any show, either weekend. Children also received tickets in a drawing for a 10-piece DeBrand tasting collection, awarded at the end of each show. One winner from all of the golden ticket winners then won a chocolate party at DeBrand.

School of Creative Arts props builders pulled out all the stops with sets, including the jaw-dropping candy factory—a rainbow structure with arch and steps leading to a levitating ice cream cone and suspended peppermint disks. A pink candy Viking boat and a nut-testing room complete with swaying squirrels, plus a fog machine and real bubbles from the orchestra pit all added to the fun visual feast.

Children could grasp the didactic story of a poor and honest boy who wins out over a group of greedy and grasping children to claim the Wonka chocolate factory for his family. And while the smallest ones might have missed the message, a pair of 4-year-olds made their favorite part clear—“When he did the magic!” Charlotte Lytle, the grandparent of the group, valued the learning experience for her granddaughter. “I always think it’s good to educate kids in the theater,” she said.

And how did the Oompa Loompas get so good? “It took a while,” said Cassandra Smith, an 8-year-old from St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School in Fort Wayne. “We practiced it for three months about a billion times. We went one row at a time, and when we made a mistake, we started over.”

Savvy in the ways of the stage, she explained the importance of maintaining one’s role. “The lights are in your face so you can stay serious, and you have to keep in character if you’re going to do another show,” she said.
MORE THAN skin DEEP

USF’S GIARMO recruited early BY DERMATOLOGY GROUP

There’s beauty in a USF education, and Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP) graduate Ben Giarmo found it’s more than skin deep. He was recruited to work for Fort Wayne Dermatology before he graduated.

The 2009 USF registered nurse (RN) graduate was scheduled to do his clinical work for the MSN-FNP at the dermatology group in January. Instead, he got a call six months prior to that, expressing an interest in hiring him as a new FNP before his graduation this past May.

“I went and job shadowed for a day, interviewed and accepted the position,” Giarmo said. “I worked as an RN for them from August 2013 to the end of the year. In January, I began my FNP training. Since my certification exam in June, I am up and running, seeing my own patients.”

Working with different physicians and providers as a USF undergrad is valuable networking, and puts students in touch with offices that are hiring, he said. Being from USF also provides a distinct advantage. “I heard good things about USF and that has been proven through my experience,” he said.
“I know doctors and hospitals target our students to hire. Some will call and ask for our best grads and not even open up the hiring to other schools.”

The opportunity for federal grant support for tuition and a hybrid of online and seated classes were other incentives to complete the MSN-FNP. “Having one day a week in class in a hybrid of online and seated courses allowed me to work and then use weekends to study,” Ben said.

Health Resources and Services Administration grants that allow students—many of them parents and all working adults—to concentrate on studies and complete their degrees through the Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship, helped pay tuition for his final year. With his degree completed, he accepted a request to provide a free skin cancer clinic for a local hospital in July.

His interest in healthcare bridges to childhood. “I was always drawn to healthcare to help people,” he said. “Visiting my grandma in the hospital and seeing how many people influenced her life affected me. I’ve always liked hospitals and thought they were neat, since I was 8 or 9.”

He liked the flexibility and options of nursing, and had a particular interest in dermatology. “You are able to see the disease, and experience the satisfaction when it’s gone,” he said. “I also like educating people on ways to prevent skin cancer. And skin conditions can be indicative of underlying other diseases. I enjoy the investigation.”

Although more women are nurse practitioners, nursing is changing, he said. “There were only six undergraduate men in 40, and in the FNP it was only three of 40. Some men in healthcare choose the physician assistant (PA) over the NP. For the PA, you can have any undergrad degree and go into it, but you have to have a nursing undergrad to do this.”

Since he and his wife, Abby, also a 2009 USF RN grad, have no children, he enjoys interacting with his young patients. “The wide variety of patients, including kids, is fun,” he said. “It’s gratifying to keep them calm, and some of the things they say sometimes are really funny.”

He believes features of the Affordable Care Act will send more men into nursing. “With less physician reimbursement, people are accruing lots of debt for their training, and that will send some people into nursing, because they’ll have less debt,” he said. “With the focus on prevention and the regulations on hospital readmissions, there’s a need for more follow-up on patients, and that means a higher need for nurses.”

“We hope Ben becomes a preceptor for FNP students, helping them develop clinical skills by sharing expertise through long-term, one-to-one interaction. Many alumni become preceptors and mentors.”

-DR. WENDY CLARK, GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR
IMPROVING PERFECT

Coach Andrews, Shurn earn top honors in flawless season
WHAT'S BETTER THAN PERFECT?

For the USF women's basketball team, it's securing a 38-0 season, winning a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championship and topping it all off with Coach Gary Andrews named NAIA Coach of the Year and MVP honors for senior guard Skylarr Shurn.
IN A STORIED SEASON producing USF’s first women’s national basketball championship, a unique sense of team and a will to make the most of an unfolding opportunity drove Shurn and seniors Jenelle Wilson, Jessica Harrison and Kalah Baer to finish their careers in unprecedented brilliance, backed by dedicated underclassmen like sophomore standout Brooke Ridley.

When they returned from Sioux City, Iowa in a blaze of March glory, USF and Fort Wayne demonstrated pride and gratitude with a rally to welcome the victors home.

There are reasons teams win national championships, and individuals are named MVPs. They have the stuff, the right stuff, and Andrews and Shurn had enough similarity in nature to quietly and effectively put it all on the line, every game.

The perfect season had a lot to do with chemistry, Andrews said. “They are talented and they also got along very well. They had no ego, they just wanted to win. It wasn’t about their own stats,” he said.

Facing adversity with the loss of star player Akyah Taylor at mid-season, “they were shocked, but tried not to make it a big deal. They said, ‘Ok, here’s who we’ve got, we’ll do our best.’ They just got better and better,” Andrews said.

Making them better is Andrews’ mantra. “You understand your role, your strengths and weaknesses, like in the workforce. I try to make the ones who set screens and rebound as important as the big scorers. We talked every day, and I met with each player five or six times a year. I also emphasized their positives. I am honest with them.”

His philosophy meshed wonderfully with Skylarr’s it’s-not-about-me attitude. “That’s why you’re here, it’s why you got a scholarship,” she said.

Her immense basketball talent gasping for air in a junior college setting, the Kokomo High School star came to USF, experienced the culture and the rest is history. “There were open gyms that summer, and I met Jenelle Wilson and Brooke Ridley,” she said. “They were caring and made sure I fit right in. I knew it would be good. We have good team chemistry outside the gym, too. We hang out, and go out together when there’s time. That’s not the case with most teams, and it really helps during the game when you know your teammates’ likes, dislikes and personalities. No one worried about her own stats and points. If we won, that was the goal, and it shows at 38-0.”

She began to realize her team’s possibilities with a win at Indiana Wesleyan. “I knew it was a special team, then,” she said. “It’s a tough place to win, and we thought it would be close. Instead, we won by 16. That’s when I said, ‘Hey, we have a good team, we could go somewhere with this.’”

Go somewhere they did. With a perfect season and national championship riding on it, the Lady Cougars battled a late-game rally by College of the Ozarks to a final buzzer Skylarr will never forget.
“My goal is to get the most out of a player’s God-given abilities, and prepare them for the real world right now. It might not be what you want, but you do it for the team.”

-GARY ANDREWS, COACH

“The most thrilling moment for me was the final buzzer at championship. I sorta remember we were up by seven and they were making it a game. Then there was the final buzzer with everyone hitting the floor and hugging.”

-SKYLARR SHURN, SENIOR

WANT SPECIAL?

Kohne’s SportsCenter No. 1 highlight vaults USF back to NAIA championship

Want special! Senior Scott Kohne’s game-winning three-pointer against Huntington University was so special that in the 50th season of University of Saint Francis men’s basketball, the shot and aftermath thrust the program onto the national stage as the No. 1 moment on ESPN SportsCenter Top 10 on Feb. 19. Kohne’s catch-and-fire three-pointer has to rank as the singular penultimate shot in program history for its significance nationally—little ole USF No. 1 on SportsCenter. Wow.

USF stunned NAIA Top 25 No. 12 Huntington University 62-60 as more than 1,000 fans rocked the Hutell Athletic Center in an epic, tournament-like game that vaulted the NAIA No. 19 Cougars into a three-way tie for second place in the Crossroads League.

“You dream about that growing up, hitting a shot like that, let alone on Senior Night, my last regular season game at Hutell, there’s nothing else you can do to cap off your career like that,” Kohne observed.

Typically, she loved sharing the achievement with her community. “To see everyone outside at the rally, I can’t describe the feeling. I was just so happy to bring the championship to Fort Wayne to share with everyone,” she said.

Now she’s ready to share professionally, and possibly, internationally. A health and exercise science major, she plans a graduate degree and a career as an athletic trainer. “Before I came here, I wanted to quit. I’m sure others could be in my position, so if I can share my story, say don’t give up, it might make a difference. I want to be there when they’re injured and make sure they get the medical help they need. I’ll be doing what I love.”

Meanwhile, she’s receiving offers to work with youths in Europe. “Youth programs are always something I wanted to do. I remember who I looked up to and who made a big impact on me. Maybe I can do that between now and grad school. I’m talking to my parents because I’m still undecided. It’s very important knowing you have the ability to help. An athlete does not realize how much it means. We are role models, and our job is to give back.”

USF went on to finish the regular season 21-9 and qualify for its third NAIA championship berth in four seasons under the guidance of Chad LaCross. Though the Cougars lost their last two games of the season to Spring Arbor (CL Tournament, first round) and in the first round of the NAIA championship to No. 19 Robert Morris (69-66, OT), the Cougars finished with their third 20-plus win season in the last four. USF was ranked No. 18 in the final NAIA Coaches Top 25 post-season poll.

Kohne was named to the NAIA 2013-14 Division II Men’s Basketball All-America team for the second consecutive year as a third-team selection.
All senior pitcher Wesley Hunsucker wanted was one more win for the University of Saint Francis when he took the mound in game two back on April 10.

That tunnel vision served the 6-foot-3 right-hander splendidly in a 1-0 win over Indiana Wesleyan University at Cougar Field. In nailing down the sweep, he also locked up his 21st career win—a USF record. Later in the season he won his 25th game, a 4-3 nail-biter over Grace at Huntington University in the Crossroads League Tournament.

Hunsucker took full advantage of perfect baseball weather—finally—for his fourth win of the season, snapping a two-game losing streak. He pitched exceptionally well with runners on base, stranding seven IWU base runners. None of them were more important than in the seventh inning, when the Wildcats got Logan Tomlinson to third with just one out. With the infield pulled in, Hunsucker got a hard groundball out—freshman shortstop Chaise Kahlenbeck to first baseman Geoff Bowers for the second out. Hunsucker then enticed lead-off batter Preston Fugita to pop out to first baseman Geoff Bowers to end the game.

“I definitely try to push it out of my mind. It’s hard sometimes when guys say ‘hey man, one win away,’ but I had to,” Hunsucker said. He got the record in his third opportunity since tying Jerrid Rydell (2010-13) and Matt Degitz (2006-09) with his 20th career win on March 22 at Bethel.

“The record, it feels good to have. It’s a cool accomplishment, but the main goal was to come out here and get two wins,” Hunsucker said. “If I start thinking about things too much, I don’t make the pitches I need to make, so I stayed focused on making the pitch when I needed to, and we played defense.”

BATTER UP
Senior pitcher closes USF baseball career in record-setting fashion

BASEBALL
Wesley Hunsucker set a USF record for career wins on the mound with 25 and finished his final year of baseball eligibility with an 8-5 record and a 3.33 earned-run-average. He was named to the Crossroads League (CL) Gold Glove Team and All-CL honorable mention. Sophomore third baseman Zach Vanlandingham was also All-CL honorable mention for USF, which finished 19-30 overall, but 14-14 in CL play and 1-2 in CL tournament action in Coach Greg Roberts’ ninth season. Hunsucker and Jeff Grillot were NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athletes and CL Academic All-Conference picks.

GOLF
Senior Darcy Allman closed her golf career earning All-CL with her 10th-place finish (89-87-89—265) in the CL tournament. USF finished fourth. Freshman Noel Horvath was the top finisher for the men with an (80-75-77—232) for 16th. USF finished seventh for first-year coach Tim Alexander.

SOFTBALL
Sophomore catcher Erica Smith was All-CL first team for a second consecutive season, while sophomore Taylor Gearhart was All-CL honorable mention along with senior Stephanie Whitman. Senior Casey Loshe was an NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athlete and CL Academic All-Conference. USF finished 15-25 overall, 12-18 in CL action in Ryan Bolyn’s 10th season.

TRACK AND FIELD
James Brames finished fifth in the hammer throw (45.51 meters) in the CL track and field championships and Paul Grote sixth in the pole vault (4.10 meters), the lone point winners for USF.
Forest Park Elementary School principal Robin Peterman gives a one-word formula for reading success in her Fort Wayne Title I school—magic.

“We’re open to anything that works. We’re looking for that magic,” Peterman said in March, announcing an effort between her school, USF education students and Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (NEI Partnership), to bring some “presto-change-o” to the school’s second-grade reading success.

To ready third-graders for the state’s I Read test, Peterman determined early to prepare slightly below-level second-graders for next year’s challenge. Enter USF and Big Goal Collaborative, an NEI Partnership program to increase the educational attainment of northeast Indiana residents.

“We decided to involve the USF students with the second-graders after professor Brandi Prather-Leming asked if some of her pre-service teachers could help out,” Peterman said. “USF is making a difference because kids with reading problems have 90 extra minutes a day to work on it.”

The partnership benefits the second-graders and gives teacher education majors hands-on experience. “We are collecting data for every student, and it helps the USF students because they are in the classroom seeing how they can impact the data to get a child literate and continuing to grow,” Peterman said. And while fighting everything that stands between a child and education can seem like a hat trick, the Big Goal Collaborative helps make sleight-of-hand reality.

“We are thrilled to collaborate to ready third-graders for literacy. It’s a win/win for student teaching excellence and impacting elementary students,” said Ryan Twiss, Big Goal Collaborative director at NEI Partnership.

“A predicted 60 percent of jobs will require some form of post-secondary education by 2020. Ensuring children don’t fall behind is critical for their success and helps develop the skilled workforce area employers will need.”

It’s a formula for USF student success, said Prather-Leming. “They get 90 minutes problem solving and thinking on their feet in a supportive environment with the teacher. Robin has been so welcoming. She’s never too busy, greets my students when they get here, takes time and engages.”
Research should streamline processes and enrich others through the benefit of discoveries. In March, two USF environmental science master degree candidates, Ashley (Everhart) Meehan and Luannéee’ Colebrooke, joined with USF’s Dr. Larry Wiedman to do just that.

The pair gathered data on two new techniques to create underwater maps of small patch reefs and quickly assess their health for their master’s thesis. As the representative speaker, Colebrooke had about 20 minutes to explain the findings in Nassau at the second Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas—before a scientific community and the Bahamian National Trust (BNT), which oversees funding and preserves the Bahamian National Park System.

Ashley’s thesis, “Patch Reef Health Assessment: A Case Study on Dave’s Patch Reef, Andros Island, Bahamas,” developed a new protocol to collect data via surface snorkeling. “It was a huge census of vertebrates present in low and high tides,” she said. “Most of the time you need lots of technology, and this surface fish count is much easier. I had experienced people identifying species, and anything they couldn’t ID they photographed, and we identified it together.”

The number and diversity of vertebrates are bio-indicators of reef health, she said. Green Force, an agency that establishes sustainable communities in at-risk regions, the BNT and even sponge farmers can use the research. “None of the locals focus on reef health, so it generates awareness for them also,” she said.

Meehan had already visited Andros Island with Wiedman’s class as an education undergrad, researching the longspined sea urchin, Diadema. “This time, I wanted to research multiple species,” she said. “The Diadema experienced a big die-off in the 1980s, and I wanted to see if the reefs are really coming back. This became an extension of that.”

The research yields valuable information. “Worldwide, reefs are in decline, and these healthy ones are the type you want,” she said. “Because of the Diadema die-off, hard corals are almost non-existent in the Bahamas, but they’re starting to come back. This eco system is a huge economic boon for the people. It’s a way of life, provides food, supports tourism and is the third largest barrier reef complex in the world, hugely affecting marine life.”

Luannéee’, USF’s first Bahamian graduate, combined her thesis, “Creating an Underwater Map Using GPS and Photography,” with Ashley’s work. “I focused on using GPS and a roving diver to map major stationary invertebrates. Ashley and I did separate research during four visits to Andros over two years, but once we determined the new techniques, we did it in four to five days over four visits, showing the new methodology can be done in a week,” she said. “The whole point was to find new, reliable, reproducible techniques requiring low budgets and minimal training, like student groups already working in the area.”

When published to the Web, the resulting electronic database can be accessed by anyone through Google Earth. “It’s a simpler, more effective way of getting data no one had collected yet,” Colebrooke said. “With my study, you have a free program giving a global look at this remote part of the Bahamas. Forfar Field
Station has been there since the ’60s and ’70s. You can use our information to compare with what Forfar showed was there 50 years ago, when the reef was healthy."

The research is critical to development control. "You can show that the reefs and organisms are there," she said. "Ashley’s study shows critical places that should never be disturbed or dredged to build docks or expand airports. They also show how crucial a sewage system would be."

Her team used a small, hand-held GPS, taking coordinates by pressing a button. Two SCUBA divers and a snorkeler moved along the reef, photographing and marking GPS and points of interest to map the stationary invertebrates. "When you upload it to Google Earth, it overlays where the satellite shows all the points you mapped," she said.

The entire studied reef was digitally photo documented using a method refined by past USF undergraduate researchers. This allows researchers to compare various reef changes through time, recording alterations in the system by natural incidents like hurricanes, but also man-made issues like impact from boats and fishing.

"It’s an incredible opportunity to learn from others and in return, teach them," Meehan said. "The relationships are indescribable, and it touches your life forever. It’s not just a class, but a life-changing event. I feel blessed."

"Doc Wiedman and Forfar Field Station have changed ideas about conservation," Colebrooke said. "I want to improve the understanding through research and education, take my passion home and work and teach at the College of the Bahamas. Not in a classroom, but like Doc. I want to help others, doing what I love."
USF spins a yarn—of kindness

During January and February, USF’s Warm Fuzzies group used leftover yarn to make headbands and ear-warmers for the kindergarten students at Bloomingdale Elementary School in Fort Wayne. Kindergarten teacher Cathy Minor let her students pick out their headbands on Valentine’s Day. They simply loved the headbands, and are all USF Cougars fans, Minor said. “With the generous support of faculty, staff, Sisters and students, about 50 items were made,” said USF’s Sister Carol Meyers, who led the project. “Thank you for your help in making them! Many blessings for your generosity,” she told volunteers.

Getting chilly for a cause

In February, the Student Nurses Association of the University of Saint Francis asked local residents to get chilly for a cause—the Cougar Chill—to raise funds for Hoosier Burn Camp, which provides an expense-free summer camp experience for young men and women who have suffered injuries from burns. Fees raised from the icy plunge will warm the hearts of this summer’s campers. Hoosier Burn Camp is for people ages 8-18 who have experienced a burn or required hospitalization in Indiana. The special camp helps the children build self-esteem and realize their highest potential while learning to deal with scars and the psychological trauma they often suffer.

Dr. Richey appointed School of Liberal Arts and Sciences dean

Dr. Lance Richey has been appointed dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. An associate professor of theology and director of the university’s John Duns Scotus Honors Program, he earned doctorates in philosophy and theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also completed a Bachelor of Arts in History at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina and earned a certificate of pre-theological studies from Conception Seminary College, Conception, Missouri.

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

Donate non-perishable food in non-glass containers or drop a check to one of the local food banks to support the seventh annual USF Feeds the Fort food drive. Help feed the hungry over the holidays!

Collection barrels are across campus, and checks can be made out to the food bank/organization of choice.

For information, contact Sister Anita Holzmer, GSF, at aholzmer@sf.edu or 399-7700, ext. 6705.
In a dog-eat-dog advertising world, SOCA graphic design students emerged pick of the litter, capturing over half of the student division honors and a Judges’ Choice award at the Advertising Federation of Fort Wayne Honors Program in February.

While SOCA students typically bring home a load of Ad Fed awards, it’s unusual to receive the Judges’ Choice, because students compete against professional agencies to get it.

Danielle Hartmann and Cody Walz worked on the Judges’ Choice SOCA viewbook, along with Sierra Disch, Morgan Ellis and Mariah Hutcherson, and had a lot to say about their work and USF education.

“Since we were focusing on “millenials” (people born between 1983 and the early 2000s), I researched artists and styles that attract and reflect them,” Hartmann said. “I also focused on layout, and how to work with what was provided. Everyone had specific tasks. We split up the viewbook by sections, and each person received the same amount of spreads to design.”

The group made a great mix, Walz said. “The whole team had a good balance of drive, availability and design sensibility. Not to mention we all have worked well together throughout our time at USF.”

“I am a full-time graphic designer at Britton Marketing and Design and a graphics intern at Parkview Foundation,” Hartmann said. “I see myself moving forward, hopefully becoming a creative director at some point. With experience under my belt and a growing portfolio, I’m excited to see what the future holds.”

Walz, also a Parkview Foundation intern, credits USF with pointing him in the right direction. “SOCA has ingrained in me what excellence should look like and the sacrifices it takes to get there,” he said. “It helped me find my voice. In addition to redefining my work ethic, it has strengthened my faith. God’s provided so far. I’m not too worried about what happens next.”

From the left: Cody Walz, Danielle Hartmann, Morgan Ellis, Sierra Disch, Mariah Hutcherson
F4L renews lifesaving mission

Over 400 people helped make the sixth annual Formula for Life 5k run/walk and silent auction in April a success. The event raised $12,000 toward the student-led organization’s goal of building a new facility for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage in northern Haiti. Formula for Life was founded by USF student Courtney Shepard after she encountered a starving infant on a medical mission trip, and the student-led organization has been providing food, wells for clean water and, most recently, funds to build a new orphanage as the event has grown. Last year, the organization raised $75,000 for a facility for children left parentless by disaster, poverty, disease or abandonment. Construction is in progress on 15 acres of land.

We continue our Stand

USF’s third Stand Against Racism in April was a student-led effort to eliminate racism and intolerance. USF’s Dr. Karen Monique Gregg, a School of Liberal Arts and Sciences professor, was awarded an Indiana Campus Compact grant through the Lilly Endowment for students to plan, implement and host the event. Students invited government and community leaders to join USF for the event. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry read a proclamation, and USF TRIO program director Ron Lewis presented “Hands Together, Walk Together.” Local storyteller Chief Conda Ridley presented an African folk tale about transcending adversity, and a song of unity closed the program.

Trio means business in plan competition

A trio of University of Saint Francis business students earned $2,000 for their winning business plan as part of the annual Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership Business Plan Competition in April. Senior accounting major Cassandra Loshe, senior business administration major Katherine Nix and sophomore business administration major Haley Roehm shared first place honors for their business plan, “Fall Ball Series.” They designed “Fall Ball” as a charity event to financially and socially benefit Turnstone Inc., a Fort Wayne provider of services for people with disabilities, while providing economic impact for Fort Wayne. “Fall Ball” would provide a fun-filled, family atmosphere to financially benefit Turnstone through quality baseball, food, entertainment and activities in a welcoming and happy culture. The team of Nicole Norton and David Hamel shared $1,000 to develop “Breast Friends,” a tool for men and women suffering from breast cancer. The students will use the winnings as seed money to develop their business ideas. Feasibility, ease of implementation and focus on the university’s Franciscan values were award criteria.

Photos by Steve Vanderman
LET’S COMMENCE

The glittering mortarboard messages said it all — graduates were exultant at their success and grateful to their families as members of the spring 2014 commencement class Saturday, May 5 in Fort Wayne’s Memorial Coliseum.

In all, 611 students, 447 undergraduates and 164 graduates, crossed the stage to claim their diplomas and begin professional lives. Among them were Sarah Morton, valedictorian in two schools—the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Creative Arts. The double music technology and sociology major, headed to Washington State on a full-ride scholarship for a doctorate in sociology, said the achievement took dedication and discipline.

“It just takes a lot of hard work and time management. You have to show up to your classes and try to get all of your assignments done and just really enjoy what you’re doing, because I think that’s an important part of it,” said the Linton, Indiana native. She has involved herself in service projects, including helping the disabled through the USF Jesters program.

Graduates heard the requirements for personal and spiritual success from commencement speaker the Rev. David T. Link, who is Joseph A. Matson Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Law at the University of Notre Dame Law School and Assistant Director of Religious Services for the Northern Region of the Indiana Department of Correction. He became a Catholic priest after 45 years in education and law, and is chaplain at the Indiana State Prison, ministering to inmates who affectionately call him “Doc.”

Through his work, he has consistently seen a lack of the knowledge of a guiding higher power as the largest contributor to criminal behavior, he told graduates, who listened intently to the man whose life is the subject of a book: "Camarado, I Give You My Hand: How a Powerful Lawyer-Turned-Priest Is Changing the Lives of Men Behind Bars.”

Stein receives honorary USF degree

Betty Stein, a newspaper columnist and lifelong humanitarian and advocate for women, children and minorities, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from her alma mater during commencement. A 1933 graduate of Fort Wayne Central High School, Stein earned a bachelor’s degree in social administration from Ohio State University in 1937, and then completed a master’s degree in education at the University of Saint Francis.
alumni news

class notes
keeping connected with alumni and friends

1970s:
Sue (Holycross) Studebaker (BS ’71, MSE ’76) is a director at Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District.

1980s:
Sue Ehinger (MBA ’89), president of Parkview Hospital and affiliates, was elected to serve on the Embassy Theatre Foundation Board of Directors.

1990s:
Margy Hooker (BBA ’91) recently appeared in the Business Weekly’s February 21-27, 2014 edition. Career Path section of Margy is market master and farm chef at her own Tanglewood Berry Farm. To learn more about her business, go to tanglewoodberryfarm.com. • Nicole (Rahn) Hahn (BA ’94) has accepted a position as the assistant news director at WNWO in Toledo, Ohio. • Joseph Jentgen (BA ’95) is now vice president of marketing at Partner’s 1st Credit Union. • Tamra (Crawford) Patton (BS ’95, MBA ’14) is working at Parkview Health as a manager in treasury management. • Tiffany Albertson (BS ’96) was recently appointed principal of Fort Wayne Bishop Luers. • Deb Washler-Jackson (BA ’98) is executive director of Artlink in Fort Wayne. She was highlighted in Business Weekly, Jan. 24-30, 2014, for her success in expanding Artlink through programming and moving to a new building. • Sharon Wang (BA ’98) is working at the Indiana Department of Workforce as an adult education career counselor. • Thomas Hunter (BS ’99) is working at Parkview Physician Group as a physician assistant.

2000s:
Phyllis (Chaffee) McMichael (BA ’00, MA ’14) is working at Waynedale United Methodist Church as a deaconess/ coordinator, children’s ministries. • Tendra (Kear) Duff (BA ’01) welcomed a daughter, Kearsley Adison Duff, April 27, 2013. • Michelle (Pray) Boroff (BSE ’02, MSE ’07) gave birth to her second child, Adalynn Sue, on Feb. 25. The baby weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. Adalynn joins her big brother, Jackson. • Andrew Kapocius (MBA ’02) is now the facilities account manager at VIOX Services. • Brian Reichow (BBA ’02) is owner of 1717 Investments, Inc. • Rebecca (Tupper) Harman (ASN ’03) is an RN at Fresenius Medical Care in Warsaw, Ind. • Amy (Baumgartner) Ring (AS ’04) is working at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland as an MRI technologist RT(R)(MR). • Dr. Dominick Letizia (BA ’05, MS ’07) graduated from the University of Indianapolis on May 3 with a Ph.D. in psychology. Dominick has accepted a position at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Danville, Ill., working with homeless veterans suffering from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). • Nick Russell (BA ’05) is a patent attorney at Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte, N.C. • Mike Bitler (BSW ’06) recently accepted a position as a social worker at Canterbury Nursing and Rehabilitation in Fort Wayne. • Heather (Weddle) Bonetempo (BBA ’06, MBA ’08) is a financial center manager at Fifth Third Bank. • Joe Branan (BA ’06) is art director at Marketshare+, • Nicolas Gonzalez (BBA ’06) is the global lab operations director at Nielsen Neuro. • Salvador Soto (ALS ’06) is a realtor with North Eastern Group Realty. • Matthew Miller (BBA ’07) is a sales representative at Premier Tech Horticulture. • Holly (Polakovic) Smith (BSE ’07) is a teacher in the Garrett-Kesey-Butler school district. • Stephanie (Starkey) Ballard (ASN ’08) is married to Zebadiah Ballard. Stephanie is an RN at Parkview Health in Columbia City, Ind. • Jennifer (Wilkinson) Yack (BSN ’08) is the trauma prevention specialist for Parkview Health in Fort Wayne. • Kristin Jones (BA ’09) is a development coordinator at PBS. • Amanda (Wiley) Knepper (BS ’09) has a doctorate in physical therapy and works at Indiana University Health Inc. in Fishers, Ind. • Jason Malone (BBA ’09) is a sales manager at AEF Crane Services in Fishers, Ind.

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 the University of Saint Francis Alumni Office, 2701 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. Thanks for keeping in touch with your alma mater.
2010s:

Justin Hoover (BS ’11, MS ’14) is working at Steel Dynamics as a corporate safety and industrial hygiene specialist. • Alyssa Putman (BA ’11, MBA ’14) is currently director of human resources at Ridgeview Behavioral Hospital. • Amy (Luksus) Rowan (MS ’11) recently married Eric Rowan. • Colin Williamson (BS ’11) is working at Sweetwater Sound as a service specialist. • Vanessa Floyd (BA ’12) is working at Chaconas & Wilson P.C. as an assistant office manager. • Jade Haag (BA ’12) is working as a patron services ticketing manager at the historic Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Ind. • Brooke Jackson (BSW ’13) is working at Stop Child Abuse and Neglect as a families support worker. • Easton Mossman (BBA ’13) is a financial adviser assistant at Reynolds Wealth Management. • Kim Angone (ASN ’14) is working at St. Anthony’s in Crown Point as a CNA. • Michelle Arthur (ASN ’14) is currently working at St. Anthony’s in Crown Point, Ind. as a nurse extern. • Kathy Baker (ASN ’14) is working at Residences at Deer Creek as a CNA/memory care. • Stacy Bishop (ASN ’14) is working at St. Anthony’s as a PCA. • Tara Bruckman (ASN ’14) is working at St. Anthony’s in Crown Point, Ind. as a CNA/PCN. • Kaysee Cieslak (ASN ’14) is working at St. Anthony’s in Crown Point, Ind. as a PCA. • Katherine Colone (BSW ’14) is working at Aging and In-Home Services as a case manager. • Valerie Dykstra (ASN ’14) is currently working at Northwest Surgical as a surgical technician. • Madelyn Ferance (ASN ’14) is working in the ICU as a patient care extern at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Hammond, Ind. • Stephanie Goebbert (BA ’14) is working at Annie’s Publishing as an ad sales coordinator. • Juanita Golden (ASN ’14) is working at Anchor Home Health as an LPN. • Chuantani Harris (ASN ’14) is working at St. Margaret Health in Dyer, Ind. as a CNA II. • Nicole Hamann (ASN ’14) is working in the med/peds unit as a PCA at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Crown Point, Ind. • Brittany Holt (ASN ’14) is an RN at Parkview Regional Medical Center. • Lisa Girle Jordan (MA ’14) is an art teacher at Antwerp Local Schools. She is newsletter editor for Northwest Ohio Art Education Association (NWOAEA). Lisa taught an art journaling workshop in July for NW Ohio Art Educators and at the Ohio Art Educators Association (OAEA) conference in November. • Theresa Julian (ASN ’14) is working at Fresenius Medical Care. • Jennifer Lassard (ASN ’14) is a patient care technician at St. James Hospital. • Kelcie Lehman (BSW ’14) is working at the Boys & Girls Club of Nappanee as a games room coordinator. • Lauren Liesse (ASN ’14) is an ICU technician at South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest, Ill. • Jessica (Rorick) Lommatsch (BBA ’14) works at Fort Wayne Metals as a sales and marketing assistant. • Jessica (Rorick) Lommatsch (BS ’14) is married to Jesse Lommatsch (BS ’13). • Jenny Lynamood (MS ’14) works at Trine University as the director of golf. • Chanel Macon (BSW ’14) is working in social service at the Golden Years Homestead Inc. Nursing Home. • Jennie Majka (ASN ’14) is a CNA at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Crown Point, Ind. • Trevor Outler (ASN ’14) is a manager at United Starter. • Jennifer Paul (ASN ’14) is an RN fellow at Community Hospital in Munster, Ind. • Parker Roush (BS ’14) was hired by Sweetwater Sound Inc. as a sales engineer. • Ashley Smithey (ASN ’14) is working at Prompt Ambulance Service as a medic. • Katelyn Strout (BSW ’14) is working at the Adult and Child Center as a child welfare specialist. • Kelley Wible (MS ’14) is working at Quality Counseling and Psychological Services as a therapist.
love connections

Elise (Springer) Wasylk (BSN ’10) and Doug Wasylk (BBA ’09)

Elise Springer and Doug Wasylk were introduced multiple times at USF, but they first met at a party at his house. Elise thought she could never date someone in a Chicago Bulls windbreaker, with long hair, beard and a “grill” in his mouth, standing on a chair rapping to some song. They also had been reintroduced a couple times by a mutual friend. Elise didn’t give him much thought at first, and Doug claims he doesn’t remember meeting her. Finally, the fall after Doug graduated and Elise was a senior, a different friend said she wanted Elise to meet Doug Wasylk. Her exact words were, “Isn’t he crazy?” The friend assured Elise that he was fun, and they went on their first date over four years ago. They celebrated their two-year anniversary March 24. They love USF, and still tailgate and support the football team. Elise believes their early run-ins were all part of a bigger plan!

Paige (Schroeder) Osterman (BSN ’13) and John Osterman (BA ’11)

During freshman orientation, Paige’s O-team leader told everyone to join the Student Activities Club (SAC). She went, and had a great time. At the third meeting, she saw John and asked about him. People said he was really big into intramurals, so she attended all the events, hoping to run into him. Becoming an SAC coordinator at the year’s end gave her an excuse to talk to him. By her sophomore year John had become a very good friend. He was an SAC volunteer, and his friends were coordinators with Paige. During Homecoming, she decided to pursue the relationship, and told him she liked him as more than a friend. He sighed with relief, because he had similar feelings and often volunteered just to be with her. In her senior year, he proposed over Thanksgiving break. USF was the center of their wedding. Father David Meinzen performed their service in September 2013.

Time makes Scholarship Luncheon connections even stronger

Leanne Mensing and Bria Hyland earned University of Saint Francis degrees 54 years apart, but they shared similar stories at the 11th Annual Scholarship Luncheon:

• A small school that recognizes individuals: Bria found a college where she is a name, not a number. Leanne recalled her teachers, sometimes critical, but always insisting on high standards.
• Memorable moments: Leanne joined other students in erecting a pre-fab building one day in 1958. Bria paid $15, boarded a bus for the annual SAC “mystery” trip, and went to New York City.
• Encouragement and support: Sisters and lay faculty “never let us forget that the sky was the limit and that God and St. Francis were always at our side,” Leanne recalled. Bria received a timely scholarship, enabling her to graduate in May.

Photo by Matt Compton
Professor Friess passes

G. John Friess, 79, of Orlando, Florida, former Saint Francis College business professor and department chair, passed away May 8. He was born to George and Beatrice Friess in Fort Wayne on Feb. 5, 1935. A 1953 Fort Wayne Central Catholic graduate, he attended the University of Michigan, joining the Naval ROTC before graduating in 1957. He was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and then returned to Michigan to complete an MBA in 1960. He joined the brokerage firm Smith Barney on Wall Street before moving to Europe and hitchhiking from Cairo to Cape Town. He played small parts in 32 Hollywood movies, including “Battle of the Bulge.” After teaching for SFC, he moved to Orlando and helped establish the new office for Schenkel and Shultz architectural firm, retiring in 1994. Surviving are his sister, Nancy J. Clark, nephews, John, Randy and Terry Clark and niece, Mary Anne Miller. Private services were held at Catholic Cemetery.

Alumni Sisters Pass

Sister M. Imelda (Geraldine) Pilotte died April 14 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka. She was born to Irvie and Theresa Doyle Pilotte in Currie, Minnesota on Dec. 10, 1918, the second of six children. She was preceded in death by her three sisters, Sister Justine and Sister Ann of our Province and Joan, and two brothers, John and Wilfred Pilotte.

She entered the Community in November 1937 and received the habit and the name Sister M. Imelda on August 12, 1938. She professed final vows on August 12, 1945. She received a B.S. in education from St. Francis College and an M.A. in history from Loyola University in Chicago. She served in the educational apostolate of the province for 32 years at the elementary, secondary and college levels. In her later years, she sewed clothes for missions and looked to serve others in simple ways. Her Eucharistic funeral liturgy was Wednesday, April 16 and burial followed in the convent cemetery.

Sister M. Charita (Charita Ann) Meyer died May 21 at Our Lady of Angels Convent in Mishawaka in the presence of her Sisters. She was born to Richard and Catherine Holley-Meyer in Huntington, Ind. on May 3, 1948, the second of four children. She is survived by one sister, Jackie Shaffer (Dan) of Huntington, Indiana, and two brothers, Robert Meyer (Mary Lynn) of Huntington and William Meyer of Marion, Indiana.

Leanne represents the University of Saint Francis Guild Scholarship. Parish representatives and Saint Francis College students’ mothers began the Guild in 1945. Leanne’s mother, Alberta Oddou, presided for 15 years. They accomplished big things, including endowing the Guild Scholarship, which awarded five scholarships in 2013-2014.

Leanne and Bria are education graduates. When finances threatened Bria’s final college year, USF helped with a Marilyn Wunderlin and William Wunderlin Scholarship. Marilyn and William, retired elementary school teachers, met Bria at the luncheon.

Leanne, Marilyn, William and many other alumni and friends close the circle by giving back to USF. The Scholarship Luncheon celebrates their generosity and the thankfulness of today’s students.

If you’d like to give to the Annual Fund, contact Alexandra Ellis Kreager at 260-399-8007. If you are interested in establishing an endowment, contact Lynne McKenna Frazier at 260-399-8035.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALUMNI GATHERING AREA AT HOME FOOTBALL GAMES

WHERE: New south end zone VIP area above the new strength training center at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium.

SCHEDULE:
- Saturdays at 7 p.m. “Under the Lights”
  - September 4 – vs. Missouri Baptist University
  - October 4 – vs. Siena Heights University (Homecoming)
  (sign up for this game only at homecomingblockparty.eventbrite.com)
- Saturdays at Noon
  - September 13 – vs. William Penn University
  - September 27 – vs. Grand View University
  - October 18 – vs. University of Saint Francis (Illinois)
  - November 8 – vs. Taylor University

DETAILS: Enjoy USF home football games with family and friends at the new alumni gathering area. Enjoy plenty of free food, soft drinks and giveaway prizes!

RSVP: Visit alumngatheringarea2014.eventbrite.com to sign up for the games you’ll attend and we’ll have your VIP admission ticket(s) ready for you at the “will call” window. Purchase your football tickets at the gate. Due to limited capacity in the VIP area, you must present your admission ticket upon entering the facility.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

WHERE: USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center

WHEN: November 7, 8, 14, 15—8 p.m.
  November 9, 16—2 p.m.

DETAILS: The musical tells the story of Frank W. Abagnale Jr., a teenager who runs away in search of the glamorous life, impersonating a pilot, doctor and lawyer while living the high life and winning the girl of his dreams.

TICKETS: Available at 260-422-4226 or online at tickets.artstix.org.

CHRISTMAS AT USF

WHERE: University of Saint Francis campus

WHEN: December 5-8

DETAILS: Attend Breakfast with St. Nicholas, Christmas in the Castle, view the Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity, to name a few.

YULETIDE GATHERING

WHERE: Open House at Brookside

WHEN: Thursday, December 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

DETAILS: Save this date to gather during the holiday season to mingle with former classmates and friends in the decorated Brookside.

WANT TO SEE MORE?

For more information on USF alumni events, visit alumni.sf.edu/events.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
7 p.m. Transitus of St. Francis (St. Francis Chapel–west end of Trinity Administration building)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
7 p.m. Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Celebration (North Campus gymnasium and auditorium)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
10 a.m. Alumni Men’s Soccer 6-on-6 Tournament (Coenen Field)
Alumni Softball and Baseball Co–ed Slow-pitch “Chicago-style 16 Mush” Ball Game (Softball Field)
Alumni vs. Alumni Flag Football Game (D’Arcy Stadium)
10 a.m.-noon Department of Radiologic Technology Open House for their New Digital Lab
(Doerner Health Sciences, Lower Level, Rooms 49 and 50)
10 a.m.-5 p.m. School of Creative Arts Exhibit: Cape Ann Collection Connections (Rolland Art Center)
11 a.m. Alumni Women’s Tennis Matches (Wildwood Racquet Club)
Noon Alumni Baseball Game (Baseball Field)
Noon-1 p.m. Mass for Feast of St. Francis (Trinity Chapel)
1 p.m. Alumni Women’s Basketball Game (Huizell Athletic Center)
1 p.m. USF Women’s Soccer Game vs. Bethel College (D’Arcy Stadium)
1-3 p.m. Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center Open House
(one-story house located at the corner of Lindenwood/Bass Road and next to parking lot)
2-4 p.m. Brookside Self-guided Tours (Brookside)
2:30 p.m. Alumni Men’s Basketball Game (Huizell Athletic Center)
3-6:30 p.m. USF Block Party and Food Selections (between Trinity Administration Building and Brookside)
3-6:30 p.m. USF Department of Nursing Hosting a Dessert Tent (between Trinity Administration Building and Brookside)
4 p.m. Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership Tailgate (Student Center lawn area)
4:30-6:30 p.m. Live Entertainment (between Trinity Administration building and Brookside)
5 p.m. School of Liberal Arts and Sciences Tailgate (Bonzel parking lot)
7 p.m. USF Football Game vs. Siena Heights (Bishop D’Arcy Stadium)
Alumni Gathering Area (D’Arcy Stadium south end zone VIP area)
Alumni Cheerleaders on Field with USF Cheerleaders (D’Arcy Stadium)
Chris Buck Oscar-Winning Director of Disney’s “Frozen” (USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center)

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEEKEND FESTIVITIES? VISIT SF.EDU/HOMECOMING.
Alumni Cabinet President Danielle Kiefer is proof that you never really leave the USF family.

Meet the Alumni Cabinet President

Danielle Kiefer

After graduating in 1999 with a degree from the now School of Creative Arts, she left for the Windy City to pursue a career in graphic design. She and her husband lived in Chicago for 10 years before returning to Fort Wayne to be closer to family. Gaining the chance to be more involved with the USF community was one of the positives to moving back home, she says.

In her role as president, she would like to build on the positive momentum the university has experienced in recent years by planning events like lectures and roundtable discussions inviting alumni, students and professors into conversations based on popular topics in their field.

“The university has gotten bigger, better, smarter,” she says, and these events would help to maintain that energy.

Alumni interested in Alumni Cabinet and other volunteer opportunities can contact Director of Alumni Relations Jessica Swinford at 260-399-8032 or jswinford@sf.edu.
St. Joseph Nurses Reunite

St. Joseph School of Nursing held an all-reunion dinner on Friday, April 25 in the North Campus gymnasium, with over 170 ladies in attendance. The honored 50th year class of 1964 had 26 classmates in attendance. The class requested a special Mass for their class, then attended the dinner Friday evening. On Saturday, the honored class enjoyed a luncheon at the Doermann Center for Health Sciences Education in the nursing commons. Cheryl Erickson, associate professor in the Department of Nursing, spoke to the group about the History of Nursing display in the commons, and the group toured the nursing labs and the simulation lab.

Treetops view of the TinCaps

Over 145 alumni, friends and family members gathered at Parkview Field on a warm May evening for an alumni night at a TinCaps game, organized by the Alumni Relations Office.

After a red carpet greeting from the Alumni Relations staff, alumni found the Treetops area a great place to mingle. “You could move around the Treetops seating, and there were four stations with food at different times. It was prime seating with a perfect view of the whole field,” said alumna Carla (Satchwell) Pyle, BA 2000. All generations, from kids to parents to grandparents, were represented.
Connection Perfection

Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center combine services for alumni, students

Engage. Connect. Grow. That’s the mantra of Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center, which merged last August to offer even more engagement, interaction and professional services for students and alumni.

Since then, USF alumna Natalie Wagoner was hired as Director of Employee Relations, and Sarah Aubrey joined the team as Director of Career Advancement in May, bringing a one-two punch to career outreach planning for students and alumni. Director of Alumni Relations Jessica Swinford will continue delivery of strong alumni programming, as alumni look ahead to USF’s Homecoming weekend Oct. 3 and 4.

The latest development, the recently-purchased Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center, creates a concrete symbol of the offices’ union. Located next to the grass lot on the southwest corner of Bass Road and Lindenwood, the center will hold the offices of Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center beginning this fall.

With the merge, the Career Outreach Center will engage with alumni volunteers to connect students with internships at places of employment, conduct mock interviews and review resumes to give them a competitive edge in the marketplace when they graduate. Volunteers are also needed for events such as Network for Success, in which students hear from a business etiquette expert and then practice networking through a group of alumni and Fort Wayne community businesspeople.

“We’re asking alumni to remember the help they received as students and give back to help prepare their younger counterparts for the success they themselves have enjoyed,” said Swinford, who leads the merged offices. “Helping our students grow professionally is a great way to give of time, talent or treasure.”

Alumni who volunteer to mentor or create an internship at their places of business benefit their companies by connecting them with well-prepared, competent graduates with work experience and knowledge of the company’s culture. The Career Outreach Center also provides career counseling, interview practice and resume updates for alumni changing careers or otherwise realigning themselves with the marketplace.

Alumni who wish to volunteer by creating workplace internships, mentoring a student or volunteering for an event can contact Swinford at 260-399-8032.
Natalie Wagoner
Director of Employer Relations

“I build relationships between employers, community groups and USF students, staff and faculty. Aligning curricula with northeast Indiana career opportunities will help graduates and students find employment and learning opportunities. As partnerships expand, events with higher levels of corporate involvement will introduce students to workplace expectations. Business trends will guide the renovation of established academic programs and the creation of new ones.”

Sarah Aubrey
Director of Career Advancement

“I provide career planning services to students and alumni through workshops, programs and one-on-one coaching. I also implement and monitor a curriculum that will embed career preparation into the undergraduate years through academic advising and general education courses. A comprehensive career advancement plan for each student will be developed in collaboration with advisers and faculty members.”

USF Solid Financially
The year 2014 brought financial support from friends and foundations, creating real momentum for our Downtown Campus plan. After a $3 million, three-to-one matching grant from Legacy Fort Wayne was announced, friends and partners demonstrated their faith in USF’s mission through donations.

A $1 million Goldstine Foundation grant to improve the performing arts center led to the naming of the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, while a $1 million grant from the Lilly Foundation is funding a new Risk Management and Insurance program in the heart of the Fort Wayne commercial district and providing career support for our students and graduates campus-wide. Other gifts bring USF to $7.3 million raised toward the $12.3 million project, as of June 30, 2014. Subsequent commitments brings that total to $8.3 million as of September 15, 2014.

Academic programs also received a significant financial boost from foundations. In May, the National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded USF $600,000 to support students seeking bachelor degrees in science and mathematics beginning this fall semester. Good stewardship of all university resources has helped to contain expenses, allowing these generous gifts and grants to work even more efficiently for the benefit of our students.

Tuition and Fee Comparison Among 17 Indiana Peer independents

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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
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<td>DePauw University</td>
<td>$42,746</td>
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<td>Wabash College</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s College</td>
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USF Downtown Campus Fundraising

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<tr>
<td>$8.3 million</td>
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Photos by Steve Vorderman
Prepared? Your gifts make sure they are.

The Annual Fund touches every student, every program, every day. Help prepare the next class for the future. To make a gift, call 260-399-8007 or go online to sf.edu/give.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

Sept. 27    Alumni Gathering Area at home football game
Oct. 3     Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Celebration
Oct. 4     Homecoming Weekend — Cougar Strong
Oct. 4     Alumni Relations and Career Outreach Center Open House
Oct. 4     Chris Buck, Oscar-Winning Director of Disney’s “Frozen”
Oct. 16    CEO Forum
Oct. 18    Alumni Gathering Area at home football game
Nov. 7-9, 14-16 "Catch Me If You Can" musical
Nov. 8     Alumni Gathering Area at home football game
Dec. 5-8   Christmas in the Castle
Dec. 6     Breakfast with St. Nicholas
Dec. 7     Lighting of the Lake and Living Nativity
Dec. 11    Alumni Yuletide event at Brookside
Jan. 29    Network for Success

For more information on USF events, visit alumni.sf.edu/events.