A helping hand given in love makes everyone want to give back. USF accepted the President's Interfaith and Community Campus Challenge, along with colleges and universities across the nation, to increase awareness of the diverse communities who live among us.
A winning spirit characterizes USF’s first equestrian team. Members have competed well in this inaugural year, placing ahead of some large state universities at some meets. Perfecting their skills at something they love while representing USF and making lasting friendships makes the team a special experience. They hope to increase the team’s size and fill events with more riders as they compete in the coming spring semester.

Comic collision occurs during USF’s fall production of “Xanadu.” Greek mythology ran smack into 1980s California beach culture in a play that poked fun of both cultures and the sub-par movie the play is based upon. A cadre of talented USF and regional singers, dancers and actors shone in a script that let the audience in on the joke by taking a jab at many ‘80s culture clichés and ancient mythology conventions. Oh, snappeth!

Bringing care to the door lies at the heart of the matter for 2003 USF registered nurse graduate, Nikki Mann. Since completing graduate school, she pays house calls to homebound elderly patients in northeast Indiana as a nurse practitioner with MD2U. The job fulfills Mann’s long-held dream of bringing house calls with individualized care to the geriatric patients whose well-being is her specialty and passion.

Friends of USF gather in festive Brookside for the Keith Busse and Steel Dynamics Christmas Gala. Mr. Busse, a USF trustee, hosts the gala annually to show the university’s appreciation for those who support the university at the highest levels. Strolling carolers, live music, food and fun with friends made the formal affair a night to remember. Brookside, decked out by local designers, formed an elegant yuletide backdrop for the event.

On the cover Dr. Matt Hicks, a 1987 USF biology and chemistry graduate, returns to his alma mater often to care for athletes as the university’s sports physician. Traveling to Haiti to help post-earthquake survivors provides another avenue for his application of Christ-centered principles.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have just closed another blessed Christmas season and are embracing the new challenges that make each semester such a special time of growth and grace.

We are excited to build upon the events of the fall semester. We accepted an opportunity to step out in faith to purchase the historic Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne to embark on an exciting new education venture, the Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program.

Our path will lead to a multidisciplinary approach to arts education, bringing together teams of students from the creative arts, business and communication to produce projects for nonprofit businesses. Students will gain real-world experience in the rapidly evolving multimedia world of the digital and performing arts, while learning the business and communication skills to equip them for this ever-changing marketplace.

To serve our community, we joined other colleges and universities in accepting the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge. Throughout the semester, we focused on our relocated Fort Wayne immigrant populations through our studies, films, exhibits, community projects and a Better Together Day of Service to promote greater understanding of cultures and situations.

We also reached out to our community through education. “Breaking Barriers,” funded by a Fort Wayne Talent Initiative grant, brought a Buck Institute for Education workshop to campus. Our professors and students joined teachers from partner community schools in project-based learning training for the classroom. The goal is to graduate high school students who understand the collaborative environment of the workforce in which they will one day take their place.

We continue to take great pride in the contributions of our alumni. They are engaged in professional lives of service, and we are spotlighting two in this magazine—one who aids the homebound elderly and another who safeguards the health of our athletes and those stricken by overseas disasters.

Our athletes repeatedly show us all how character and discipline add up to excellence. The football team advanced once more to post-season play, and the men’s soccer team recently earned the Buffalo Funds Champions of Character Five Star Team Award.

The Fort Wayne and Crown Point campuses saw record fall enrollments. Keen interest is shown for Crown Point’s new simulation lab, which allows students to interact with lifelike “patient” manikins.

We have recorded all of this and more in this winter edition of Saint Francis magazine. Please enjoy this account of last semester’s activities, and visit campus often to say hello, enjoy our events and tour our campus and facilities.

May the Lord bless you as you grow in your relationship with Him.

Sister M. Elise Kriss

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF
President

Above photo and photo on next page by Steve Vorderman
reverence the UNIQUE DIGNITY of EACH PERSON
Alumni and supporters of all ages brought their friends and families to enjoy the Alumni Tent in the south end zone or put up their own canopies for cooking, mixing, connecting with friends and catching up on the news.

“Homecoming was an opportunity to see a variety of new things, including the energy and smiles of the first annual walk/run participants. It was a time to see old and new faces, look back and respect the university’s grand past, and enjoy its new additions.”

-KELY SANDELS (BA ’00, MS ’02)
Enthusiasm ran high for Homecoming 2011, as alumni traveled from as far away as St. Louis, Indianapolis, New York, Virginia and across Ohio for some first-time events and the every-time fun Homecoming always delivers.

Saturday bustled with action after the traditional dinner and presentation of Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame awards on Friday night.

The Alumni Tent in the south end zone provided a great hangout for hundreds of alumni seeking food, fellowship, reminiscing and an exciting football game with Malone. The Alumni Association tent at Brookside Plaza also drew visits and gave alumni a chance to register for some nice prizes—gift cards for Barnes and Noble.

The inaugural Cougar Spirit 5K Run/Walk found alumni lacing up and toeing the line in fun and friendship, with Matt Landry, BBA 2007, taking overall first place with a time of 20:13.

USF nursing alumni enjoyed the unveiling of “USF Nursing Heritage: A Journey through Time,” a new display in the Doermer nursing commons. Chronicling the history of Fort Wayne nursing schools, the display contains student nurse uniforms, medical equipment and other mementos of the times. Enhancing the display, video memories by USF, Saint Francis College, St. Joe and Lutheran nursing school alumnae generated excitement.

Alumni hit the fields for baseball, soccer and basketball, while the School of Arts and Sciences and Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership held tailgates during the football game. Throughout the day, Classes Without Quizzes presentations by faculty members and tours of the campus and restored Brookside attracted numbers of alumni and their families.

An alumni family dinner in Hutzell Athletic Center drew the energetic weekend to a close on Saturday.

USF Homecoming: The only time it’s good to be Blue

If you call having the blues a bad thing, you didn’t attend USF’s Homecoming weekend, “You Blue—Broadcast Your Spirit” on Oct. 15 and 16.

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The University of Saint Francis Department of Nursing debuted a new exhibit, “USF Nursing Heritage: A Journey through Time,” with a dedication and ribbon cutting in the nursing commons of the Doermer Family Center for Health Science Education on Homecoming weekend.

Beautiful customized cases hold nursing uniforms, artifacts, equipment and photos from across the years of the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing, Lutheran College of Health Professions, Saint Francis College and the University of Saint Francis. Alumni from as early as the 1940s have participated in interviews as part of an electronic display for the exhibit.

USF students (from left) Lexi Spragg, Melissa Corcoran and Kirsten Hansen wear nursing uniforms from the past during the nursing display opening Homecoming weekend.
Through an estate gift from Ida Schwartz Harbeson Shaw, a nursing task force of USF nursing faculty members Cheryl Erickson, Amy Knepp, Jennifer Richard and Meg Wilson formed in fall 2008 to explore creating a display to bring history alive for nursing graduates of the former nursing schools and USF.

Task force members met with community experts, foundation officials and alumni from the schools to gather information for the display and explore ways to obtain nursing artifacts for it. Artifacts and nursing uniforms were donated or loaned by alumni or family members, and dolls and photographs were loaned by The Lutheran Foundation.

As part of the display, a 52-inch interactive touch screen monitor shows video accounts of alumni as they speak about life as student nurses, where nursing has taken them in their careers and their messages for today’s student nurses.

“Visitors and alumni had positive comments for the display,” said Knepp, USF Department of Nursing chair. “They reminisced with classmates, shared more stories, and complimented the technology, mural and uniform displays. I think many felt honored to be a part of the interviews and process.”

Today, visitors drop by to enjoy the display, and Lutheran Hospital nursing managers have scheduled to bring a group to view the display this month.
oh Snappeth!

Above, USF’s Nick Lubs, left, Méghan Flanary and Jade Haag join area actress Susan Moriarty in a hilarious “Xanadu” scene. Photo on facing page, Fort Wayne Homestead High School students Brooke O’Mara, left, Emma Beauchamp and Clare Ramel take the stage as muses.
Greek mythology met the California ’80s in “Xanadu,” USF’s fall musical, staged in the North Campus Auditorium for two weekends in November.

The comic collision kept literary minds and mental chroniclers of ’80s culture minutiae alike on their toes, with a litany of jokes lampooning everything from California beach clothing and slang to the conventions and characters of Greek mythology to the fact that the play itself is based on a sub-par movie.

Set in Venice Beach, Calif., the plot turns on the broken dreams of would-be artist “Sonny,” whose street mural of “ancient Greek artsy chicks” comes alive to play the driving role in his destiny. Two now-corporeal and hilariously evil sister muses work in intertwined sub-plots to wreak havoc on their sister, Clio, whose position with their father, Zeus, they envy.

Clio makes it her mission, disguised as Australian roller girl Kira, to help failed artist Sonny achieve his dream of founding a roller disco in the old Xanadu theater. After all, as a muse, she must inspire an artist to achieve his true work. To thwart her, the scheming pair curses her with falling in love with the mortal Sonny, punishable by eternal banishment to the underworld.

Through a series of events, they fall in love, Clio is spared banishment and allowed to become mortal, and along the way a businessman regains his vision to create a theater and agrees to partner with Sonny in creating the roller disco.

“You can create whatever you want—that is Xanadu,” Sonny declares in the play’s denouement, as the cast dances through the auditorium singing the title song and the audience waves glow sticks.

Director Brad Beauchamp initially looked askance at staging “Xanadu,” he said in his program notes. “I almost didn’t give ’Xanadu’ a thought. After all, I remembered the Universal Pictures film starring Olivia Newton-John and the incomparable Gene Kelly. It wasn’t exactly a masterpiece,” he said.

However, hearing the soundtrack and reading the script revealed why it became such a Broadway hit. “You can’t help but sing along with the music,” he said. “And the show is quite clever in the way it doesn’t just tell the story, it lets us all in on the joke of what a less-than-spectacular film it is based on.”

The classic boy meets, loses and then regains girl plot “just happens to include ancient Greek muses, Zeus, Mount Olympus, roller skates and every ’80s cliché you can think of. How can it not be a riot?” Beauchamp said.

USF sociology major Meghan Flanary, in her toga, leg warmers and roller skates, shone as Clio/Kira, lending a clear voice to the music’s complex key changes and intervals. New SOCA faculty member Aaron Willoughby brought previous theater experience to his comic portrayal of Sonny.

USF social work senior Lauren Bachle joined area actress Suzan Moriarty in delivering a one-two punch to the funny bone as the plotting muses Calliope and Melpomene. Local actor-director Kirby Volz gave engaging performances as Danny Maguire and Zeus.

The “Xanadu” band, made up of USF students Albert Shoaff, Michael Klopfenstein, Dan Katter and Emily Fitch, along with music technology instructor Greg Vey, artfully delivered on the music score, along with hits by ’80s icons Michael Jackson and Cyndi Lauper. Leslie Beauchamp’s choreography set the tone, with styles from the Solid Gold Dancers of the ’80s.
Although USF freshman biology major Dzenana Sakinovic ("Nana") remembers only fragments of her first four years of life as a Bosnian refugee, one image has crystallized: a red chair.

“The last refugee camp my family was in had a red chair, bunk beds and a heater in a little house. I was standing on the red chair and reaching for the hook to get out. I was too short,” said the dark-haired, bright and confident girl with laughing eyes and a smile to match.

Life placed Nana on the wrong side of a terrible war in which the systematic extermination of her ethnic group, the Bosnian Muslims, took place after the dissolution of former Yugoslavia. Born in the middle of the conflict in 1992, Nana and her family were forced from their comfortable home.

“My dad was a soldier, and we had to flee. There was no power and no heat. It was November and the temperature was dropping. I was a baby and had to be held to keep warm. By the time I was one, I was in a camp,” she said. She lived in three camps—in a tent, a 6-by-6 foot chicken house and then a house “stall”—before celebrating her fourth birthday in the United States.

Camp life was tough. “You got limited food, and you had to barter for things you needed, like baby formula. There was one oven, and they would trade for oven time. My parents wouldn’t eat for two to three days to make sure we ate,” she said.

While she has been spared memory of her family’s initial flight, her parents, sister and brother are not so fortunate. “My brother and sister remember running down a hill and seeing a sea of people running and guns exploding. My mom and family still have vivid dreams about it,” she said.

In 1996, her family arrived in the U.S. through Catholic Charities. Moving from New York to Chicago before receiving a Fort Wayne sponsorship, Nana was placed in a Head Start program here while her family took English as a Second Language courses. Her father got a job, and the family settled into their lives.
But as often occurs with traumatic relocation, the new place can be almost as frightening as the war. “My parents are my heroes. Without them, I wouldn’t be here. The war was not as terrifying as this new place and going from being well off in Bosnia to being here with $20,” she said.

Since she arrived in the U.S. at such a young age, she learned English as a young child and excelled in school. Earning high honors in the sixth grade, she held her place academically, graduating from South Side High School with a 3.8 grade point average.

A tough experience made her reassess the future and directed her toward USF. “My dad got sick, and it was very hard with only my mom working. The utilities got shut off. Being exposed to that and the hospital made me rethink things. I had to grow up very fast, and these experiences made me think of medicine and becoming a pediatrician,” she said.

Remembering that others share her early plight is another motivator. “I also think about helping those who went through what I did. I’d like to be able to work with Doctors without Borders. They go to depressed and undeveloped areas and offer medical care with limited supplies and vaccines. That’s who helped us in the camps,” she said.

USF supports her dream. “As soon as I was accepted, I got emails from all the schools and broad options on where my studies could take me,” she said. There’s a personal connection, too. “I’m a person in class. My profs all know me, and biology professor Dr. Amy Obringer has been awesome. Everyone cares. They stop you in the hall and ask how you are.”

After graduating from USF, she hopes to enter medical school at the University of South Carolina. “Our getting out and experiencing and doing what we love is the USF faculty’s overall goal.”

A step up when you need it, to set you free to reach your goal. That’s USF—picking up where the red chair left off.
Registered nurse graduate Nikki Mann is a nurse practitioner, and wouldn’t trade her job for any other. But hers is unique, because it fulfills her dream of making house calls to homebound elderly patients.

After completing her RN at USF in 2003, she qualified for the prestigious graduate school program at St. Louis University, completing her master’s degree as a geriatrics nurse practitioner in January 2007. Spending nearly four years as an extended care specialist with a skilled care and retirement community in Fort Wayne, she got to know the residents and the unique situations involved in geriatric care. But she wanted more. More contact. More control. More compassion.

“I always wanted to make house calls, and when I mentioned it, one doctor laughed at me. But I really wanted to bring that back,” she said. “Geriatric patients have so many unique issues impacting their health, and I wanted to make some decisions of my own for my patients.”

She eventually met collaborating physician Dr. Jerry Michael Benfield. He had observed emergency admissions of homebound patients whose conditions had deteriorated. The needless and costly suffering sparked his business idea of making house calls to homebound elderly patients. He created MD2U, for which Mann now operates a satellite operation in Fort Wayne.

She made her first MD2U patient visit on Sept. 1, and loves it. Traveling to patients simplifies the process and creates lower overhead so she can spend more time with each patient. “Seeing 30 to 40 a day is too many. There’s no time to really look at the big picture. I see a maximum of 10 patients a day and can spend up to an hour with each of them. We talk about a lot more than medicine. We talk about families, pets, kids and what’s going on. It’s socialization for them,” Mann said.

She also gained her longed-for control. “Nurse practitioners can do so much,” she said. “We can diagnose and prescribe and refer to specialists. The nursing model is more holistic regarding patient care. It includes the mental, emotional and psychosocial aspects.”

Each visit responds to unique needs. “I can see the home and what they’re eating. I can look at their meds and call to see if they’re filling their prescriptions. It’s like a private case statement,” she said.

A close relationship with her grandmother helped create the special place in her heart for the elderly. “Given a choice between a younger and older patient, I would prefer caring for an older patient any day. There is a huge difference between younger and older populations. My patients are so grateful for my help, even if I can’t do anything to change their condition,” she said.

She takes their suffering personally. Her eyes welling with tears, she recalls her first house call. “My first patient moved here from out of state with advanced Alzheimer’s Disease. She’s on hospice care now. When the family looked at me and asked if they were doing the right thing by keeping her at home, I could look them in the eye and say yes, absolutely, she would have died by now otherwise. It’s hard to let them go, but she’s home and not in pain. This is right. This is how it should be,” she said.

Another, a 90-year-old, has also stayed in her home, with Mann’s help. “She’s had a few setbacks, but she’s happy, at home, loves her cat, does her thing and doesn’t want or need a nursing home.” Still another survived cancer and now is caretaker for her husband. “Older people just don’t give up,” Mann said.

Jane Love, in her late ‘80s, is wheelchair-bound with arthritis. She loves her caregiver. “Nikki has seemed like one of my granddaughters,” she said. “It is just absolutely wonderful. I hear of other women who have trouble getting an appointment with their doctor. She has so much more time for me.”

Mann applies a quiet, simple philosophy to her much-loved and aged patients. “The house call is meant for the nurse, I think,” she says.
“Given a choice between a younger and older patient, I would prefer caring for an older patient any day. My patients are so grateful for my help, even if I can’t do anything to change their condition.”

-NIKKI MANN, BSN 2003
“He that despises his neighbor sins: but he that has mercy on the poor, happy is he.”

-PROVERBS 14:21
The University of Saint Francis has signed a pledge with the White House and launched a year-long plan, “Better Together,” as part of the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge.

USF Center for Service Engagement Director Katrina Boedeker and a task force of faculty members from USF and Ivy Tech, staff, students and community partner representatives designed the plan to address community needs while creating opportunities for students to engage in interfaith community service. Boedeker and USF Associate Vice President, Marketing Trois Hart attended the challenge kickoff at the White House in August.

USF student partners and organization leaders are working with Campus Ministry, the Center for Service Engagement, Just Peace, the Interfaith Society, the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life, the School of Creative Arts and other academic departments and offices to improve domestic poverty, educational opportunity, health services and healthy living for the city’s resettled refugee populations. All efforts will focus on the Franciscan values of reverence for the unique dignity of each person and serving one another, society and the church.

A broad range of events and projects are implanting the project in the minds of students and our community. In October, screenings of the HBO documentary “Burma Soldier,” starring local Burmese resident and political activist Myo Myint, and the photo exhibit and lecture “Life on the Border: The Karen People of Burma” by New York photographer Robert Gerhardt, brought the plight of Fort Wayne’s Burmese refugees, the second-largest of such populations in the country, to the forefront.

On Sunday, Oct. 23, USF invited other area colleges and universities to join in a Better Together Day of Service. Nearly 150 USF students, faculty and alumni collaborated with over 50 volunteers from Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne and Ivy Tech East on service projects for and with the Fort Wayne resettled refugee communities, wrapping up the day with an international “after-party.”

On Jan. 16, USF conducted its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service: A Day On, Not a Day Off, in which students, faculty and staff engaged in 18 service projects for a variety of community agencies.

Additionally, projects and assignments infused with Better Togetherness projects are integrated with academic courses. Students are reading books, watching films and hearing presentations about immigrants and refugees, performing community service, creating community panels on religious diversity issues and studying comparative religions.

Increasing USF’s campus-wide commitment to supporting the Fort Wayne resettled refugee populations and building the community’s understanding of the circumstances that resulted in their resettlement and the cultural changes they face in a post 9-11 climate is the initiative’s aim, Boedeker said.
Maliela Rozier may be homeless, but the teenager has the security of primary healthcare without leaving her housing facility, thanks to University of Saint Francis family nurse practitioner (FNP) faculty members and students.

A core of USF School of Health Sciences professors and students are providing a healthcare safety net for the most vulnerable members of society—homeless women and children like Rozier—through a new clinic at Charis House, a homeless shelter in Fort Wayne. The clinic opened at the ever-full, 79-bed facility in August, and three months later, the volunteer caregivers had already tended to over 100 residents.

USF became instrumental in making the clinic a reality when USF professor of nursing Meg Wilson brought the idea to USF community nursing instructor Theresa Roberts. A discussion between Roberts and high school classmate and Charis House Director Lynne Isenbarger took the idea to another level, and soon Roberts met with USF’s FNP faculty about providing volunteer staffing for the new clinic.
Charis House approached USF exclusively about staffing because of the values-based education students receive and the excellent reputation of USF graduates who are now community caregivers. Simply put, “They’ve experienced our students,” said Cheryl Erickson, a board-certified FNP, master’s degree holder and USF associate professor of nursing.

Erickson volunteers weekly at the clinic, and sees the damage homelessness wreaks upon Charis House residents. All are tested for tuberculosis when admitted, as the infectious disease afflicts malnourished people with compromised immune systems. Many suffer from untreated hypertension, diabetes, upper respiratory infections, musculoskeletal problems, chemical dependency and dental neglect. Most have not received wellness tests in years.

“We can’t fix everything,” Erickson says. “We give them medication until they can get into Matthew 25 clinic and Medicaid. We refer them to places they can get additional services. We are the stop-gap until they are placed with agencies to help them. Some people need two years to regain their health and get a job.”

Dr. Kim Penland, also a board-certified FNP, a former USF student who completed her community nursing hours at Charis House, also volunteers at the clinic. The task is dear to her heart.

“I have been extremely fortunate to have been given this opportunity to be a part of the health ministry clinic and work with the residents of Charis House,” Penland said. “This was a calling from God to serve these women and children who are in need right here in our community. The residents are so grateful for the providers, but I feel like I am the one who should be grateful for this amazing opportunity to work with the residents and the other volunteers at the Charis House. It is very humbling experience, and I am honored to be a part of this unique health ministry.”

About 10 USF professionals staff the clinic seven hours a week, and when scheduling gets tight, USF registered nurses and FNP students chip in to volunteer also. “Almost all of us are teaching and also have a practice,” Erickson said. “We all pull together to do a little bit. We are reaching out to our FNP alumni to see if they want to be involved.”

There’s plenty to do.

“Our job involves a lot of education on health and resources. We hope to have classes and small seminars where our students can teach on diet, smoking cessation, weight control and disease prevention. But first we need to get these patients back to normal,” Erickson said. “Down the road we hope to reach out to help the men who reside at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.”

Charis House residents appreciate their caregivers. “Every patient has been so gracious and so grateful,” Erickson said. “They’re so appreciative of everybody here. They’ve been great.”

Seeing women regain their health and move on to productive lives gratifies the clinic volunteers. “Being part of getting someone back on her feet and feeling good about herself is rewarding,” Erickson said. “They’re restored as whole persons and responsible citizens.”
The 500-plus Culver’s restaurant chain got its humble start in a renovated Wisconsin A&W Root Beer stand in the mid-’80s. CEO and co-founder Craig Culver traveled to USF in October to share his story and business acumen for the 18th annual CEO Forum, “Success Leaves Tracks: Following the Footprints for Business Growth and Success.”

He had some heartfelt advice for the hundreds of regional business leaders gathered in the North Campus Auditorium for his keynote speech and a panel by local business experts. “People mirror leadership,” he told the audience. “As a business owner, leadership starts with you. I initially didn’t want to be involved in the long, hard hours of restaurant work, but my parents were great examples for customer service and hospitality. Now, whether I’m in my office or a restaurant, I know I must bring that energy and enthusiasm to the job. I know when I do, I will get the mirror image of myself from my employees.”

Businesspeople must also love what they do, he said. “When we sold the original A&W a few years back, we trained the new owners for two months. But they didn’t love what they did. You can’t train passion—you have to bring that. After two years, they asked us to take the business back. That’s how Culver’s was started—from someone not loving what they were doing.”
Other fundamentals included getting the right people on your team; training and fully staffing businesses; getting rid of business “drains” who drive down team morale; challenging yourself and your team to create excellence; empowering the right people; embracing change and diversity; never lowering quality standards; sharing and giving back; and achieving balance in one’s life.

Retired Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership professor Mike O’Neil moderated a forum of business experts including Tower Financial President and CEO Mike Cahill; Lutheran Health Network President and CEO Joe Dorko; Velvet Ice Cream President Luconda Dager; Vera Bradley co-founder and national spokesperson Pat Miller; Shindigz CEO and Chairman Shep Moyle; and Sweetwater President and CEO Chuck Surack. Tower Bank was corporate sponsor for the forum.

“I appreciated the human resources orientation to the organization—the importance of people and how they can make a difference,” YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne Director of Leadership Development and Human Resources Tonya Hoffman said of Culver’s presentation.

“As some of the really helpful points focused on customer service and hospitality, partnering with education and ‘touching tables,’ joining team members in mixing with customers. These are concepts applicable to many industries,” said Sue Laudadio, Wells Fargo community banking district manager for Indiana and Ohio.

“As a business owner, leadership starts with you. I initially didn’t want to be involved in the long, hard hours of restaurant work, but my parents were great examples for customer service and hospitality.”

-CRAIG CULVER, CULVER’S CEO AND CO-FOUNDER
HORSESENSE

USF equestrians turn passion into competition

It’s a chilly December morning at Orchard Creek Stable, and the eight USF equestrian team members show it. Cold, stiff boots pull on harder, frigid fingers struggle stubbornly with tack and frost emits from mouths in puffy clouds.

But these girls are up for all of it, and their passion has translated into success. Many of them riders for years, they have organized USF’s first equestrian team and taken their love of the sport to the next level by competing in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone 7, Region 1.

Transferring their love of equitation to the competitive arena just made—well, horse sense. “We do it more or less for fun, because we can be in something we love that’s school-related,” said sophomore health services and physical therapist assistant major Sara Wagner, the team’s vice president. The team’s only Western rider, she finds the sport thrilling, but relaxing. “With Western, it seems like you’re flowing more with the horse,” she said. They all agree riding is a great stress reliever.

It’s hard to miss a riding habit worn to class, so the team creates a bit of a campus stir. “A lot of my profs ask how we’re doing when I wear the jacket,” said senior elementary education major and team president Elizabeth Peters. “The response has been really positive.”

Efforts to form the team began last year when Peters and a friend tossed the idea back and forth and then Peters posted the opportunity on Facebook. Word spread like a Western wildfire.

Senior elementary education major and USF equestrian team president Elizabeth Peters loves her riding team, and hopes other USF student riders will saddle up and join the group.
Orchard Creek trainer Kirsten Saldivar found me on Facebook. We toured two or three barns and chose this one because they are college team specialists. Everything was just finalized a week before the first show. We’ve been meeting since last year, so we all work together really well,” Peters said.

It shows. So far, they’ve placed as high as fifth and no lower than seventh in a 12-team field. “For a small team, we are doing well,” said sophomore history major Ali Gouloff, the team’s fundraising chair. “We competed well against Indiana University and Purdue, and they have tons of members.” They’ve traveled as far as St. Mary’s of the Woods in Terre Haute to compete.

IHSA Region 1 members choose from a range of events and levels—equitation, jumping, Western and English riding and open, novice, intermediate and advanced walk, trot and canter and just walk-trot—with one caveat: competitors draw from a pool of horses they’ve never ridden before.

That’s a challenge. “In collegiate, you draw a horse you don’t know and go into the ring. It really tests your ability,” Gouloff said. “I’ve been riding since I was 7, and like intercollegiate competition because of the challenge of drawing a horse,” said sophomore public relations and communication major Brittany King, the team’s secretary.

A team practice can take two to three hours, and most members also practice at their home barns. But it takes more than time—it takes money.

“The school provides the tack and the team pays for training, entry fees, shows and transportation. It’s a couple thousand dollars per show for everybody, so we need sponsors,” Gouloff said.

In addition to financial backing, the team has another long-term goal—increasing membership. “The more people we have, the more divisions we can fill and the more points we can get,” Gouloff said.

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“Through Western, it seems like you’re flowing more with the horse.”
-SARA WAGNER, SOPHOMORE

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Anyone wishing to provide financial sponsorship for the team can contact Gouloff at gouloffam@cougars.sf.edu. Those who want to saddle up with the team can contact Peters at petersem@cougars.sf.edu.
A landmark Fort Wayne historic structure was preserved and a new Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program housed with the University of Saint Francis purchase of the Scottish Rite Center at 431 W. Berry St. in January.

With the purchase of the multi-use facility, the university will create a media production complex for the education of students in the arts and for the creation of profitable business enterprises. The 82,672 square-foot building holds a 2,018-seat auditorium, meeting rooms, ballroom, offices and lounges that adapt well to its reuse as an arts and media technology center.

USF is one of only a handful of schools in the country pursuing a hands-on, media team-driven program in an entrepreneurial manner. “We have been canvassing new media programs across the country and have not found one like ours,” said University Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel.

Plans call for the multimedia center to also serve as the main facility for several of the university’s existing programs. Other ideas in development are centers for instructional multimedia performance, documentary photography, entrepreneurial education, theater and arts administration and two- and three-dimensional media production.

“This is one of the key cornerstones we’ve been trying to secure as a response to a new economy,” said Allen County Economic Development Alliance Director Andi Udris. During a press conference on the purchase, he heralded the META plan as one of the most significant in the downtown city’s history.

The plan impacts regional economy in important ways, Daniel said. “It establishes ready-made student collaborative relationships for starting small businesses upon graduation, and provides artists and organizations from Fort Wayne and the Midwest with high-quality experienced professionals ready to enter the workforce,” he said.

The area arts community also views META as an economy driver. “It’s a fantastic opportunity, and aligns with an initiative in which we’ve been promoting the arts as a catalyst for economic development,” said Arts United Director Jim Sparrow.

Details on programs and faculty the building will house will develop as the plan unfolds. For more information, visit usfpac.com.
Simply stated, USF Crown Point’s simulation laboratory (“Sim Lab”) has an amazing effect on student attitudes and learning. “Our students always want more,” said Nursing Program and Interim Site Director Margaret Stoffregen-DeYoung. “They get really drawn in and experience it fully like it’s live, and yet it has the safety net of not being a live patient situation, so that reduces their anxiety. It’s a great learning environment.”

USFCP’s Sim Lab has two high-fidelity manikins, METIman and PediaSIM, which simulate biological responses in an adult and child. Both have extensive clinical features and capabilities designed for nurses and medics, allowing students to interact with them as they would with live patients.

The lab instructor can program manikins to display a set of physical symptoms, setting up a scenario in which nursing students respond with their medical training. From a booth with single-view glass, the instructor can observe student responses and critique their skills.

“The high-fidelity simulators have an interactive quality. Their eyes blink, you can feel their pulses and they make unique sounds. You can pre-program scenarios like an asthma attack, monitor and simulate administering medications and see what happens to give students the experience of an emergency situation,” Stoffregen-DeYoung said.

This is the first semester for the manikins and Sim Lab, and Stoffregen-DeYoung has hired adjunct professor Marsha King, a registered nurse with a Master of Science in Nursing, who is pursuing her doctorate and specialty in simulation. Ms. King’s goal will be to conduct a high-fidelity simulation by the end of next semester.

Currently, students learn fundamentals with three moderate-fidelity simulators—an adult, child and infant. These models make sounds but simulate less biological activity. Bed-making, initial approaches to patients, injections and obstetrical checks are common hands-on nursing tasks performed with this level manikin.

University of Saint Francis Fort Wayne campus Sim Lab Director Dawn Mabry collaborated and provided guidance in the creation of the Crown Point Sim Lab. Crown Point Director of Marketing and Development Sandie Phalen is pleased to be able to offer the lab sooner than anticipated due to a Health Resources and Services Administration grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Stoffregen-DeYoung looks forward to the Sim Lab’s growth. “My sense is we’ve just begun and there’s such potential,” she said. “I’m happy to see us on the road to fulfilling it. This equipment is so beautiful, and it’s amazing to be able to offer this so early in our campus’ history. We’re very lucky.”
The call of Christ to serve in meaningful ways drives everything Dr. Matt Hicks, a 1987 USF biology and chemistry graduate and Fort Wayne Orthopedics surgeon, does.

His faith leads the university’s sports physician to a broad view of service—from helping USF athletes and patients recover from injuries to treating post-earthquake victims in Haiti.

A four-year USF basketball player, he developed strong friendships and graduated well prepared for his next step to Indiana University Medical School.

“I enjoyed the small teacher-to-student ratio, and the professors were very engaged in helping me to be successful,” he said. “I had a really good relationship with a group of players, and we won more games than had been typical. Under Coach Holstein, I, along with a fellow graduate, was honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.”

A mentor guided him professionally. “I had a high school friend whose father was an orthopedic surgeon,” he said. “I job shadowed him and decided to pursue orthopedics as a career. He helped me through letters of recommendation, professional knowledge, and guidance during training. Orthopedics is a wonderful way to help young athletes return to their sport, improve the minor injuries of weekend athletes, and care for older athletes.”
His USF history led to a professional relationship that now brings him to his alma mater routinely to care for student-athletes. “The trainers, coaches and I are in constant contact during the week regarding the condition of team members,” he said. “We work hard with student-athletes to help them recover from injuries in a timely fashion.”

He and his wife, USF grad and cheerleader Lisa (Berry), are also big fans, taking in events with their children and watching the games and athletes closely.

That vigilance once took him to the skies to help out an athlete. “During the national basketball championship week two years ago, I was watching the game via streaming Internet, and DeJovan Sawyer-Davis sprained his ankle,” he said. “I thought he had a trigger point and maybe I could inject the point of tenderness to let him play in the championship game against Walsh. I called the athletic director, Mark Pope, to see what we could do. He found a plane, and we flew to the game. We were able to take away DeJovan’s pain so he could run. He played, and we won the game.”

Keeping his skills in his own backyard just isn’t in his playbook. Two years ago when a massive earthquake hit Haiti, he traveled with a medical mission group to tend to the wounded.

“We spent every day working in a hospital in Port-au-Prince,” he said two days before departing for another trip in February. “I’ve been looking for an opportunity to go back, so I’m returning with Jesus in Haiti Ministries. During the trip, we plan to review the progress made in several of the orphanages as well as the school Jesus in Haiti Ministries supports, and develop an agenda for the coming year.”

A member of Blackhawk Ministries in Fort Wayne, his work is a natural extension of his—and USF’s—beliefs. “It’s a way to express our faith in action and be involved in the care of others,” he said. “USF has also been very active in service, and that’s what Christ instructs us to do—give back in ways that are meaningful.”

He loves giving back to USF. “I really enjoy being able to take care of my alma mater’s student-athletes,” he said. “It’s not often you can interact with students of the school you attended, encourage them in their studies and sports, and help them reach for their dreams without getting discouraged during injuries.”

It’s a lasting relationship. “The coaches know I have a personal commitment as a USF student-athlete myself. I’m on two USF boards and integrally involved with the university. I’m caring for the athletes to get them back on track as soon as possible, because I enjoyed my time here so much and can give back to them,” he said.

“I have traveled to five championship games with USF, and I think only Sister Elise has been to more.”

“USF has also been very active in service, and that’s what Christ instructs us to do—give back in ways that are meaningful.”

-DR. MATT HICKS, ‘87 BS
It was education in the “fishbowl.” Seated face-to-face in a circular pattern, a core team of University of Saint Francis professors and students joined Adams Central Community Schools (ACCS) and Fort Wayne-area Catholic school teachers of grades 4-8 in discussing a teaching technique as part of a three-day Buck Institute for Education (BIE) workshop USF hosted in July.

The technique generated some animated discussion from the educators gathered for the Talent Initiative-funded workshop in the Doermer Family Center for Health Science Education. “The ‘bowl’ forces you to have something to say,” said Vicki Lortie, a teacher at St. Therese School in Fort Wayne.

“It’s the ultimate expression of voice and choice,” said USF education professor Connie Collins. “It’s process, not product. Being able to sit toe-to-toe with colleagues and have my say, right or wrong, is equality in education.”

Using the workshop to determine best practices in teaching methods was only one task tackled by the group of educators as part of Breaking Barriers, USF’s ongoing professional development effort. Breaking Barriers focuses on project-based learning (PBL) to increase student success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning in this region.

The Talent Initiative is a regional program established by a $20 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Of the $20 million, $2.3 million was earmarked for professional development centered on STEM curricula and PBL in public and private schools in 11 northeast Indiana counties.

In partnership with ACCS and Fort Wayne-area Catholic elementary schools and business partners, USF is providing a model of professional development for the introduction of PBL into local STEM curricula.
USF science and mathematics faculty members will address the STEM knowledge gap, focusing on teachers of grades 4-8 and students who plan to teach in those grade levels but have no specialized STEM training. As the overarching plan to strengthen PBL and STEM success, Breaking Barriers will give teachers and those studying to become teachers support, practice and in-depth knowledge to integrate PBL into classroom routines. USF will focus professional development to remove barriers between students and STEM success, between disciplines, between K-12 schools and universities and between business and education.

“We are very excited to partner with USF in this program,” said Talent Initiative Director Leonard Helfrich. “By working to bring together educators from K-12 and higher education in STEM-focused professional development, USF is creating an innovative model that we believe is integral to the success and sustainability of PBL in this region.”

The model developed by BIE, a leader in helping teachers use PBL, will be infused into teaching methodology and field courses for USF undergraduate education majors. Business and community partners will join in the classroom experience to publicize the vital need for STEM-skilled workers for the economic development of northeast Indiana.

Breaking Barriers will professionally develop USF faculty, USF elementary and middle school education students and ACCS and Catholic school teachers of grades 4-8. Dr. Teresa Beam and Connie Collins of the USF faculty are project codirectors.

“I look forward to working with educators and the Talent Initiative to bring challenging, relevant and exciting STEM projects into our 21st century classrooms,” Dr. Beam said.

“This is a fabulous opportunity for partnership and professional development, as USF teacher education programming strives to provide the experiences and knowledge core of 21st century expectations for the classroom,” said professor Collins.

The opportunities presented by the BIE workshop excited Jake Bloom, who teaches science and math to grades 6-8 at Fort Wayne’s Most Precious Blood School. “It’s learning how to incorporate PBL activities into the school year so students will develop 21st century skills employers are looking for. This workshop gives us a road map,” he said.

“The end game is you’re going to have students much more involved with employers in what they do and how they do it, and employers will see exactly what they’re learning in school. It involves the whole community in solving problems. And what we learn here we can share with other educators.”

It’s circularity—a lot like that fishbowl.
USF had a 2011 season as thrilling as a ride on the Maverick at Cedar Point, as they advanced to the NAIA football championship series quarter-finals for the 12th time in the last 13 seasons. Notching their 153rd listing on the NAIA Coaches Top 25 poll, USF ranked No. 9 at the end of the regular season. They ended the 2011 season at 9-3, their 13th consecutive winning season. In his 33rd season, head coach Kevin Donley got his 250th career win with a special game at Walsh, a 42-41 double overtime win highlighted by a five-touchdown, record-setting performance from redshirt freshman Antoine Campbell.

Austin Coleman thrilled everybody with his record-setting season as a kickoff returner—654 total kickoff return yards, a 40.9 average per return, four TDs—all USF and MSFA records. He is two touchdowns shy of tying the NAIA career record.

When their backs were against the wall after losses to No. 1 Saint Xavier and No. 2 Marian, the Cougars won their final four games to earn an NAIA FCS at-large bid, winning the first-round game at No. 7 Missouri Valley 28-14.

Unfortunately, at No. 3 Georgetown (Kentucky) the Cougars’ 14th season came to a close in a 26-14 defeat on Nov. 26. That loss meant USF lost only to the No. 1, 2 and 3-ranked teams.

Kudos for Gridders
Individually, USF players harvested an impressive crop of awards and honors in 2011, starting with a second consecutive American Football Coaches Association NAIA All-American selection for senior right guard Corey Cronk (Fishers, Ind./Hamilton Southeastern H.S.). USF running back Derek Atwood earned USF’s first football Capital One Academic All-America Team College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) first-team selection. Atwood is a political science and pre-law double major with a 3.81 GPA.

Cronk was also one of six members of the USF team who earned first-team All-Mid-States Football Association Mideast League recognition and 16 total MSFA selections. USF’s other five first-team selections included senior linebacker Ross Bauman (Jimtown, Ind./Jimtown H.S.), another two-time first-team selection. First-time first-team selections included junior Austin Coleman (Fort Wayne, Ind./Harding H.S.) at return specialist; redshirt-freshman Antoine Campbell (Springboro, Ohio/Springboro H.S.); junior defensive back Erick Humphrey (Indianapolis, Ind./Warren Central H.S.); and sophomore Kollin Carman (Columbus, Ind./Columbus North H.S.) at punter.
With the 2011 University of Saint Francis fall athletics season fading to memories, here is a look back at the Cougar teams that provided some special moments in USF athletics history.

CROSS COUNTRY
- On the men’s side, sophomore Landry Williams led the effort in the conference meet with a 26:40.5 finish for 24th place, and sophomore Nick Brand finished 48th with a time of 28:21.9. USF finished 10th in the 10-team meet at Goshen College.
- The USF women finished ninth, led by two freshmen. Kelly Ditzler led USF with a 44th-place finish (21:12.5), followed by Mary Brokaw in 45th (21:15.3).

MEN’S GOLF
- USF Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey announced Michelle Smith as the new men’s and women’s head golf coach in early August. A 1997 Coastal Carolina University graduate, she is a four-time Fort Wayne Women’s Golf Association city champion who served as an assistant at USF, 2006-09.
- In 2011, the men’s team won the Ken Venturi Invitational at Trine University, where each school competed with three two-person teams. Bob Bragg and Nick Kelley led USF with an 18-hole 66. USF will resume competition in March to prepare for the MCC meet in early May.

WOMEN’S GOLF
- The Lady Cougars were tied for 32nd in the NAIA 2012 preseason ratings released in November, and produced a strong fall season highlighted by the Manchester Invitational championship in September. Sophomore Lakin Davis finished as medalist with a low score of 80. Abby Lauck finished third with an 82. USF finished at 343 at Honeywell Golf Course in Wabash, Ind., four shots better than Hanover in the 11-team field. USF finished second twice and third once in the fall.

MEN’S SOCCER
- Junior Zach Baron, a business administration major at USF, was named to the 2011 Capital One Academic All-America Team selected by CoSIDA. The Cougars’ defender was a second-team selection.
- The Cougars battled their way into the Mid-Central College Conference playoffs, but dropped a 5-0 verdict at No. 2-seeded Bethel to end the season 8-10-1. USF finished seventh in the MCC at 3-5-1.
- Head coach Mitch Eilson had one All-MCC first-team selection in senior defender Owain Jones and a second-team selection in senior midfielder Matt Bessesen. Capital One CoSIDA Academic All-District 3 College Division soccer team selections included Baron, Jones and senior defender Jon Krempel.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
- Freshman defenders Kelcie Strout and Sarah Freygang were named to the All-MCC Team. The Lady Cougars improved to 8-11 overall, 3-6 in MCC play and qualified for the MCC Tournament before falling 9-1 at top-seeded Spring Arbor in the final match of the season.
- The signature win of the season was a 2-0 win over perennial MCC contender Indiana Wesleyan on Oct. 11. Sophomore Katelyn Strout scored both goals, while freshman goalkeeper Rachel Kostaneski had eight saves in USF’s first win over IWU since 2005. Head coach Christy Young is confident USF will continue to improve as the nucleus of young players continues to progress.
- USF selections on the NAIA Scholar-Athlete team included senior midfielder Angie Carusone, senior defender Michelle Domenick, senior goalkeeper Ashley Holt and junior midfielder Emma Charais. Carusone was also a 2011 Capital One Academic All-America Team selection by CoSIDA District 3.

WOMEN’S TENNIS
- The Lady Cougars finished 5-9 overall and qualified for the MCC Tournament by finishing No. 7 in league play with a 2-6 record. USF bowed out to No. 2 seed Marian 5-0.
- Sophomore Chelsea Selking finished 5-8 at No. 1 singles, 5-9 at No. 1 doubles and earned her second All-MCC selection under head coach Kristen Harrow.

MEN’S TENNIS
- USF finished 1-12 overall, 0-8 in MCC play in a season made more difficult by the absence of head coach Jim Clark, who missed most of the season for health reasons.

VOLLEYBALL
- With a full season to recruit, new head coach Fabiana Shields is confident the Lady Cougars will become more competitive. “I was proud of the way our team battled this season, and now that I’ve got a season of experience, I know what I need to do to improve our program and the kind of players we need to compete in the conference,” said Shields, who replaced Kevin Lane as head coach in late June.
- USF finished 4-19 overall, ninth in the MCC with a 2-16 record.

Find all athletics schedules, the most up-to-date results and news at saintfranciscougars.com.
MEN’S SOCCER TEAM EARNS
Champions of Character Award

USF’s men’s soccer team and coach Mitch Ellisen were honored to receive the 2011 Buffalo Funds-NAIA Champions of Character Team Award in January. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) presents Buffalo Funds Five Star Champions of Character Team Awards for each of the NAIA’s 23 championship sports. Teams receiving it demonstrate respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship in everyday decisions. These institutions and athletic programs strive for excellence in and out of competition and are part of communities throughout the country dedicated to character-driven intercollegiate athletics.

“This is a tremendous honor for our team and university, a very humbling moment, and I am so proud of the accomplishments of my team in 2011,” Ellisen said. “Winning this award shows that my team understands what is truly important in life. The recognition is secondary to what matters most—helping others in need.”

This marked the fourth year the USF men’s soccer team worked for senior citizens in need of assistance in their homes. The team also pitched in at the Dare-to-Dream Youth Ranch, where autistic children work with horses as therapy.

McCAFFREY APPOINTED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Mike McCaffrey has been appointed USF athletic director after serving as interim director for nearly a year. McCaffrey, 34, joined the USF staff in April 2008 as director of sports marketing and promotions. He was promoted to assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions in July 2009. He had previously served as general manager for the Fort Wayne Fusion football team.

“We are pleased to name Mike our athletic director,” said University President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF. “His professionalism and dedication to our mission and values fit him well in his task of leading and developing our strong athletic programs.”

IT’S LIVE, STREAMING ATHLETICS GOODNESS

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A Year of Growth and Grace

Record number of students prepare for studies

In what has become a familiar pattern, USF welcomed a record-setting number of students at its Opening Convocation and Mass in Hutzell Athletic Center in August. President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, announced first-day enrollment as 2,381 students, over 30 more than last year, along with the largest-ever freshman class and residential student population. The Crown Point campus also recorded enrollment growth of around 35 percent, she said. In noting the Franciscan value receiving emphasis for the school year, “Encourage a trustful, prayerful community of learners,” she encouraged the assembled students, faculty and staff members to be part of that community. “Attend Mass, begin class sessions with prayer, join a club or campus governance, and attend the lectures, plays and athletics,” she said.

In recapping the past year, she said USF provided $5 million for support services and set up a strategic enrollment plan and master plan while experiencing a sound financial year with a budget surplus. “But we must continue with our Catholic wisdom and traditions,” she said. “They are not static, but must consistently be reclaimed.” She listed the expansion of Achatz Hall of Science and the building of a chapel as future goals.

Most Rev. Bishop Kevin Rhoades celebrated the opening Mass, along with USF Chaplain Father John Stecher and Rev. Andrew Budzinski, USF trustee. He invited the audience to embrace “a year of growth and grace.”

Gracey’s Cookies takes top business plan prize

What happens when you mix hard work with a great idea and strong business concepts? A recipe for getting your just desserts. University of Saint Francis students Grace Geha and Drew Sery of Fort Wayne earned the sweet reward of a $2,000 top prize for Gracey’s Cookies, their winning project in the fifth annual Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership Business Plan Competition in November. The pair outperformed five other student teams to claim the prize.

Geha had a successful recipe and a long-term goal of opening her own bakery when she determined to earn a business degree at USF. “Everyone back in Sylvania, Ohio kept telling me how good my cookies are, and … I just kept making them. They called them Gracey’s Cookies, so it became what I was known for and I loved having something that I was good at.”

Reunite on Campus, Alumni!

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For more information, contact Jessc Swenford, director of alumni relations, at 260-399-8032 or jswenford@sf.edu.
USF is beast at the zoo

Over 670 USF alumni, friends and family members made the eighth USF Day at the Zoo in September. Extraordinarily beautiful weather brought the group together for a beast of a time at the award-winning Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo for lunch and activities like balloon artist demonstrations, face painting and a children’s entertainer on the Foellinger Theater lawn. Inside the zoo, families enjoyed the animals in their habitats and complimentary train, skylift, carousel and river rides.

Alumni kids attend Breakfast with Saint Nicholas

Alumni parents brought their little ones to the North Campus for Breakfast with Saint Nicholas during Christmas at USF the first weekend in December. Kids enjoyed a breakfast buffet, story, activities, game stations and photos with the Jolly Old Elf. While their children stayed busy, parents browsed through “Highlights from the University Collection: Contemporary Ceramics and Paintings” in the Lupke Gallery. All had a chance to support a Christmas charity by collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves for the Volunteer Center RSVP to help bring a little warmth to the community.
Fort Wayne restaurateur and art collector Nike Spillson has left the city to pursue other dreams, but shares beauty remembered by all who patronized Café Johnell, her family’s much-lauded French restaurant—a loan of paintings that once hung there.

Spillson’s selected works by Parisian Louis Fabien now hang in Brookside, their post-Impressionistic artistry on display for all who visit the mansion. Represented by Wally Findlay Galleries International, with galleries in Paris, New York, Chicago and Palm Beach, Fabien’s art has been purchased by Paris and France, and will one day hang in the Louvre, Spillson said.

Spillson began collecting Fabien’s art after becoming his friend as a student in Paris. It is on loan to USF through “lots of credit to Sister Mary Ann, who was the university’s head librarian, and with whom I was close. I was looking for a place the art could be viewed, cared for and shared with the public,” Spillson said. “I wanted to keep it in Fort Wayne a while longer, since it hung in the restaurant and holds a lot of memories. Sister Elise called me to say it would hang in Brookside. I said, ‘Eureka!’ I think Sister Mary Ann had something to do with this.”

Christmas, USF alumni-style

USF alumni celebrated Christmas at the inaugural Yuletide Gathering, organized by the Office of Alumni Relations in mid-December. Well over 100 alumni of all ages and classes celebrated the season with their guests at the open house in the traditional elegance of Brookside, which was decked out for the holidays by local florists and designers. The flexible format allowed everyone to arrive and depart as schedules allowed.

Opening with a yuletide toast and blessing, the evening opened up like a Christmas package of goodies, including photography to capture the moment for couples, a chance to win dinner for six in Brookside, delicious hors d’oeuvres and beverages and the sharing of stories and memories.
Thousands of visitors enjoyed the wonder of the Christmas at USF tradition, now over 30 years old. Held the first weekend in December, the event filled attendees with the holy hush of the season and enthralled them with all the richness and pageantry of a yuletide celebration. Halls swelled with music, joy radiated from the live Nativity scene and the color and beauty of Christmas emanated from the elegant salons at Brookside.

Last year’s Christmas in the Castle tour of Brookside, decorated in Christmas elegance by local designers, experienced such popularity that this year’s event expanded to include a second weekend. Extended hours and convenient staging and parking allowed visitors a more leisurely pace to delight in the visual holiday feast. Nearly 400 seniors enjoyed the tour at a special rate on Senior Day.

The Star of Bethlehem planetarium show enjoyed its usual popularity, as audiences of all ages experienced the path of the Biblical star as it guided the Wise Men to Bethlehem and the scene of the Nativity.

Christmas at USF Sunday brought the tradition of the Living Nativity, re-enacted by costumed USF members and staged with live animals, showered with pats of affection by children after the event. Lighting the scene with resonant meaning were hundreds of luminaries, outlining adjacent Mirror Lake to honor special people and memories.

USF choral groups added joy and sacredness to the celebration with a Christmas concert, free to the community, in the North Campus auditorium. Two free exhibits gave visitors a chance to view the creations of School of Creative Arts faculty and contemporary ceramics artists.
The USF Alumni Association is on a roll, largely due to the dedication of Alumni Cabinet president Carman Young and president-elect Adam Swinford. Both value their alma mater and have been around long enough to know how to move the association forward. Young earned psychology degrees in 1998 and 2003, and is event coordinator for the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory in Fort Wayne. She joined the cabinet in 2002 to maintain USF friendships and honor a commitment to give back after receiving financial assistance from alumni.

“The mission has been fundamentally the same, but how we go about it has improved,” she said. “We started traditions like the alumni tent at football games and the Homecoming alumni baseball game. We have USF Day at the Zoo, quarterly Fort Wayne alumni events, Indianapolis and Greater Lakes Region chapters, and have fortified the Alumni Scholarship Fund with proceeds from USF license plates.

“I was involved in the beginning of the USF license plate program and the Alumni Scholarship, and for them to come together to assist students is very exciting. Giving back lets others create their own positive USF experience.”

Swinford, principal of Northwood Middle School in Fort Wayne, earned an elementary education degree in 2000. He served on the Alumni Cabinet from March 2004 through December 2007 and returned in 2011.

“I decided to become involved with the cabinet to continue the USF tradition,” he said. “It is important that alumni give back, and hopefully I can be an example for future graduates.”

The cabinet’s progress pleases him. “It’s come a long way. This is my second ‘tour of duty,’ and we now have a stable and dynamic group focused on engaging the community and doing what is best for USF.” Creating an Alumni Plaza for gatherings and a place to recognize award recipients is a goal.

Zoo Day is his proudest moment. “This year there were more first-time participants, and hearing [that] the day made alumni realize how much they love getting together and how special USF is has made the work well worth it,” he said. “USF made a difference in my life, and I want to give future generations the same experiences.”

Top (left to right): 01-Danielle Collins (BA ’11), 02-Rebecca Norton (BSW ’10), 03-Kristin Guss (BSW ’09), 04-Nathan Froning (BA ’94), 05-Reneta Thurairatnam (MBA ’10), 06-Cheryl Rogers (BBA ’82, MBA ’88), 07-Adam Swinford (BSE ’00), 08-Danielle (Vonderau) Kiefer (BA ’99), 09-Andy Papagiannis (BBA ’06), 10-Deanna Beauchot (BBA ’00, MBA ’03); Bottom (left to right): 11-Sarah (Schmitz) Wehrkamp (BA ’07), 12-Carman Young (BA ’98, MA ’03), 13-Carlos Cruz (BBA ’98), 14-Cheryl Mills (AS ’89, BLS ’03, MBA ’06), 15-Kely Sandels (BA ’00, MS ’02), 16-Nina Settappa (BA ’07), 17-Michael Bittler (BSW ’06), 18-Deb Brandenberger (’75, MSN ’98), 19-Jessica (Meyer) Swinford, director of alumni relations (BBA ’98, MBA ’10)

Photos by Steve Vorderman
1950s:

Martha (Pursley) Krieger (BLS ’57) released her 18th novel in November through Champagne Books in Canada, a digital publishing company. “Windsong” is the third in a series of romances written about a Welsh family living in the turmoil of the 13th century.

1960s

Judith Personett (’62) was selected to receive the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Exceptional Contribution Award. She accepted her award on Aug. 4 in Indianapolis.

1970s

Jim Picket (BSE ’72, MSE ’78) retired from teaching in the DeKalb Central School District in Waterloo, Ind. in June after 36 years of service. *Sister Darla Vogelsang, OSU (MS ’72) celebrated her Golden Jubilee with the Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown, Ohio in August with a special liturgy and reception at the Motherhouse in Canfield, Ohio. Sister Darla ministers as a Catholic Chaplain for Humility of Mary Health Partners at its St. Elizabeth, Boardman, and St. Joseph, Warren, campuses. She visits with new admissions of all denominations to provide spiritual care and offers prayer and support to patients, families and the hospital staff in crisis situations. *Mary Ellen (Evans) Hilger (BA ’74, MBE ’81), an art teacher at Indian Springs Middle School in Columbia, has been named Outstanding Indiana Art Educator of the Year by the Art Education Association of Indiana (AEAI). Mary Ellen was nominated by peers for outstanding artistic achievement and service in education. She received her award in November in Indianapolis during the AEAI annual convention.

1980s

Julie Scher (BA ’80) owns ScherMaihem Publishing (SMP) in Kendallville, Ind. After 16 years of publishing the print version of the Kendallville Mall, 12,000 circulation, and Avilla eNosZ, her company is expanding into new media. ScherMaihem was the first in Indiana to offer an email newspaper, the Avilla eNosZ. Last year, SMP expanded into news video with KendallvilleTV on YouTube, and now offers business videos. Videos of Saint Francis football and basketball games are among KendallvilleTV’s top viewer rated. “My years at Saint Francis taught me to be more creative and innovative, and to be a leader, and that has helped my business grow and prosper over the years. I’m extremely grateful for my years at SFC,” she said. *Danny McDaniel (MSE ’87) is a candidate for City Council in Lafayette, Ind. this fall, and was given the 2011 Man of the Year award by the Notre Dame Dame Club of Detroit.

1990s

Shannon Corson (BBA ’93) recently graduated Phi Theta Kappa with honors on Dec. 15 from Brevard Community College with a post-secondary adult vocational certificate in medical assisting. *Dennis Lapp (MBA ’95) recently moved to the Indianapolis area and accepted a position of director QA/QC at Miller Pipeline Corp. *Rebecca (DeMeritt) Schwiebert (ASN ’96) graduated from Lutheran College of Health Professions in May 1996. Rebecca works as a full-time staff registered nurse on the ortho/medical-surgical unit at Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio. She has two children, Meredith, 12, and Joshua, 9. Rebecca has begun the admission process to pursue a master’s degree in nurse education at the University of Toledo. *Jacque (Heizman) Welch (BA ’98) and husband, Rob, welcomed a baby girl, Keiley Elizabeth Welch, on Sept. 7. She joined siblings Katelyn, Kyra, Kaiven and Keaten in the Welch home. *Chris Barr (BSE ’99) is working at Graham Local Schools as an assistant principal in St. Paris, Ohio.
2000s

Carla (Satchwell) Pyle (BA ‘00) married Aaron Pyle on Saturday, Oct. 8 in the Foellinger-Friemann Botanical Conservatory in downtown Fort Wayne. A dinner reception followed in the conservatory. • Ben Meyer (BA ‘01) and his wife, Andrea, had a baby boy, Isaac William Meyer, on Nov. 22. Isaac weighed 10 pounds and was 22 inches long.
• Joe Klimaski (BBA ‘02) is serving his commitment with the United States Air Force, and just departed Ramstein, Germany, where he was stationed the past five years. Jim has been reassigned to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam as parachute program manager for the 36th Contingency Response Group/US Pacific Air Forces. He will serve a three-year tour in Guam and be reassigned to Colorado Springs. Jim recently became engaged to Jaclyn Hatchett of Martinsville, Va., and they plan a May wedding. • Katie (Parker) Larkins (BSE ‘02) and husband, Troy, welcomed their third child, Drew Michael, on Friday, Oct. 21. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins big sister, Taylor, and big brother, Ben. • Nikki Mann (BS ‘03) was featured in the Sept. 9 issue of Fort Wayne Business Weekly. Nikki is a nurse practitioner with MD2U, and makes house calls to homebound, largely chronically ill elderly people in the Fort Wayne area. MD2U is a Louisville-based company that pairs nurse practitioners with physicians to provide primary care for people in their homes. • Ben Rogers (BBA ‘04) recently accepted a position as the intern coordinator at Northrop High School. Along with his teaching and football coaching responsibilities, Ben coordinates and manages a group of 45 student interns placed with different employers all across Fort Wayne, including the Allen County Public Defender’s Office, Parkview Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, Sport ONE, Indiana NPR, KelyTappy, and many more. Companies wishing to become involved can call 260-467-2347 or email to benjamin.rogers@fwcs.k12.in.us. • Craig Vanderwall Jr. (BA ‘04) has been nominated for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s 2012 Man of the Year award. Craig and five other candidates will be fundraising from Feb. 16 to April 27 in a competition to raise the most funds and claim the award. Craig is forming a committee and is focusing his efforts on a team philosophy to raise funds for such an amazing cause. • Melissa (Goldsberry) Rice (BS ‘04) is a Neonatal-Perinatal Fellow at the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine. • Joshua Hapner (BS ‘05) is an assistant outdoor education coordinator for the Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University. • Heather (Weddle) Bontempo (BBA ‘06, MBA ‘08) accepted a position as branch sales manager at Partners First Federal Credit Union in Fort Wayne. • Clint Bontempo (BBA ‘06, MBA ‘08) accepted a position as senior project manager at Bulldog Consulting Services. • Elizabeth Sadler (BSN ‘08) and husband, Adam, welcomed their second child, a daughter, Harper Lin Sadler, on Aug. 15. She weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches long. Harper was welcomed by big brother, Jett. • Alex Cornwell (BA ‘09) is co-owner/publisher of The Waynedale News in Fort Wayne. • Loretta Goings (BLS ‘09) welcomed a baby boy, William Frederick Everett Goings, in November 2009. • Patrick O’Neil (BBA ‘09) has begun a career in the natural gas industry, working for a natural gas service provider/public utility company in Findlay, Ohio. His title is executive assistant to the president of KNG Energy, Inc.

2010s

Tara Vogel (BSN ‘07, MSN ‘11) is working in the family clinic at Hamilton Memorial Hospital in McLeansboro, Ill. as a nurse practitioner. • Jessica Beer (BSN ‘11) is working at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne as a radiologic technologist. • Danielle Collins (BA ‘11) recently accepted a position at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne as a communications coordinator. • Chasen Pamer (BA ‘11) is the art director and graphic designer for UPM/iSekurity in Fort Wayne. • Ashley Scare (BS ‘11) answered yes to the marriage proposal of her boyfriend, Eric Toy (BSE ‘11) in the Lee and Jim Vann Library on Oct. 14. Eric popped the question in the same spot on campus where they first discussed marriage three years ago. After surprising her with the ring, a photographer and a visit from their families, the couple took a horse and carriage to dinner. They started dating as freshmen and grew closer together pursuing careers in education. Both are now employed with Fort Wayne Community Schools, and plan a November wedding. “We both want to thank God’s guidance for finding our other halves, the continual support from families and friends and for this great community we have grown up with at the University of Saint Francis. We are blessed to be USF Cougars!” they said.
GET INVOLVED

NOMINATE FOR THE ALUMNI AWARDS

Take this opportunity to nominate alumni for Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus; Young Alumna/Alumnus; or Honorary Alumna/Alumnus. Nominations are due on March 31.

NOMINATE ONLINE AT sf.edu/alumniawards

QUESTIONS? Contact Jessica Swinford, director of alumni relations, at 260-399-8032 or jswinford@sf.edu.

NOMINATE FOR THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Take this opportunity to nominate alumni athletes for the Athletic Hall of Fame awards. Nominations can be made five years after completion of eligibility and upon receiving college degree. Nominations are restricted to all USF alumni, coaches, trainers, USF friends, Fort Wayne media members and USF administrators. Nominations are due on March 31.

NOMINATE ONLINE AT saintfranciscougars.com/halloffame

QUESTIONS? Contact Bill Scott, sports information director, at 260-399-7700, ext. 6223 or bscott@sf.edu.

TAKE THE ALUMNI IMPACT SURVEY

Do you have alumni engagement, event or program ideas? Are you eager to discuss benefits such as discounted auto, health and dental insurance or Internet options the Alumni Office can offer? Let your voice be heard through the Alumni Impact 2012 electronic survey, slated to be emailed in early summer. Contact the Alumni Office to update your information, including your email address, to be a part of this special survey.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION AT sf.edu/info

QUESTIONS? Contact Jessica Swinford, director of alumni relations, at 260-399-8032 or jswinford@sf.edu.

Love Connections told by Sue (Kiefer) Deckelman (BA ‘61)

Back in 1961, I was a senior at Saint Francis while Frank (Francis!) was a student at Indiana Tech. Absent their own tennis court, the guys knew they could only play on our courts IF they had a resident from women-only Saint Francis with them. No walk-ons! One day, Frank and a friend rang the bell at Trinity Hall. Judy (Klen) Skertic (BA ’61) and I went to the door. “Anybody want to play tennis?” Frank asked, racket in hand. Of course I beat him in the first match, although he rebounded. (He says it’s the other way around!) And that was the beginning of a love-match. We were engaged in three weeks, married the following summer, and will celebrate our 50th anniversary in June.

Fr. Nicholas Lohkamp, OFM, chaplain at Saint Francis, officiated at our wedding in Elwood, my hometown, and remained a dear friend to us all our married life. Nearly a year ago, we met him for lunch at Catholic University where he was giving a retreat. Sadly, he died of cancer a few months later. Our Franciscan roots run deep through our six daughters and 17 grandchildren. Frank joined me for our 50th class reunion last May at Saint Francis. Hugs and kisses under the arch were as much fun then as they were 50 years ago!

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.
Professor Ahmad Passes Away

Sufi W. Ahmad, 75, Saint Francis College art professor and creator of the Saint Francis of Assisi sculpture on the University of Saint Francis campus, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. Professor Ahmad was beloved of his art students and well regarded by the School of Creative Arts and the Fort Wayne community.

Born May 15, 1936, in Amritsar, India, he grew up in Lahore, Pakistan. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in art at the Government College in Lahore, a Master of Fine Arts at the University of the Punjab in Pakistan and a second MFA at the University of Tennessee.

He was a professor of art at Saint Francis College, now the University of Saint Francis, from 1976 to 1998. Prior to that, he held various positions in commercial art and fine arts.

In addition to the university’s Saint Francis sculpture, he created many other works, including “The Muse” at the Fort Wayne Foellinger-Friemann Botanical Conservatory, ten busts of historical Fort Wayne figures at Wells Fargo Bank, several relief sculptures of Fort Wayne and “Princess Mishawaka” at the Mishawaka, Indiana City Hall.

Memorials in Ahmad’s honor are to the American Cancer Society, International Rescue Committee, Doctors Without Borders, Mercy USA or Life for Relief and Development.

A memorial service took place in the Trinity Hall Chapel at the University of Saint Francis on Feb. 12.

Remembering Brookside

Tell us your story

The latest edition of Bass Mansion Memories (now Brookside, the original name given the mansion by the Bass family) can now be purchased for $5. Proceeds will enhance Christmas at USF activities. This third edition holds 50 stories written by people with wonderful memories of the mansion. To expand the 2012 booklet, we need your story!

Those who wish to tell, rather than write their stories, can use a recorder we have dedicated to that purpose. Then we’ll transcribe the story for publication in the booklet. Whatever method you choose to contribute your story, the Office of Development will appreciate it greatly. Let Sister Marilyn know how you prefer to convey your story and the office will include it in the next Bass Mansion Memories.

If you are a USF alumnus, faculty or staff member, student, neighbor or friend with a story of the mansion to tell, please send your narrative to Sister Marilyn at moliver@sf.edu or call her at 260-399-7782.

in memoriam

1930s       Mildred K. McAfee, Class of 1938**
1940s       Sister Elizabethine Boss, Class of 1947
            Kathryn Heniser, Class of 1948*
            Hertha Elinor Hertel, Class of 1948*
1950s       Sister M. Barbara Cison, Class of 1950
            Norma J. Robinson, Class of 1950*
            Nancy L. Scherry, Class of 1950*
            Georgia Wright, Class of 1958*
            Joan R. Schmitt, Class of 1959
1960s       Martha Valeria Byrne, Class of 1962**
            Betty Marie Frato, Class of 1962**
            Judith Kay Garrett, Class of 1962**
            Jane Lucille George, Class of 1962**
            Sharon Kaye Honaker, Class of 1962**
            Everett Sauders, Class of 1963
            Thomas N. Robinson, Class of 1965
            Mary W. Blazer, Class of 1966
            Jon L. Rupricht, Class of 1966
            William W. Sadler, Class of 1966
            William C. Dunshee, Class of 1967
            Lawrence J. Graham, Class of 1967
            Adeline A. Schuller, Class of 1967
            James R. Wiley, Class of 1967
            Sister M. Josita O’Donnell, SSJ, Class of 1968
            Mary Matthew Baehl, OSB, Class of 1969
            Robert F. Kelty, Class of 1969
1970s       John Clark IV, Class of 1970
            Stephen D. Kunkle, Class of 1971
            Peter R. Bottomley, Class of 1972
            Richard Lee Brown, Class of 1972
            Max Egley, Class of 1972
            E. Lynn Wilkinson, Class of 1972
            Violet Ebertino, Class of 1973*
            Rae L. Gudelsky, Class of 1973
            Gary N. Glowski, Class of 1974
            Ella Jane Schaus, Class of 1974
            Gene Vincent Williams, Class of 1974
            John Y. Weins, Class of 1975
1980s       Marcella J. Hoover, Class of 1985
            Margaret H. Durnell, Class of 1989
1990s       Max C. Milks, Class of 1990
            Larry W. Middleton, Class of 1993
2000s       Ann M. Oberley, Class of 2000
2010s       David J. Didion, Class of 2012

*From Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing—Lutheran College of Health Professions
**From St. Joseph School of Nursing
Brookside cast its evening spell on the Christmas Gala, providing an elegant setting for the thank-you event for supporters.

Gala sponsor Keith Busse, founder of Steel Dynamics Inc., left, and USF Trustee Jim Vann enjoy mixing at the Gala, set in Brookside.

Gala guests (from left) Don and Carol Menzie, University of Saint Francis President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, Jim and Lee Vann and Irv and Jane Deister enjoy some conversation at the December event.
Gala Reflects Christmas Gratitude

As many people celebrated Christmas with traditional gift-giving, the USF Office of University Relations thanked key supporters with a gift of its own—the December Christmas Gala, sponsored by Keith Busse and Steel Dynamics.

Set in festive Brookside, the Gala thanked individuals, foundations and businesses who support the university at the highest levels. Many of those entities continued their tradition of generosity by donating funds for USF scholarships.

Carolers strolled through the decorated halls and suites, while live music and dancing, good conversation and holiday merriment kept the event light and celebratory.

“We conduct this annual holiday party as a small way to thank these trustees and supporters for their contributions, which continually underscore USF’s vision and mission,” said University President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF.

CD Rates

got you down?

If you are discouraged with the income derived from certificates of deposit and low-yield stocks or bonds, consider a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with the University of Saint Francis. CGA rates continue to significantly exceed similar investments.

A CGA can be created from gifts of cash or securities. Such gifts provide permanent impact by benefiting the University of Saint Francis, the educator of next generation’s leaders. But how do they help you?

Benefits include:

- Safe retirement income and supplement to Social Security
- Immediate tax deduction
- Partially sheltered distribution
- Lasting philanthropic impact
- Income you can’t outlive

The University of Saint Francis offers CGAs to:

- People over age 50
- People who wish to benefit the university
- People looking for high, tax-advantaged income

If you think a CGA may better serve your investment needs, please contact:

Sister M. Marilyn Oliver, OSF
Director of Planned Giving
260-399-8036, 800-729-4732
moliver@sf.edu

Dr. Rudy Kachmann and Debbie Stier enjoy the Gala’s festive atmosphere.
"...If you are a teacher, teach well."

- ROMANS 12:7