Sharing the warmth of friends and family members is a USF Homecoming tradition. This year, Troubadours and Cougars alike gathered for food, alumni games, tailgates, an exciting football game and the celebration of 50 years of USF Athletics. Catching up with classmates on the beautiful campus in near perfect weather was the payoff for alumni, who traveled from far and wide for the experience.
Hamming it up with USF Jesters members is education major Chris Gardner, who is studying to complete a license in special education—mild intervention. His service hours with the Jesters, a performing arts group for people with mild to severe disabilities, help prepare him for the environment in which he will teach when he graduates. Chris says he learns as much from the Jesters as they learn from him.

Size, shape and color are not obstacles to USF students visiting the Diversity Resource Center in Trinity Hall. New Retention and Diversity Director Garien Hudson will help everyone in the USF culture view differences differently. From the ball pit to lounge furniture to café tables and large-screen TV, the environment brings all students together in a setting of comfort, understanding and unity.

Free to fly, USF Master of Science in Nursing candidate Cynthia Shepherd now shares the story of reclaiming her life after a descent into addiction. In the past six years, she completed her registered nurse training and entered USF’s MSN transition program, working as a nursing graduate assistant. She also sits on the health clinic advisory committee for Charis House and helps daughter, Kaela, to excel in school.

Modeling professionalism is a mission of USF Crown Point’s Dr. Marsha King. Recently named dean after a two-year stint as the university’s simulation lab program director, she will use her Doctor of Nursing in Systems Leadership to steer her school into an expanded future, while graduating ethical, morally responsible and highly professional nurses. Living her beliefs is all in a day’s work.
Dear University of Saint Francis friends,

We are moving quickly toward spring after a busy Christmas at USF. Our expanded festivities included a full production of “The Messiah” with Heartland Chamber Chorale, and hosting Fort Wayne’s own Christ Child Festival at the USF Performing Arts Center downtown. On campus, we welcomed many visitors to experience Christmas spiritually through our Living Nativity, and historically through Brookside tours and planetarium shows. God is good, and certainly has blessed us this past semester.

Our congregation of Sisters reached significant milestones in the fall. The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration marked 150 years in 2013, and we honored that anniversary with a special Mass with Bishop Rhoades and a reception on Homecoming weekend.

Shortly thereafter we received the exciting news of the pending beatification of our Foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel. Around 50 Sisters from the Motherhouse in Mishawaka and the university traveled to Paderborn, Germany, for her beatification Mass in November. It was a powerful spiritual experience to attend this extraordinary event.

Our campus and students experienced strong community support this past semester. City Council recently approved a $3 million grant for our downtown campus, and you will hear more about it in the next magazine. A $1 million grant allowed us to establish the Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship to support students who study science, mathematics and business at USF. The foundation’s support will help keep talented graduates in Indiana, while building the skilled worker base that attracts new businesses. Lilly Endowment Inc. likewise awarded us $1 million to begin a new bachelor-level Risk Management and Insurance degree and support connections between students and employers. Closer to home, Ian and Mimi Rolland continued their friendship by gifting us with their treasured art collection. We immensely appreciate the foundations and the Rollands, who have enthusiastically supported our mission.

Academically, our programs continue to be top-notch, and we have some new leaders ready to take us to the next level in Crown Point, the School of Health Sciences and the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. Our athletes excelled on the field and in the classroom, capturing conference titles and garnering academic kudos. A gift from friends Bruce Dye and the Shields family made possible a weight training center and viewing pavilion in the D’Arcy Stadium south end zone. Head football coach Kevin Donley caught the national spotlight with his induction into the NAIA Hall of Fame.

USF is an exciting place, and you are invited to experience it firsthand. We are sure of our mission and grateful for God’s provision.

Many blessings,

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF
President
“Working with Jesters prepares me for what I will be doing. It opens my eyes to people with disabilities working together to make this beautiful performance in March.”

-CHRIS GARDNER, USF Student
In a mere three years, USF’s Center for Service Engagement is nationally ranked. Washington Monthly, a magazine of U.S. politics and government, joined U.S. News and World Report and Forbes in 2006 in publishing college rankings.

This year, the magazine listed USF third for community service, participation and hours served, among 682 universities offering master degrees. Overall, USF ranked 137 of 682 in contributing to the public good in service.

But Director Katrina Boedeker values the heart of her efforts—increasing strategic, long-term commitments to the community—far more than rankings and statistics.

The center opened under her leadership on Sept. 1, 2010 in Trinity Hall. Now relocated to Campus Ministry and renamed the Office of Service and Social Action, its mission continually expands.
“The term ‘community service’ does not begin to describe the scope of our students’ engagement in the community,” she said. “Through service learning, clinical training, student teaching, practica and community service, they take concrete classroom skills and knowledge into real-world settings. We strive for mutually beneficial experiences, which will help agencies to meet their goals while providing our students with invaluable experiences. Through reflection on their work, students develop skill and understanding professionally, in social responsibility. That is where they begin to connect the dots.”

Like any infant, the center has experienced some birth trauma. “It took a while for everyone to understand we weren’t just about numbers,” she said. “I also needed to implement a strategic plan and develop relationships with faculty and staff. We needed a website to track where students were going, to develop risk management and collect data to assist in our mission.”

She found faculty members excited to help. “My biggest joy was working with faculty new to service learning, in disciplines related to it in a meaningful way,” she said. “Students studying the sociology of sports were reading how athletes with disabilities have the same hopes and dreams as any athlete. So now they assist with practices and tournaments at Turnstone, a nonprofit serving disabled athletes. They learn the desire to compete does not end for physically disabled athletes. We’re just beginning to explore connections that are long-term and meaningful.”

In partnership with United Way, IPFW and Ivy Tech, USF is providing a new spring break experience. Through a schedule of United Way agency tours, service opportunities, poverty and diversity simulations, films and reflection, students are encouraged to identify a need for which they feel the passion to lead a campus campaign to address.

Service learning flourishes at USF because of its unique culture, she said. “Students have heard from day one that even with his power and privilege, St. Francis recognized his obligation to serve others. Our Catholic social teaching with its focus on the needs of the marginalized is so important. They see it role modeled in the faculty and staff. They hear it in courses, and see it in the causes their professors support.

“In three years, we’ve made students think more about it, centralized it, given them a vehicle to learn about these nonprofits, and provided real-world experience by meeting these organizations’ goals,” she said. Service learning has also provided “a faith reference point. Much of what Jesus preached, taught and led through example was care for the marginalized. Through service, we hope that students will begin to understand what Jesus calls us to do and be in the world.”

Her goal for graduates is “to realize humanity is diverse. We don’t all come from the same culture, race, socioeconomic group or religion, but we do have a responsibility to each other. We’re not all born the same, and it’s our responsibility to walk beside others and be with them during need and crisis.”

The transition to Campus Ministry makes sense, she said. “In a Catholic university, you house this type of program in campus ministry to anchor it in mission and vision. As we discussed the foundation for what we do, it became clear we should tie faith to service in a more obvious way.”

“We don’t all come from the same culture, race, socioeconomic group or religion, but we do have a responsibility to each other.”

-KATRINA BOEDEKER, Director of the USF Center for Service Engagement
students impact others

THROUGH SERVICE

USF students are changing lives every day. Here, two of them speak about the impact of their service engagement, upon others and themselves.

Kianna Ifon, freshman nursing major, pediatrics specialization (shown right)

Kianna Ifon already plans a humanitarian career as a nursing major. But her service hours with Fort Wayne’s Turnstone, which specializes in early education, therapy, rehabilitation and sports and recreation programming for children and adults with disabilities, just feels like a good fit.

“I have a cousin with a disability, and he goes to Turnstone,” she said. “I do it to give back and do community service for my I Connect class. I also know some people from my church and others who go to Turnstone.”

While unsure of what to expect, she knew she wanted to help kids. “I wanted to have fun seeing kids smile doing what they love and having fun. I’m very satisfied with my experience. I told my mom I’m going back to help out when it’s not for a class. It’s something I’ll take time to do.”

She feels changed by the experience. “I think it humbled me,” she said. “It was amazing to see how an hour can change a kid’s outlook, whether it’s a basketball tournament, playing a game with you or just talking. It makes an impact on them.”

Chris Gardner, elementary education major, mild intervention (page 7)

USF elementary education major Chris Gardner is working on dual licensing, which will allow him to work with students with disabilities in public and private K-12 schools. His work with the Jesters group at USF, a performing and visual arts group for people with mild to severe disabilities, gives him hands-on experience with students like those he will one day teach, and it’s been a real eye-opener for his world view. Jesters are working now on their annual spring show for the public.

He enjoys the simplicity and authenticity of his interaction with them. “There is no judgment among them. They break down life to its simplest form—what’s happening right now. I am learning as much from them as they are learning from the teacher.”

Like any leader of a start-up, Boedeker has a wish list.

“To be more connected. It will come. Considering we had no center, I feel really proud of where we’ve come. It’s been a gift to me to build something from scratch. It’s a rare opportunity to bring the pieces together, and it challenges every level of my skills.”

She’d like scholarships to help students serve overseas. “It would be life changing, forever. It’s a perspective of responsibility to the world, not just locally. And it’s a good time for them developmentally. They are willing to try something new and are not afraid of learning more about becoming a global citizen.”

She’s passionate about working with students. “It’s exciting because they’re not fully formed, and you have an opportunity to help them expand their world view beyond their personal circumstances and identity. I’m passionate about engagement and social responsibility, and it’s a gift to express that passion in an environment where I can also talk about my faith.”
“I’m so impressed with the way USF has developed and grown. I’m truly proud to share the story of my wonderful experience at Saint Francis.”

-LUCONDA DAGER
Four generations of Dagers in the ice cream business.
Two generations from USF.
Sweet.

ICE CREAM AND USF
KEEPING IT all in the family

For 100 years, the Dager family has served up hard work, dedication, quality and togetherness like scoops of the creamy, delightful concoction that is Velvet Ice Cream’s bread and butter. And as surely as ice cream ends a meal, business talk was often the family’s main course, said former Saint Francis College business student Luconda Dager, now president of Ohio-based Velvet Ice Cream.

“My uncles and dad would talk business during dinner, so I was hearing about efficiencies, logistics and marketing well before I went to college,” Dager said. With only three percent of family businesses enduring through the fourth generation, she’s a proud part of a succession plan that started when her great-grandfather, Joseph, began selling his hand-cranked ice cream from the basement of a Utica, Ohio confectionery in 1914.

“He came to the United States from Lebanon and started working in the food business,” she said. “He saw ice cream was a fun dessert that people liked, and started with three flavors: chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. My grandfather got it to retailers, and the third generation took us to grocery stores in four states, and to restaurants and nursing homes in 26 states.” Today, Velvet crafts 60 flavors and distributes more than 5 million gallons of ice cream annually from its 25-acre operation outside Utica, where factory tours, a restored gristmill, a museum, ice cream parlor and nature trails welcome visitors.

In a childhood reminiscent of Willy Wonka, Dager grew up unaware of her unusual life. “As a kid I took it for granted,” she said. “When my friends came over, we often brought out eight or more flavors of ice cream. Sometimes, they were first to try new flavors. Friends and family were our research and development department. When we were kids, our friends loved visiting the plant. After hours, dad would let us go behind the counter at Ye Olde Mill Ice Cream Parlor and make any sundae we wanted.”

But hard work and quality, the company’s backbone, tempered some of the novelty. “We work as hard as anyone. We spend months strategizing promotions and looking ahead to the next trend,” she said. “But quality is first. We take pride in crafting a superior product. We have 125 associates company-wide and they are our extended family. Some have been with us for 35 years. Such dedication to quality is hard to find.”

With all the family emphasis, choosing a college was a family affair. Luconda’s mother, Fort Wayne native Tatla Dager, graduated from Saint Francis College and encouraged her daughter to consider it.

“We came to Fort Wayne to see family on holidays. Mom said, ‘Look at USF,’” Dager said. “I went to a small Catholic high school and just wasn’t ready for a big college. I toured, loved it and got a tennis scholarship. My coach, J. Webb Horton, is still a friend.”

Dager studied at USF from 1987-89, before transferring to Xavier University to explore a larger campus.

“I loved the smallness of USF,” she said. “It was a family atmosphere with personal attention and small classes. I took business courses with professor Mike O’Neil. We’re still in touch,” she said.

Dager joined the family business in her twenties. When the time came for the fourth generation to lead, Luconda, the eldest of four sisters, accepted the challenge. “We met with dad and discussed strengths and weaknesses around the table. My sisters and I helped define our roles, and we work together to keep Velvet successful and quality driven,” she said.

A panelist for USF’s 18th CEO Forum, Dager said she’s heard nothing but positive feedback from the Forum. She has heartfelt advice for potential entrepreneurs:

“You need perseverance, patience, dedication and passion for what you do. You can get a job anywhere,” she advised. “When you run a family business, there are highs and lows, and the job is 24/7. You talk business on weekends.” She also advised young entrepreneurs to network, learn about funding and join business associations.

“I’m so impressed with the way USF has developed and grown,” Dager said. “President Sister Elise really knows how to bring the college and community together and they’ve done it all, while enhancing student life. I’m truly proud to share the story of my wonderful experience at Saint Francis.”
A sculpture greets visitors at the front door of the Mimi and Ian Rolland home, foretelling the artful world just behind it.

And if you live under a rock and haven’t heard of the Fort Wayne couple’s art patronage (they earned the Arts United Lifetime Achievement Award in November), a glance around the panoply of artwork adorning their home broadcasts it, even to someone as clueless as a stone.

There are influences Southwestern, African, Indian. There are garments, pottery, bronzes. On the wall, spinal disks in fossil jewelry whisper of an ancient, mysterious past.

A “fun” room overlooking the back yard sports bright primaries on three walls, with blue, yellow and generous dollops of bright red spilling over into the art, furniture and décor. Eclectic art and collectibles of all types, description, size and color expand the iris until it seems it can’t absorb any more. In the yard, sculptures sprout like fantastical foliage, one rotating colorful shapes at the whim of the wind.

Call it a refraction of the irrepressible, infectious ebullience that is Mimi, overflowing like a tangent into every nook and cranny of the Rolland home. And if she is sustained energy, her husband’s laid-back demeanor provides the perfect counterbalance. Together Ian, retired Lincoln National Corp CEO and Mimi, grassroots social worker and arts patron, make up an unparalleled husband-and-wife team with an indelible imprint on USF, the local arts scene and regional philanthropy.

The X and Y of Giving

You may wonder what unique nexus brings together two people with so much talent and passion for giving. You needn’t look far. Fort Wayne native Ian met Kendallville resident Mimi in church camp at Lake Wawasee during high school. “We were friends for a long time. Then in my junior year I couldn’t find anybody else, so I decided on him,” she jokes, to an eye roll from her husband.

After raising five children, the couple’s personalities began to stratify in terms of giving, refining the qualities unique to each. “She doesn’t like boards and structure and decisions, and is more comfortable with the one-on-one and small groups,” Ian said. “She contributes to individuals, schools and the inner city. I can do the boards and organization stuff, I prefer it and it works out pretty well that way.”

“I helped out at the East Wayne Street Center for inner-city kids, and led the same set of Girl Scouts for seven years,” Mimi said. “We learned from each other, and they learned things they could pass on to their children. It opened their eyes. We both got into a world we weren’t familiar with, and found that people without family structure need help.”

“I was on the Chamber as an officer of Lincoln, and they were trying to minister to disadvantaged kids, and it seemed to me as citizens we should leave places in better condition than we found them, and apply the talents we have to make that happen,” Ian said. “I was part of the civil rights movement.
when I was younger, and thought if I got a chance to use innovative ways to make society better, I would do so. We eventually got a $13 million settlement from the state for the creation of a magnet school, so we made a lot of things happen that wouldn’t have without us." These early triumphs represented the buds of the fully-blossomed lifetime of philanthropy to come (see sidebar, page 15).

**Art Reflects Life**

Along the way, a lifetime of travel and adventure grew in their home, in the form of treasured artworks seen, adored, purchased and packed up for the trip back. In Fort Wayne, the series of spreading galleries act as a repository for the pieces, with seeming arms held wide to embrace them all.

Art collecting “is probably more me, and I have the free time, although we still buy some together,” Mimi said. “But if I find something I love, I get it.

“When we were younger, it was more collaborative—based on how much we wanted to spend,” Ian said. “As we got older, she’s gotten more independent, but if it’s really expensive, I have more to do with it.” That didn’t keep him from purchasing a large Wang piece as a gift for her after putting his foot down on the expense initially.

True to their natures, they don’t hoard the treasure trove. “I really like to share this. Just give me a call,” Mimi said.

For years, dinner and a tour of their house has been a popular auction package for local arts fundraisers.
“One time the university asked to bring students for lunch,” she said. “I thought it was art students, and here it was the football team! I thought it was a great idea. ‘Bring in classes,’ I told Rick (Cartwright, School of Creative Arts dean). I’m happy to show them through.”

Mimi has also provided support for many local artists, contributing to a healthier art community and encouraging them to continue producing high quality art. “Every community needs a major art patron, and Mimi and Ian’s support has served as a great example for others who collect local art,” Cartwright said.

The USF/SOCA Love Affair

The love affair between the couple, the university and its School of Creative Arts (SOCA) began 35 years ago when Ian, who was moving up through the Lincoln ranks, began serving on Saint Francis College boards under the leadership of then-President Sister JoEllen Sheetz.

“I felt it was important to encourage Fort Wayne higher education, whatever its religious affiliation, so Lincoln became a supporter,” he said. Around that time, he also met provost Sister Elise Kriss, now USF president. “They gave us authority, and the board became stronger, with the chairmanship eventually passing to Bill Niezer. I became chair of the Finance Committee. The school did have some financial issues then, but I became impressed with Sister Elise when she took over, and have done my best to support her. I think the school is diverse and needs an administration that is diverse.”

But board membership to Ian goes further than a time and talent commitment—it takes treasure. “The board needed to be financial supporters, using their talents and abilities to enhance the school. These are the ways they should serve, the board has moved that way, and the end product is greater quality at the university,” he said.

That led to Cartwright, his vision for SOCA, and the birth of the Mimi and Ian Rolland Center for Art and Visual Communication. SOCA’s anchor, the beautiful and resource-rich center transformed from a Standard Oil facility on the east side of campus, was Cartwright’s brainchild.

“Rick demonstrated his vision to us, and Mimi was drawn to it also,” Ian said. “The first time in the building I thought, ‘You’ve gotta be nuts, this place is a mess.’ But you can’t say no to Rick, and Lincoln used to say I couldn’t say no to a nun. So now, it’s a special place.”
LEGACY OF GIVING

The scope of Mimi and Ian Rolland’s philanthropy escapes no one. Here are just some of their awards and projects:

› 2005 Red Cross Humanitarians of the Year

› Lifetime Achievement Award—Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne

› Bill Latz Award for Leadership, United Way of Allen County

› Founding members of East Wayne Street Center, Fort Wayne

› Namesake donors for Rolland Center for Art and Visual Communication at USF

› Namesake donors for Ian and Mimi Rolland Welcome and Activities Center, Depauw University

› United Way Tocqueville Society members

› AWS Foundation supporters

› Sachem Award, Indiana’s highest honor (Ian)

› Outstanding Alumna 2005, North Central College (Mimi)

› Junior Achievement Golden Leadership Award (Ian)

“The first time in the building I thought, ‘You’ve gotta be nuts, this place is a mess.’ But you can’t say no to Rick, and Lincoln used to say I couldn’t say no to a nun. So now, it’s a special place.”

-IAN ROLLAND

Beautiful Circle

Start with two people dedicated to giving, draw a curved line to a lifetime of art patronage and community service, curl over to USF and close by looping back to philanthropy. Circles are a perfect figure, and an apt way to describe the Rollands’ gift of their treasured art collection to the university this fall.

Long after the couple’s incandescence fades, the collection will continue to radiate their dedication to community and love for art—all in the hands of their beloved university. It’s a tangible record of their legacy. “The collection is theirs, and it will stay here. I like that,” Mimi said.

We’re betting the community will, too.
Dr. Marsha King made a nursing doctorate an early goal, at a time when few people even sought higher education. Recently named USF Crown Point dean after a two-year stint as the university’s simulation lab program director, she will use her Doctor of Nursing in Systems Leadership to steer her school into an expanded future, while graduating ethical, morally responsible and highly professional nurses.

“The Associate of Nursing (ASN) was a steppingstone in the ’70s to my long-term goal of a doctorate in nursing,” she said. “Higher education was not even sought out much then. I tell our students, ‘I was where you are. I moved on to complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), and then found, as a chief nursing officer (CNO), my ability to understand the language of finance. That drove me to a Master of Business Administration, and the goal was then a doctorate.’”

It’s all about stretching her skills and abilities. “I had been a CNO for 22 years, and wanted to step outside my comfort zone,” she said. “The all-online doctorate was a very robust program, but I loved every minute of it because it made me stretch, and opened the door to this dean’s role. The past two years as simulation program director for USF Crown Point were a similar stretch and made me say, ‘Yes, I can do this.’”

That translates into a powerful role model for the USF Crown Point students. “I tell them it’s a lifelong project, and you cannot stop learning. These days, they need to venture farther, because the whole healthcare environment has experienced massive change, and no pathway has formed yet in this chaotic new environment. As nursing educators, we need to prepare them in knowledge, but also to be nimble, flexible and open to new delivery methods.”

Her school has reached a unique place to meet those needs. “USF Crown Point is at a crossroads where we can expand and look at new programs that are oriented inside and outside of healthcare,” she said. “We have identified 20 career opportunities we want to look at in three to five
years, and we want to add one or two degrees, programs or certificates every year."

Education opportunities for medical assistants and physical therapy assistants, an on-site BSN, business degrees, health information technology and expanded laboratory careers are just some possibilities. Development priorities will be set yearly, with an eye to providing Saturday and evening classes. “Our niche is our affiliation with Franciscan Alliance and our faith-based focus,” she said.

Faith-based employers have provided support and enrichment. “In my long career, I have found working in a faith-based organization is the best fit for me in terms of mission and values. USF Crown Point is a wonderful match of goals and opportunities after the completion of my doctorate. I have learned not to waste time on drama and being negative. Look at the Franciscan values, and that’s how you live every day. It’s the basis of how we interact. We talk values with faculty and students. It’s part of our lives,” she said.

In that spirit, she plans to spread the word of USF Crown Point and its mission. “I will be promoting our programs with regional leaders, and exposing the great things of USF to our community. I have the energy and passion to do it well.”

A successful life hinges on emotional intelligence, she said. “Know yourself and what motivates you professionally and personally. That reflects on your attitude and getting things done. It is absolutely pivotal in my thinking of professional and personal development.”

During “free” time, she focuses on family and community service. “We have one son close by, another in Chicago and two grandsons, one nearly 2 and one just weeks old,” she said. “Now I’m five minutes from my grandbabies and will concentrate on really enjoying them. We sold our house and have moved to Crown Point permanently. After a very intense doctorate, I now have time for family and volunteering.”

“It’s really important to role model professionalism, dignity and respect to patients and each other. It’s what I expect of myself and the staff.” - DR. MARSHA KING, USF CROWN POINT DEAN
Retention and Diversity Director Garien Hudson will make the Diversity Resource Center’s (DRC) mission, “Creating teachable moments to recognize differences differently,” a reality in a colorful and engaging environment in which students of all races and creeds can connect.

There’s a pit of multicolored balls for conversation, furniture for lounging, a big-screen TV, café table and chairs and slogans proclaiming the center’s mantra—peace, unity and every student’s right and opportunity to seize his or her special moment at the university.

The center office and lounge will serve as a hub for DRC programming, offer resources to students, faculty and staff and coordinate diversity initiatives across campus. Hudson is working to promote equality and diversity principles in the campus community, with the goals of encouraging a diverse student population and leadership and developing resources to improve the academic success of minority groups at USF.

“The DRC is both an idea and a physical space,” Hudson said. “The office and lounge offer students a safe place on campus to discuss issues and be supported when facing academic and social challenges. It also houses my office and DRC outreaches and initiatives.”

At the center’s base is the idea that cultural competence involves understanding and responding to the many populations that make up the university. Best practices from the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education have
The Steel Dynamics Foundation will give $1 million to the University of Saint Francis (USF) over a 10-year period to establish the Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship. The scholarships are a way for Steel Dynamics Inc. to reinvest in the community within which it operates, CEO Mark Millett said. The foundation has extended the scholarships to several area institutions.

“As an organization, we have been blessed with success over the years,” Millett said. “We believe it is our obligation to share our success with the community in which we work. Fort Wayne is blessed with wonderful institutions, and this is a way to give back.”

Six renewable scholarships of $5,000 each will be awarded to members of each freshman class beginning fall semester, 2014. Scholarships will be renewable for four years. Applicants must be full-time students majoring in a four-year degree program in science (including pre-professional majors), business, mathematics, accounting or finance. Recipients will be known as Steel Dynamics Scholars and must maintain academic standards and remain in a qualified major at USF to renew their annual scholarships. Scholarships will be applied toward tuition and fees. The scholarships are part of the Steel Dynamics Foundation’s investment in regional higher education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, and the business areas of finance and accounting, to provide the skilled workforce needed to attract businesses, drive economic development and keep talented graduates in Indiana.

“We are delighted by the support of USF students shown by the Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship,” said university President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF. “This scholarship helps us continue to educate graduates who will stay in our communities and businesses to contribute their skills.”

To learn more about applying for the Steel Dynamics Foundation Scholarship, call the Office of Financial Aid at 260-399-8000 or visit sf.edu/financialaid.
On Monday, Nov. 5, 2007, USF nursing student and graduate assistant Cynthia Shepherd chose life over death. Two lives—hers and her year-old daughter, Kaela’s—hung in the balance.

Since checking herself into Charis House’s addiction treatment program on that fateful day six years ago, she has regained her sobriety, spirituality, equilibrium, compassion and drive to succeed. In essence, her life.

Now, she humbly shares her difficult journey back in the hope of creating a light for someone else living in the darkness of addiction. “My whole reason to speak is because that’s not my life anymore. It’s my past. I’m not glorifying it, but I’m not ashamed because it made me who I am and has given me passion and direction for my future,” she said. “When I’m asked to share, I try to say yes. Someone may need help or hope, and my goodness, if I’m here on this journey today, I can tell them to lean on God, do the hard work and you can do anything.”

A difficult home situation placed her in her grandparents’ care from an early age, and the parental absence set the stage for the anger and rebellion that would characterize her teenage years and young adulthood. Her grandparents stood with her during all the tumult. “I’m tired sometimes when I’m helping Kaela, and I can’t imagine being in my 60s and raising a second-generation child. It’s so amazing. They were an example to me. They were like Christ walking beside me. They never condoned my behavior, but stayed right with me. They are saints,” she said.

Other saints helped too, including Charis House staff. “I was set back on the path by Charis House’s open, loving arms. Amazing women and men work there who give you the tools and re-teach coping skills. That’s where I formed a connection,” she said.

Participating in a different faith-based group each day, she began her ascent from a pit of despair. “No one dreams of being addicted. It’s a choice, but after a while it’s not. You keep numb. I remember the first days and weeks, and you think you’re never going to get there, but that negative self-talk never cuts it.”

As she rebuilt herself, she observed other women struggling with addiction who went to hospitals for drugs to help them through it. Already a nursing student, she felt a unique burden to help them. Charis House asked her to participate in a ceremony, write her life story and her vision for the future as part of her recovery process. “I saw a clinic for women and children as an alternative to the emergency room,” she said. “Charis House liked my idea, and now I sit on the advisory committee that oversees the health clinic. It’s amazing what God has put before me the past five years.”

After completing her registered nurse training, she came to USF’s transition program for the Master of Science in Nursing,
and met some more saints. "The nursing department faculty is inspirational and brilliant," she said. "They all hold a reflection before class and for online classes. I love it. They are kind and want you to succeed. They encourage and help any way they can. Every teacher and every class is a reason I’m where I am today."

Where is she today? She’s a parent, ER nurse at St. Joseph Hospital, USF nursing student, Charis House committee member and the graduate assistant in her USF nursing program. Her daughter learns right alongside her, she said.

“No one dreams of being addicted. It’s a choice, but after a while it’s not. You keep numb.”

-CYNTHIA SHEPHERD, USF RN TO MSN TRANSITION PROGRAM STUDENT

“It’s so important for her to learn to put in the work and not have to go back in her twenties and thirties. She sees me work two jobs and do my homework. She’s amazing in school. She’s halfway through second grade math and exceeding first grade in language arts. I think it helps that she sees a parent study. I was smart and didn’t apply myself,” she said.

Now, she drinks in life. “I have lots of friends with kids. We have campfires and roast marshmallows, and it’s neat to really watch the kids interact. I don’t feel like I’m missing anything anymore. I feel full.”
Perfect weather, a new end zone facility, and the will of students, alumni and friends to celebrate added up to a phenomenal 50-year birthday party for USF Athletics at Homecoming in October.

Staged as the battle of the mascots, the event pleased both returning Troubadours and the more recent Cougars. Tailgates sponsored by all USF schools drew faculty and students for fun and fellowship, while family parties decked in USF blue took up every scrap of green space around Trinity Hall and the stadium.

A dinner under tent in “The Cove” adjacent to the stadium celebrated 50 years of USF Athletics, and a record crowd, including fans in the new Shields Family Pavilion, roared approval of USF success on the grid. Icons from USF Athletics across the years, including members of the first football team, were recognized at halftime.

The previous evening, USF honored outstanding alumni at the Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame awards celebration. On Sunday, members of the university’s sponsoring congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, gathered to celebrate a milestone of their own—150 years since their founding. A large group enjoyed Mass by Bishop Kevin Rhoades and a reception. Visitors chatted and shared memories with the Sisters, many of whom traveled from the Motherhouse in Mishawaka for the event.
“I look forward to Homecoming every year. We love the spirit, camaraderie and mingling with the students. I’ve been packing for a week, and was up at 6 a.m. to get a good spot.”

-WILLIAM HOWARD, USF PARENT
In the ’90s, soccer was king at USF, and Bosco Hall was its center.

At Homecoming to watch husbands Andy Denton and Tim Edquist battle it out in alumni soccer matches Saturday morning, USF soccer player Angela (Kwiatkowski) Denton (BA ’01) and Tim’s wife, Mary, talked about how former USF players stay in touch at Homecoming and throughout the year.

“Andy organizes this crazy Homecoming thing,” Angela said. “We’ve come from Chicago, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Georgia for the game, and some were here last night. Soccer was the big sport when we were here, so Homecoming was soccer. It was a completely different world, and the guys were super close. They all roomed together in Bosco, because it was the soccer dorm.”

Back then, the soccer girls traveled with the boys and sometimes played back-to-back games. “We had built-in cheer blocks,” Angie Denton said. Now, the men travel as far as Chicago and Las Vegas for tournaments, Mary said.

Angie had a “phenomenal” communication adviser in USF’s Jane Martin, and used her film major for editing jobs before moving into retail management in Chicago. “Communication makes you solve problems, and now I’m a store manager, so that’s what I do.”

At 9:30 a.m. on Homecoming Saturday, William Howard unloaded his canopy, food table and week’s worth of tailgate planning next to a grassy patch of Trinity Hall lawn. It was a primo spot, and the USF dad’s objective in rising so early on the gorgeous fall morning.

He was early enough to set up everything, including a custom USF-blue beanbags game set, before heading out to Mirror Lake for a fishing expedition with twins Sarah and Katie, USF students in the SOCA computer animation program. Ten to 12 people, including grandparents and out-of-town relatives, were headed to the spot to celebrate and enjoy his daughters’ university.

“My parents are sports nuts. We love the spirit, camaraderie and mingling with the students. I look forward to it every year,” he said. “I’ve been packing for a week, and was up at 6 a.m. to get a good spot for all the people who want to see the girls’ school.”

He and his wife, Barb, live near Hunertown to the north of Fort Wayne, and love the fit between USF and their twins. “The girls are in their second year in the dorm, and they love it. They had other opportunities, but USF really wanted them. They worked through everything the girls needed, and that’s why I’m here.”

Classic supportive parents, they have an art project filling their garage—a box where the budding filmmakers can move still figures in sequence, then film and download them to produce animation the old-fashioned way. “It’s to show them how it used to be and give them an overall view of the art,” their dad said proudly.
On Thursday, September 9, 2013, University of Saint Francis head football coach Kevin Donley saw another dream realized with the dedication and blessing of the R. Bruce Dye Football Center and Shields Family Pavilion.

“This has helped our program jump to the next level before we’ve even kicked off,” Donley said emphatically during the dedication attended by Mr. Dye and members of the family of Jim Shields. “I am so thankful that we’re just a part of his (Dye’s) contributions to the Fort Wayne community and from the bottom of my heart, I thank you.” USF Chaplain Father David Meinzen and Campus Ministry Director Josh Stagni officiated. Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey served as emcee, and President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, spoke as well.

“My name may be on it, but it was quite a group of individuals and companies that made this possible,” Dye told WANE-TV Channel 15. “If you don’t keep up and continue to compete, you’ll be in second place. Kevin has invested more than 15 years here so between bringing the lights and adding this center, I wanted to help support it.”

Donley Honored

USF Head Coach Kevin Donley can add NAIA Hall of Fame member to his extensive list of accolades over 35 years as a collegiate head football coach. The current NAIA record holder for career victories with 272, he was inducted Jan. 12 at the American Football Coaches Association annual convention and meetings in Indianapolis. He was introduced by his son and USF offensive coordinator Patrick Donley. Donley started the USF program from scratch, playing its first season in 1998. He was informed of his selection for induction in August 2013.

“We as coaches preach and teach on a regular, if not daily basis, it’s about we not me, so it’s almost hypocritical to get up here and bow and take an accolade, because there are many people involved in that success,” Donley said to the crowd of more than 200 at the induction banquet. “It’s about great coaches that give you everything they’ve got, and it’s about the players who buy into what you’re trying to accomplish and become responsible that play their hearts out and later do the same thing as they go on to a career in the business community.

“That’s what it’s all about. All those guys working together for more than 30-plus years for playing an integral part in the good fortune I’ve had doing what I love to do through the years.”
EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT
Field, court, classroom and community

Success on the field and court, as well as in the classroom and Fort Wayne business community, highlighted the 2013 USF fall athletic season. Football and men’s soccer shone on the field, producing conference championships, three athletes with national recognition for academics and a Hall of Fame coach.

Cougars, Coach Donley rule the grids

Football won its 11th MidStates Football Association Mideast League championship in its 16th season and advanced to the NAIA Football Championship Series quarterfinals, and USF Head Coach Kevin Donley was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in early January. And they did it despite losing the leading rusher and five other starters to season-ending injuries early in the season.

The Cougars earned their 180th consecutive NAIA Coaches’ Top 25 selection with a No. 6 notch in the post-season poll after a 9-3 overall finish, 5-1 in the MSFA MEL. Two of USF’s three losses were to No. 1 Cumberland (28-14 in the NAIA FCS quarterfinals on Nov. 30) and at No. 2 Grand View (23-7 Sept. 28) when leading rusher Antoin Campbell sustained a season-ending knee injury.

Donley, who completed his 35th season as a collegiate head football coach with an NAIA career record 272 wins, was named MSFA MEL Coach of the Year for the ninth time.

Senior offensive tackle Cam Edwards (Bloomington, IN/North H.S.) was named MSFA MEL Offensive Player of the Year, the first for an offensive lineman in league history.

He was also selected for the American Football Coaches Association NAIA All-America First Team, and USF had two AFCA-NAIA All-America second team selections in senior punter Kollin Carman (Columbus, IN/North H.S.) and junior defensive back Kory Stamps (Indianapolis, IN/Lawrence North H.S.).

USF All-MSFA MEL team selections besides Edwards included sophomore Cam Smith (WR), senior Zach Greiner (C), and senior Emerson Ueber (place-kicker) on offense. Defensive selections included sophomore Zach Bruce (DL), senior Matt Carden (NT), senior Devon Rush (OLB), junior Keith Harris (OLB), junior Kory Stamps (DB) and senior Kollin Carman (punter/kicker).

Soccer men win conference

Men’s soccer won its first regular-season conference championship since 2003, tying for the Crossroads League championship and posting a 14-5-1 record, the most wins in a season since the Cougars went 15-5-1 in 2000. Junior Jason Walcutt (Fort Wayne, IN/Carroll H.S.) became the first USF player ever selected for the CL Offensive Player of the Year award. Walcutt finished the regular season with 17 goals.

Walcutt has had six game-winning goals for the Cougars, which ranks No. 3 in NAIA. This fall Walcutt became the first USF player selected NAIA Player of the Week after scoring two game-winning goals, three overall, to help USF tie for the CL regular-season crown with 21 points, 7-2 in CL play.

Cougars joining Walcutt on the All-CL first team included sophomore forward Alexis Ferreira da Silva (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and sophomore keeper Brad Buzzard (Huntington, IN/Huntington H.S.). Nate Byrd (Fort Wayne, IN/Carroll H.S.), a sophomore defender, was named to the All-CL second team.

Women’s soccer best in five years

Women’s soccer finished third in the CL and 12-7 overall, the most wins since 2008 when the Lady Cougars finished 13-6-1. Heather Jones, Sam DeWael and Sarah Freygang were named to the 2013 All-Crossroads League Team.

It was the third consecutive all-conference selection for junior defender Freygang (Fort Wayne, IN/Snider H.S.), the second for sophomore forward Jones, who led USF goal-scoring with 12 goals, and the first for junior defender DeWael.

Men, women’s tennis rebound

USF men’s tennis won its first conference match since restarting the program in 2010, qualified for the CL Tournament and won four matches overall (4-10). Freshman Nathan Barger (Decatur, IN/Adams Central H.S.) became the first member of the men’s tennis program to earn All-Crossroads League. On the women’s side, USF qualified for the CL Tournament and senior Chelsea Selking became just the second team member since 2000 to earn All-CL all four years.
MAKING HEADLINES

Cougars basketball hot in 50th USF Athletics season


“We’ve earned it, no doubt, but the toughest part of it is holding on to it,” observed USF head coach Gary Andrews, who is in his 13th season. Other signature wins for USF included two over then-NAIA Division I No. 11 Shawnee State (Portsmouth, OH) 98-91 and 98-76, a 104-103 overtime thriller over then-No. 6 Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) and an 85-76 win over then-No. 1 Indiana Wesleyan at a nearly full Hutzell Athletic Center.

USF leads the Crossroads League with a 13-0 record, gunning for at least a share of its second consecutive league championship. The 24 consecutive wins shattered the previous record of 21 consecutive wins posted by the 1999-2000 Lady Cougars.

Senior Skylarr Shurn (Kokomo, IN) was leading the CL in scoring at 20.3 points per game, with additional support from fellow seniors Jenelle Wilson, Kalah Baer and Jessica Harrison as well as sophomore Brooke Ridley and freshman Paige Frisch. Ridley had three blocked shots in USF’s 102-66 win at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University to set a USF career record for blocked shots with 137 to break the mark set by Jennie Thomas (1997-01) at 135.

The USF men’s program, which is playing in its 50th season, had climbed to No. 9 in the NAIA Top 25, its highest ranking since 2010-11, and under head coach Chad LaCross, owns wins over the No. 1 team at the time, Cardinal Stritch (Wisc.) 64-53, No. 2 Indiana Wesleyan 72-63 and No. 4 Bethel 79-62.

USF earned a spot on ESPN’s SportsCenter (Jan. 25) when Kyle Sovine threw a length-of-the-court pass to Austin Fox for the game-winning basket at Mt. Vernon Nazarene with 0.3 seconds to play. The Cougars were tied for first place in the CL with a 9-3 record (17-7 overall) thanks to a balanced offensive attack of junior guard Josh Hogan (17.0 ppg), senior forward Scott Kohne (16.8 ppg) and Fox (16.1 ppg). Fox, a junior transfer from IU-South Bend has 11 double doubles for the Cougars.
Christmas at USF expands

Christmas at USF drew even more visitors in an expanded version of tried-and-true traditions mixed with new events. The university embraced its downtown presence as part of the city’s annual Christmas lighting ceremonies, while the USF Performing Arts Center became a busy activity hub for new events the first Sunday in December.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.”
- LUKE 2:14
Sample the new
Like a Christmas cookie, Christmas at USF became sweeter with a sprinkle of new events for a broader audience. For the first time in 10 years, the community enjoyed a full production of Handel’s “Messiah,” with Heartland Chamber Chorale, the University Singers, renowned soloists and local singers blending voices for the Christmas classic at the USF Performing Arts Center.

A Fort Wayne classic, the Christ Child Festival, was also reborn in the downtown Center, with a concert, speakers and booths representing a broad range of local businesses inviting visitors to recall the reason for the season.

Savor the traditions
Back on the main campus, visitors thrilled to the beauty of decorated Brookside, the awe of the Living Nativity and Lighting of the Lake, the wonder of the heavens, the creativity of art exhibits and the support for Third World artisans at the Fair Trade Bazaar.

The bitter cold could not chill the warmth of Christmas in the Castle, where new decorators and designers joined a cadre of established artists to lavishly embellish Brookside for the holidays. A love of history, beautiful architecture and a senior discount day created a beehive of activity at the North Campus, where guests picked up tickets and a free ride to the eye-popping display.

Outside, costumed USF students, faculty and staff paid homage to the sacred night of Christ’s birth by re-enacting the Nativity in the Pope John Paul II amphitheater next to luminary-lit Mirror Lake. While guests gathered to take in the moment, wide-eyed children reached out to touch the live animals in the stable scene.

For three December weekends, the Schouweiler Planetarium staff welcomed visitors with “Star of Bethlehem,” which examined the path of the Christmas star and its Biblical story.

Video highlights
To experience treasured moments from Christmas at USF, use your mobile device to access them through this QR code or visit sf.edu/christmas.
Talk with USF’s new School of Health Sciences dean, Dr. Mindy Yoder, and two qualities emerge: a deeply held compassion for patients and a fire to keep her school competitive with the best.

Both will stand her in good stead. Named to the dean’s position with the retirement of School of Health Sciences (SOHS) dean Dr. Nancy Gillespie in 2013, she’s enthusiastic, prepared and up to the challenge.

Her passion for nursing began as an undergraduate, where she saw the difference she could make even then. “I thought, “What a privilege to have this impact,”’” she said. Like all people of conviction, seminal experiences contributed to her development.

“I had two key experiences as a student: the first one involved working with a single teen mom who delivered her first baby. She named her baby Mindy for the simple reason that I held her hand. The second experience came during my community health course, through an assignment to establish a Parkinson’s Disease support group for Grant County. I went to the homes and talked to patients and their caregivers to find out what topics to address, and what days and times would...
be helpful for meetings. The support group we established continued even after I graduated! I learned that Parkinson’s caregivers are just beat, with no one to talk to. This provided information and socialization for them. It made a difference in the community, and as a direct-out-of-high-school person to see this firsthand—wow. It made me think about what else I could do as a nurse. I respected faculty as nursing role models who helped me to realize my potential and hoped that I could do that one day for others.”

Age 25 and already a nurse practitioner (NP) with a master’s degree and several years of pediatric and long-term care experience, she then spent five years in a family practice office before hearing from a friend about a faculty need in pediatrics at USF.

“I interviewed, started in the summer and then went full-time in 2001,” she said. “I became director for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs in 2008, and enjoyed administration and teaching responsibilities. I have appreciated the opportunity to grow at USF, through faculty mentors and continuing education.”

Taking the bull by the horns comes naturally. “I’m the oldest of four, with three younger brothers. I was always the second mother and could hold my own,” she said. “I’m very competitive. I love athletics and played college volleyball. I look for challenges.”

So 13 years later, she’s SOHS dean, learning her role and clear on her mission. She sees close relationships with clinical partners and expanded online studies as keys to continued success. “We need to build bridges between education and practice with Parkview, Lutheran and our Franciscan Alliance healthcare systems,” she said. “We should also broaden our reach to prospective healthcare students through programs like our online RN-BSN. Since it was fully online in fall 2012, the program has grown 350 percent. That’s significant.”

She’s learning the job’s scope. “Every day is different. In addition to maintaining program excellence, I have been working on a strategic plan, program accreditation and just talking with folks to establish and build upon partnerships. Our Physician Assistant accreditation visit went well this fall, and our Nurse Practitioner program visit is scheduled for February. The school has restructured, so now I am also chief nurse administrator for nursing programs. I see myself as a coordinator and facilitator. I move individuals and groups toward goals.”

She never forgets support for current programs is crucial. “I hire faculty and staff, approve contracts, conduct evaluations and even teach,” she said. “I’m acclimating to the role and how SOHS fits into the larger picture through planning and budgeting.

“I’m excited and energized by the future of healthcare and nursing and how we are positioned. We prepare excellent healthcare practitioners who often have multiple job offers after graduation. Our accreditation, our pass rates, we’re all there. I will continue the quality of our programs and assess our positioning to expand.”

Her passion and competitiveness transfer to the non-professional arena. “I like any game, strategy, cards or board games, and my husband and I frequently play games with other couples,” she said. “I like volleyball, golf and being outside with my kids. I’m a scrapbooker, and I like to see first-run movies, host and cook.”

In her spare time, she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2011 at the University of Minnesota, completing a full-time curriculum in 12 months by working full-time in the fall and taking a spring sabbatical to get it done. Typical.
**Boundary-free**

**CEO Forum looks at globalization**


Three local business leaders contributed their successful global strategies. Scott Glaze of Fort Wayne Metals spoke of growing exports for the technology-based manufacturer of medical wire.

After its U.S. success, his company investigated Europe’s medical device market. Trained representatives were hired to serve them overseas, and trade shows were booked. An ad campaign pushed sales higher.

Today, exports comprise one-third of the company’s sales. They staff world trade shows, manufacture in Ireland and have a sales office in China. They’ve joined international associations and write and present technical papers worldwide.

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USF alumnus Maciek Szaferski (BBA ’00, MBA ’02) explained how EDM Direct imports, warehouses and sends products to buyers via eBay and Amazon. He also sells to warehouses and supplies incentive gifts for catalogs.

“Research is first. Duties, customs, containers and freight cost money. Each item takes space,” he said. “Study the popular products and the marketplace, and research competitors’ wares and pricing. Create a descriptive website with good photos and videos.”

Lori Berndt of The Olive Twist said partnerships drive her olive oil and vinegar tasting bars in Fort Wayne and Auburn, Ind. Educated salespeople are key, so she taste-trained them on the products. Giving to one’s community also pays rewards. “Think outside the box and become part of it,” she said.

Social mediums such as Pinterest and partnerships with other product companies have paid off. She encouraged anyone with a business vision to research and create a business plan for it.

**Setting the stage for comedy**

Set builders for USF’s “The Man Who Came to Dinner” outdid themselves with a lavish drawing-room scene created for the School of Creative Arts production in the USF Performing Arts Center in November. Local actors and USF faculty and students drew shouts of laughter with witty lines by playwrights George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. In what director Brad Beauchamp called “another classic comedy piece,” Blackhawk Middle School drama director and regional actor Christopher Murphy cracked up the audience as the blustering, bullying and self-centered celebrity radio show host, Sheridan Whiteside.

When Whiteside injures himself leaving the home of the wealthy Stanley family, he prolongs his “recovery” to meddle in the love life of his longtime assistant, Maggie Cutler. In doing so, he takes over the Stanley home at Christmas, banishes the family to the upper level, orders their staff around and terrorizes his nurse, Miss Preen, played in beleaguered fashion by local actress Susan Domer. Meanwhile, subplots involving the beset Stanley family emerge, celebrities come and go from the house, penguins escape from a crate and general mayhem ensues.

USF communication and theater professor Aaron Willoughby played Cutler’s love interest. USF students Stacie Woempner, Clare Ramel, Nicole Rudolf, Jamie Schueler, Jake Markowski, Jade Light, Lilliana Craighead, Alexis Claflin, Brandon Hathaway, Melissa Buenconsejo and 2012 grad Quentin Jenkins also played roles.
SSFPA celebrate 150th

Homecoming Sunday was a walk through history for members of the university’s sponsoring congregation, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, who celebrated 150 years since their founding in Olpe, Germany. Friends, supporters and former students and colleagues from the Fort Wayne community gathered at the North Campus to help the Sisters celebrate their milestone. A large group enjoyed Mass by Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, followed by a reception. Visitors chatted and shared memories with the Sisters, many of whom traveled from the Motherhouse in Mishawaka for the event.

Blessing of the Pets

USF celebrated the feast of its patron saint, Francis of Assisi, with a Blessing of the Pets and other events in October. Sponsored by the Center for Franciscan Life, the events commemorated Francis’ impact on the world. The Blessing of Pets took place Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. in front of Brookside, near the Saint Francis statue. Pets of all shapes, sizes and species, and their owners, were welcomed. Events were open to the public without charge. University alumni, secular Franciscans and other Franciscan believers joined community members in the blessing ceremony conducted by USF’s Father David Meinzen.

Sister Anita Holzmer, OSF appointed

Sister Anita Holzmer, OSF has moved to a new office in the Campus Ministry building after her appointment as Assistant Vice President for Mission Integration and Director of the Center for Franciscan Life. Reporting to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Andrew Prall, she leads the center, which includes Campus Ministry and the Office of Service and Social Action. University leadership believes the team within the Center for Franciscan Life will foster greater visibility and campus-wide integration of USF’s Catholic and Franciscan identity.

Alumni, students and staff can connect with community service opportunities through USF. Run or walk in the Formula for Life 5K on Sunday, April 13, beginning at 1 p.m. at Hutzell Athletic Center on the USF campus, and bid on silent auction items to raise funds for Our Lady of Perpetual Help orphanage in Haiti.

Other opportunities are available. For more information, contact Center for Service Engagement Director Katrina Boedeker at 260-399-7700, ext. 6791 or kboedeker@sf.edu.
USF welcomes Appiarius

Don Appiarius is USF’s new Dean of Students, overseeing residence life, commuter services, student activities and student academic services. He recently served as Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at Radford University in Virginia. He has also been Associate Vice President for Student Development/Director of Residence Life at Shenandoah University in Virginia and worked in student life at Salem International University in West Virginia. He earned bachelor degrees in political science and history at Mary Washington College and a master’s degree in conflict resolution at George Mason University, both in Virginia. He is completing a doctorate in organizational leadership at Shenandoah University.

Interim no more

Professor Robert Lee has been named Dean of the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership after serving as interim dean. Prior to joining the USF faculty in 2009, he was Allen County, Ind. treasurer for 10 years. Before that, he worked in the property and casualty insurance industry and administered technology initiatives for other Allen County offices. He completed a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science in Finance at Ball State University. He is completing doctoral work in business administration at Northcentral University. He is active at Blackhawk Ministries in Fort Wayne and has served on several governmental and community boards.

Saint Francis contingent attends beatification

Over 50 members of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration from USF and the Motherhouse in Mishawaka traveled to Germany to experience the beatification Mass for their congregation’s foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, in Paderborn Nov. 10.

Blessed Maria Theresia founded the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Olpe, Germany in 1863, and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the congregation’s founding.

After their return to campus, a panel of Sisters including USF President Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, gave a public presentation, “The Relevance of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel and Her Beatification,” on Nov. 17.

“To have been present at the beatification of someone with whom I have a spiritual connection was extremely powerful,” said Assistant Vice President for Mission Integration and Director of the Center for Franciscan Life Sister Anita Holzmer, OSF.
Photography exhibit thrills guests

The work of three acclaimed contemporary photographers, smooth riffs from a live jazz band, delicious food and nice weather added up to a picture-perfect experience for those attending the Presidential Gala at the School of Creative Arts on Sept. 7.

“Beyond the Human Experience: Three Contemporary Photographers—Luis González Palma, Gabriela Morawetz and Holly Roberts” showcased works that define the human experience as a visual language—figuratively and symbolically. Each artist used photography and non-traditional media such as paint, collage, fabric and metal to create uniquely visual art that fascinated the viewing audience.

Guatemala resident González Palma examined the power of communication through the gaze and body language of his subjects, creating powerful and moving portraits of the indigenous Mayas of Guatemala. The influence of his “mestizo” heritage and that of the Mayas was evident in his works. Morawetz, of Poland, described the sleeping self as it relates to human subconsciousness and isolation. Many large works were installed with dual layers or overlaid with tulle to resemble a hologram.

Roberts, from the United States, used paint, foil, aerial photographs and in one work, a sewing pattern, to describe unknown interpersonal realities that heighten the natural and sublime in the world. On hand for the Gala after her Sept. 5 lecture sponsored by the USF Student Government Association, Roberts said she takes shots from planes as she travels and uses them to augment meaning in her work. “The photographic image allows me to begin the process of trying to determine where I need to go,” she said. Drawing from her native New Mexico landscape for inspiration and emotion, she has amassed a body of work that firmly establishes her as an international phenomenon. Some of her works are included in collections housed in the Art Institute of Chicago.

USF students eagerly embraced her lecture, plus concepts and methods outlined in her Student Government Association workshop. “I have met the best students here,” she said. “There’s a really nice openness, curiosity and trustfulness. It’s like I’m seeing a family. The professors have been here for a long time and are committed to the students. They’re happy, positive kids, and it’s coming from the top down.”

In conjunction with this exhibition, the adjacent Artist Spotlight Gallery displayed a collection of photographs donated to USF by nationally recognized photographer and instructor, Stephen Perfect. Works were by artist partners or students over Perfect’s 30-year teaching career at Saint Francis College and elsewhere.

$1 million from Lilly funding new education, career readiness

Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded USF $1 million to begin a new bachelor-level risk management and insurance (RMI) degree and implement strategies that build the career readiness of its students. The five-year grant provides the upfront investment to launch longterm strategies that will pay dividends far into the future for the students and the community.

The new RMI degree, targeted for fall 2015, will be the first of its kind in northeast Indiana. “The insurance industry is expected to experience a high number of retirements in the next five years, which is problematic for a growing industry. New insurance professionals are needed in northeast Indiana to replace those retirements,” said Robert Lee, Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership dean. The degree will help fill that employment niche.

A portion of the grant will fund a revitalized Career Outreach Center that will expand relationships with employers to increase career placements and experiential learning opportunities, including internships. The grant also will support the full implementation of USF’s Media Entrepreneurship Training in the Arts (META) program.
1960s:
Dr. Linda (Hamrick) Bartron-Olsen (BSE '67, MSE '70) has published “In Quest of the Quark” and its Spanish version, “En Busca del Quark,” for second language learners.

1970s:
Mel Hawkins (MS '74) has recently published a Kindle book, “The Difference is You: Power through Positive Leadership.”

1980s:
Carlos Concepcion (BA '87) is senior service desk analyst at John Cook School of Business at Saint Louis University. He provides technical support to JCSB faculty, staff and students and assists, trains and supervises interns. • Sue Ehinger (MBA '89) was recognized in November’s Business People as president of Parkview Hospital and affiliates, and in Becker Hospital’s “Review of 130 Women Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know.”

1990s:
Lisa (Huntington) Gardner (BA '90) recently received her master’s in liberal studies with a focus on anthropology from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Lisa is working at Fresh New Start as a direct care staff/assistant coordinator. • Tony Cardenas (BBA '95) is working at Florida Coastal School of Law as the associate dean of admissions. • Amanda (Steward) Charles (BSE '97) is currently working at East Noble School Corporation as an LD teacher/special education department chairperson. • Lee Ann DePew (BS '99) is now the Kendallville Public Library’s information specialist/technology trainer in the adult department. Prior to that, she was the library’s teen assistant manager. Lee Ann is also a substitute teacher at East Noble High School when her schedule permits.

2000s:
01 Gina (Giovanelli) Snyder (BSW '00) and her husband, Mike, welcomed Layton James on Oct. 8. Layton weighed 10 pounds, 3 ounces and was 22 1/2 inches long. He joins his big brother, Brady. • Barb O’Connor (BLS '02) was awarded the Archbishop’s Award, A Passion for Justice and Peace, from the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America on Dec. 1 at St. Mary Magdala Spiritual Center and Chapel, 2800 Rolston St., Fort Wayne, Ind. She has been active in issues of justice and peace for many years, serving with such organizations as The Indiana Center for Middle East Peace, were she is a board member, ZONTA, Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and the Peace Connection. She has served on a variety of justice and peace-related committees at the University of Saint Francis over the years. • 02 Jean (Eiserle) Ewing (BA '03, MSE '08) and husband Ben welcomed their second child, Sarah Elizabeth, on March 16. She weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces and was 21 inches long. • Rebecca (Tupper) Harman (ASN '03) is working as a registered nurse at Fresenius Medical Care in Warsaw, Ind. • Sarah Shatto-Jones (BA '03) was named one of 10 finalists for Indiana Teacher of the Year. Sarah teaches grades 9-12 visual arts at Homestead High School. • Deanna Mettler (BS '03) became the chief accountant at Hain Daniels, located in the United Kingdom. • Megan (Donley) Bates (BA '04) and husband Jason welcomed their second child, Molly Fae, on Jan. 13. Molly weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces. • Ben Rogers (BBA '04) started his own business, Big Guys, Inc. This business specializes in heavy lifting, moving and general labor. Contact
him at bigguys.biz. He also continues to direct the internship program at Northrop High School. • David Affholter (BA ’05) is the video editor/owner at Championship Grade Video.
• Heather (Weddle) Bontempo (BBA ’06, MBA ’08) is working at Fifth Third Bank as a financial center manager.
• Zachary Harden (BBA ’06) is a salesforce.com administrator at Lantana Communications. • Justin Aquila (BA ’07) is an assistant academic dean and theology teacher at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston. • Davis Deane (MBA ’07) is working at Superior Essex as a financial analyst FPA. • Elizabeth (Voorhees) Kinchen (BSN ’07) graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Master of Science in advanced holistic nursing in May. Elizabeth is enrolled at Florida Atlantic University in the BSN-PhD in nursing program. • William Knepper (BBA ’08) is a fuel economy coordinator at Celadon Trucking Services Inc. • Abigail (Demetre) Leaders (ASN ’08) is working at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. as an intensive care unit nurse.
• Katie Moffitt (BS ’08) works at FWMEP in Fort Wayne as a physician (family practice resident). • Jilliam (Paschke) Oakley (BA ’08) has been married to Matthew Oakley since August 2011. Their beautiful baby girl, Athena Daleney, will be turning one in January. • Patrick Taylor (BA ’08) is a graphic designer for Chantecaille in New York City. • Matthew Wren (BBA ’08) is a technical account executive for Indiana and Tennessee at Adecco Staffing, USA. • Katie Yentes (BS ’08) is working in Washington, D.C. as a policy analyst for the Marine Conservation Institute. MCI is a small nonprofit organization that is bridging the gap between policy and science. • Shane Denny (BBA ’09) is a sales representative for CPI Packaging.

2010s:

Melissa (Frank) Chynoweth (BSN ’10) is working as a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at St. Elizabeth’s in Lafayette, Ind. • Katelyn Jacquay-Daniel (BA ’10) recently announced that she is a health law faculty fellow at the litigation clinic at St. Louis University. • Ryan Geiger (BA ’10) is a graphic designer for Heritage Food Service Group Inc. in Fort Wayne. • Zachary (Zak) Karst (BA ’10) is taking a position as a contract graphic designer for GovX, Inc. beginning in December 2013. • Ashley (Bartol) Ludera (BA ’10) is a digital studio coordinator at Ogilvy and Mather in Chicago, Ill. • Ashley (Bartol) Ludera (BA ’10) married Ryan Ludera on Oct. 5 at Sycamore Hills Golf Course. Ashley moved to Chicago with Ryan, a Purdue grad working for Navistar.

• Juanita Nix (BSE ’10) is a director of special education at Bishop Dwenger High School. • Patrick Cobley (BS ’11) is a sales engineer at Sweetwater Sound. • Adam Greene (BS ’11) is now the operations manager at CrossFit Fort Wayne. • John Osterman (BA ’11) is working at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt as an operations manager. • David J. Scott (BA ’11) is a prepress specialist at Craftline Graphics. • Michelle Domenick (BA ’12) works in public relations for DeBrand’s Chocolates. She and Jay Stoops (BBA ’10) are engaged to marry on May 10 at St. Jude in Fort Wayne. They met as USF soccer players. • Angie Overdeer (AS ’12) is working at Indiana Physical Therapy as a physical therapist assistant. • Ashleigh (Kiester) Thomas (AA ’12) has founded The Graphic Brand, offering design services and specialty T-shirt printing. She married Corey Thomas on Oct. 5. • Paige (Cole) Baines (BBA ’13) is an assistant product director at Depuy Synthes, working in marketing and sales. • Zachary Baron (BBA ’13) accepted a position as first-year staff member in audit at BKD in Fort Wayne. • Easton Mossman (BBA ’13) is a financial adviser assistant at Reynolds Wealth Management. • Paige (Schroeder) Osterman (BSN ’13) and John Osterman (BA ’11) were married on Sept. 21 at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. Paige is a registered nurse at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne. • Claire Wiedman (BA ’10, MA ’13) is enrolled at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio to study for a Master of Fine Art.
Two appointments have been made in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Alexandra Ellis Kreager has been named Director of the Annual Fund. She will help implement strategies to increase charitable gifts to the USF Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides support for the university’s most pressing needs, such as financial aid, academic programming and support services, updated technology, equipment, daily operations and professional development.

Debra A. Boggs, previously the coordinator for Development, Alumni Relations and Brookside, is now a donor relations specialist. In her new role, she will research and manage prospective donors while serving the needs of existing donors. Stewardship, recognition and cultivation of donor groups will be key responsibilities.
A realignment of Career Services under the Office of Alumni Relations will bring a new Career Services director and all the connections and resources of Alumni Relations together to better serve students and alumni seeking employment, while providing an avenue to help others.

USF alumna and Director of Career Services Natalie Wagoner previously worked in the university’s Admissions Office over five years. “My Office of Admissions experience has given me a very valuable perspective,” she said. “Learning about the university and articulating that uniqueness to prospective students, high schools and community partners creates a strong foundation for success in this new role.”

She is excited about opportunities the new alignment makes available to students and alumni. “We have tailored our services to provide exciting opportunities to build strong services for students and alumni, and give employers a very well-prepared candidate,” she said.

She sees the job as repaying her alma mater. “USF is my family. This is my way to give back to a university that has given me so much,” she said.

“We are always looking for alumni volunteers,” said Jessica Swinford, director of Alumni Relations. Professional alumni can provide vital job shadowing and internships for students, and a Student-Athlete/Alumni Mentor Program brings together student-athletes and alumni in an athlete’s field of interest to provide students real-world work experiences.

“A mentor can contribute to a student’s success, profoundly impacting his or her career development,” Swinford said. The Office of Alumni Relations will provide the mentors through its network of alumni athletes.

Alumni can also play vital roles in students’ lives as classroom speakers and providing resume reviews and mock interviews. Not only can alumni receive the satisfaction of helping to form a future professional, but they can also join USF students in reaping the benefits of a job site available through the National Association of Colleges and Employers at sf-csm.symplicity.com/students.

For more information about services for students and alumni, contact Natalie Wagoner at the university at 260-399-8059, or careerservices@sf.edu.

“Learning about the university and articulating that uniqueness to prospective students, high schools and community partners creates a strong foundation for success in this new role.”

-DIRECTOR OF CAREER SERVICE
NATALIE WAGONER, BBA ’07, MBA ’09
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

USF alumni night at a Mad Ants game

WHERE: Memorial Coliseum
WHEN: Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Shoot over to the Mad Ants basketball game and grab all the action with other USF students, employees, alumni and their families. The evening entertainment theme is “Star Wars Night” and the halftime act is Tom Silver, hypnotist.
RSVP: Online at usfmadants.eventbrite.com.

Roald Dahl’s “Willy Wonka”

WHERE: USF Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne
WHEN: Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m.
Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m.
DETAILS: Roald Dahl’s “Willy Wonka,” a timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir, will come to life.

Tickets available through ArtsTix Community Box Office at 260-422-4226 or online anytime at artsunited.org/the-arts-campus/artstix-community-box-office. $18 adults, $15 seniors 65 years or older and children under 18. $10 per person for groups of 20 or more. Service fees apply. Doors open 30 minutes before show.

St. Joseph School of Nursing All Reunion

WHERE: USF campus, North Campus gymnasium
WHEN: Friday, April 25, from 6 to 9 p.m.
DETAILS: All graduating classes are invited to this special event.

USF Commencement

WHERE: Memorial Coliseum
WHEN: Saturday, May 3 at 2 p.m.
DETAILS: Alumna, community leader Betty Stein speaking. Fifty-year grads celebrated at reception following commencement. Baccalaureate Mass 9:30 a.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.
50th Year Reunion

WHAT: St. Joseph School of Nursing, Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing, Saint Francis College 50th Year Reunion
WHERE: Saturday, May 3 at Memorial Coliseum. Sunday, May 4
WHEN: May 3-4
DETAILS: On Saturday, be our guest and receive recognition during the USF commencement; then join us for a special treat at the reception following. On Sunday, Mass and brunch at University of Saint Francis chapel and Brookside beginning at 10:30 a.m.

TinCaps game Alumni event

WHERE: Parkview Field, 1301 Ewing St., Fort Wayne
WHEN: Saturday, May 31. Game time is 7:05 p.m.
DETAILS: USF will exclusively have the Ortho Northeast Treetops Party Area with char-grilled burgers and hot dogs, chicken breasts and wings, pulled pork and smoked ribs, apple crisp dessert available throughout the game. Adult ticket is $25 and child ticket (age 2-7) is $15. Gates open at 5:35 p.m. and food begins at 6:35 p.m.

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

2013 Homecoming Recognitions

Alumni of Achievement Award recognition
Alumni Awards recipients
Athletic Hall of Fame recipients

Front, from the left: Jeffrey Crane ’98, School of Creative Arts; Debbie (Wall) Oetting ’00, School of Arts and Sciences; Jennifer (Klein) Edwards ’02, School of Health Sciences; Stephany Bourne ’76, ’83, School of Professional Studies; Back, from the left: Alan Nauts, chair, Department of Art and Communication and program director, Communication Arts and Graphic Design; Dr. Earl Kumfer, interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences; Mary Kay Selon, chair of Department of Physical Therapist Assistant Studies; Dr. Jane Swiss, dean of the School of Professional Studies.

Front, from the left: Jessica Swinford, director of alumni relations; Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, USF president; and Dr. Lisa Marie (Setnicker) Piwoszkin ’08, Distinguished Young Alumna; Back, from the left: Don Wisler ’72, Distinguished Alumnus; Melissa (Martin) DeBolt ’10, Distinguished Service by an Alumna; and Doug McKibben, Honorary Alumnus.

Front, from the left: Jessica Swinford, director of alumni relations; Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, USF president; Back, from the left: Casey Shatler ’02, cross-country/track & field; Andrew Martin ’05, men’s golf; Josh Widman ’08, baseball; and Cory Jacquey ’06, ’11, football.
If there’s one word that best sums up Alumni Cabinet President Adam Swinford’s tenure, it’s “vision.”

Meet the Alumni Cabinet President

**Adam Swinford**

Swinford, principal of Miami Middle School, said serving in this role has allowed him to give back to the university and further the institution’s vision. Case in point: Swinford and his cabinet are currently trying to bring the concept of an on-campus alumni center to fruition.

“We enjoy Bass Mansion (Brookside), but we want something as alumni we could call our own,” he said.

Swinford, who played USF baseball for four years, envisions a place where alumni and current students can interact, as well as a dedicated space to display alumni awards.

While he knows this development won’t happen overnight he is optimistic about the current level of alumni involvement, which he anticipates will continue to “build momentum.” And support from the top down makes a difference, too.

“When alumni are passionate about something, the administration listens,” he said.
Breakfast with St. Nicholas draws crowd

Breakfast with St. Nicholas drew a record number of alumni, families and friends to the North Campus for the traditional festivities and visit with the Jolly Old Elf. Over 170 people partook of a bountiful breakfast and then moved from station to station to enjoy crafts, games and activities. Grandparents, parents, kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors enjoyed visiting with one another, listening to the story of the European tradition of St. Nicholas and having pictures taken with St. Nicholas, annually played by USF’s Dr. Larry Wiedman, at the alumni holiday favorite.

Bigger and Better—USF Zoo Day turns 10

Under beautiful September skies, the USF Day at the Zoo drew a large crowd on its 10th anniversary. More than 715 alumni, family members and friends joined the fun at the award-winning Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo.

Attendees enjoyed lunch on the Foellinger Theatre lawn, as well as balloon artist demonstrations, tiki maze, llama petting area, a photo booth and a children’s entertainer. The festive spirit continued inside the zoo as families viewed animals in their habitats and took complimentary train, skylift, carousel and river rides.
“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

-MATTHEW 2:10