

# Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

University of Southern Indiana Foundation • Established October 1, 1968

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university in Evansville, Indiana. More than 10,700 students are enrolled in academic programs in business, education and human services, liberal arts, nursing and health professions, and science and engineering. Selected graduate degree programs serve persons in professional and technical studies. More information is available on the web at [www.usi.edu](http://www.usi.edu).

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*“We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle.”*



Cloedeen G. and Frank F. McDonald Sr.

In the fall of 1968, Dr. David L. Rice, president emeritus of the University of Southern Indiana, and Byron C. Wright, vice president emeritus for Business Affairs and Treasurer, met with Mayor Frank F. McDonald Sr. in his office in downtown Evansville. Mayor McDonald was an avid supporter of the young campus and had a profound conviction that the University would be a tremendous benefit for the City of Evansville and the State of Indiana. He often referred to it as “an industry without a smokestack.”

The mayor’s support was key to the University’s success and Dr. Rice and Mr. Wright visited regularly with him to discuss issues affecting higher education on the Evansville campus. At the end of this particular meeting, Mayor McDonald said, “You will need private gifts to help make that place a success. Folks around here will not want to send their hard-earned money out of town, so I suggest you establish a foundation to benefit our University.” He then opened his wallet and pulled out two \$100 bills. “Here is \$100 from me and \$100 from my wife to begin that foundation.”

Dr. Rice then approached Indiana State University President Alan C. Rankin about creating a foundation, and received further encouragement. In seeking approval from his trustees, Dr. Rankin noted that the establishment of a foundation in Evansville was important. He emphasized Mayor

McDonald’s point that Evansville-area donors would give more enthusiastically to an Evansville organization. Because the Evansville campus did not have the necessary staff, Dr. Rankin also offered the assistance of the foundation in Terre Haute to help begin this effort.

Frank McDonald had unusual foresight for Evansville and for the University of Southern Indiana. To ensure that we are reminded of that vision, each year the University of Southern Indiana Foundation publishes *Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision*. The inaugural edition in 2008 commemorated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation.

Mayor McDonald’s vision for the University and for the USI Foundation, as well as his active work on behalf of these institutions, serves as witness to what great things can be accomplished with collaboration, cooperation, and wise leadership. Frank McDonald’s efforts to ensure the establishment of the institution in 1965 have earned him the title of “founding father.”

Those featured in this volume made a decision to support the mission of the University with their financial resources. Through their stories readers have an insight into the individuals who shared the conviction that they must “kindle the fire” so future generations will know warmth.

Dear Friends,

This is the third year the University of Southern Indiana Foundation has produced *Faces of Philanthropy*, and we are grateful to those featured.

The majority of the people profiled came to this area, developed a fondness for southern Indiana, and not only stayed here, but became involved. Others covered within these pages have family roots set deep in this region's history as far back as the early 19th Century. All of these people have called this part of the world home and have worked diligently to ensure community vitality.

The common factor among all these friends, of course, and among everyone reading these pages, is their strong belief in the value of higher education and their respect and admiration for USI. The University of Southern Indiana is recognized as an outstanding institution of higher learning, and its many threads weave through the people and places of our region, state, country, and world. A tremendous impact is left on those who encounter USI, especially the individuals who take advantage of the academic and professional opportunities available to them year round.

For our friends—past, present, and those to come—we express our profound thanks and hope you will enjoy reading about these valued members of our University family.

Sincerely,



David A. Bower  
Director of University Development  
President, USI Foundation  
October 1, 2010



*The Andersons  
quietly helped  
many in need.*



## Donald H. and Loretta E. Anderson

Perry County natives Donald and Loretta Anderson and their children built a successful trucking business that grew to a six-state operation before being sold in 1980. One of five children, Mr. Anderson worked on the family farm and joined his brother Clayton's company, A & H Truck Lines. In 1937 he purchased half the company and eventually became sole owner. Over the years, he acquired more truck lines and with the expansion, the Andersons moved to Evansville and raised their three children, Jeanne, Terry, and Leroy, all who took active roles in the business. Eventually their parents turned the trucking company over to them so they could concentrate on raising Charolais cattle on a 4,200-acre ranch in Kentucky.

A & H was a high-profile business. In 1956, it was one of the trucking companies that undertook the monumental task of moving St. Mary's Hospital to its present Washington Avenue location. When ceremonies opened the new Interstate 64 in southern Indiana, an A & H truck was first in line. Mr. Anderson was an active board member of the Indiana Motor Truck Association and the Kentucky Motor Transport Association. He also was a former director of Consumers National Life Insurance Company.

Mrs. Anderson was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Opti-Mrs., Priscilla Circle, and Columbia Rebekah Lodge. She also was a 48-year member of Bethel United Church of Christ.

Daughter Jeanne Johns said, "Dad was amazing in the way he helped people, including employees in need. Mother was faithful to her church and had business and service interests as well."

At Mrs. Anderson's death in 1995, she and Mr. Anderson had been married 61 years. Mr. Anderson died in 2006. Their son Leroy was a long-time member of the USI Foundation Board and their grandson Scott is a faculty member in the College of Business.

In their wills, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson made bequests to several charities, including University of Southern Indiana Foundation. "The bequests in their wills were to things that were important to them," Mrs. Johns said.

*The Bakers' lifetime  
love of musical  
theatre motivated  
their involvement.*



## Robert O. and Susan P. Baker

Bob and Sue Baker, long-time South Bend residents, were introduced to the University of Southern Indiana through the *Young Abe Lincoln* play which USI produced for many years at Lincoln State Park. They had visited southern Indiana to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of a close friend. "As a part of the festivities," Mr. Baker said, "we had tickets to see *Young Abe*. It was outstanding!"

Sometime later, they enjoyed USI's production of *The Music Man*. Mr. Baker, a fan of *The Music Man*'s creator Meredith Willson, had a lifetime desire to see as many *Music Man* productions as possible. Mrs. Baker shared his theatre interest and thus their love affair with USI Theatre began.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker met when they were students at Purdue University. They married in 1950, and Mr. Baker began a career in sales promotion, management, and training. He returned to Purdue to earn his master's degree as he was building his experience in various locations around the country. In 1968, they settled in northern Indiana. Mr. Baker owned Baker Enterprises, which specialized in technical sales training programs for employees of independent distributors. He retired in 2007.

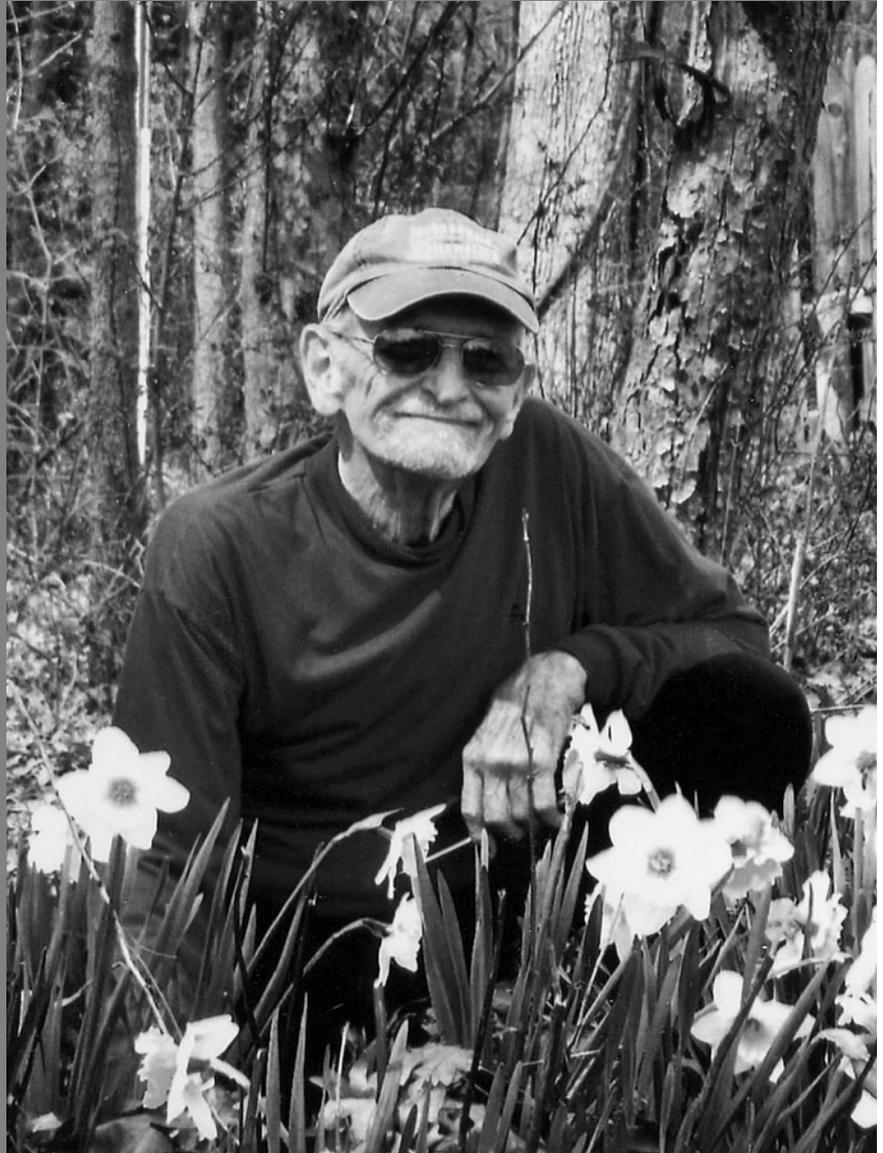
Mrs. Baker was a homemaker who supported Mr. Baker's business interests. Their grown children lived in many locales as they pursued their careers, and Mr. and Mrs. Baker enjoyed traveling nationally and internationally to visit them. Their travel was slowed by Mrs. Baker's declining health.

Mr. Baker said that the couple had been "fortunate financially," their children were well educated and doing well, and they enjoyed helping educational institutions such as USI, their Purdue alma mater, and Ivy Tech's campus in South Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker supported the Lincoln Theatre, New Harmony Theatre, and other USI Foundation funds. To perpetuate their gifts, they executed a charitable gift annuity agreement with gifts of stock. The Robert O. and Susan P. Baker Theatre Scholarship, awarded to a deserving junior or senior theatre major chosen by the USI faculty, will serve USI students in perpetuity.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker died only three months apart in 2010.

*Geologist, artist,  
and naturalist  
Jack Barnes has  
ensured a future  
for his interests.*



## John “Jack” McGregor Barnes Jr

Jack Barnes is a man of many interests, but the common denominator is his love for all things living and those which once were. Evidence abounds at the McCutchanville home he built in 1972. Its base is constructed of Laurel Limestone from Greene County, Kentucky, where this geologist first struck oil. The home’s interior boasts white oak paneling harvested from trees on the property. It is nestled into a hillside under a canopy of trees where he has nurtured nature for nearly four decades.

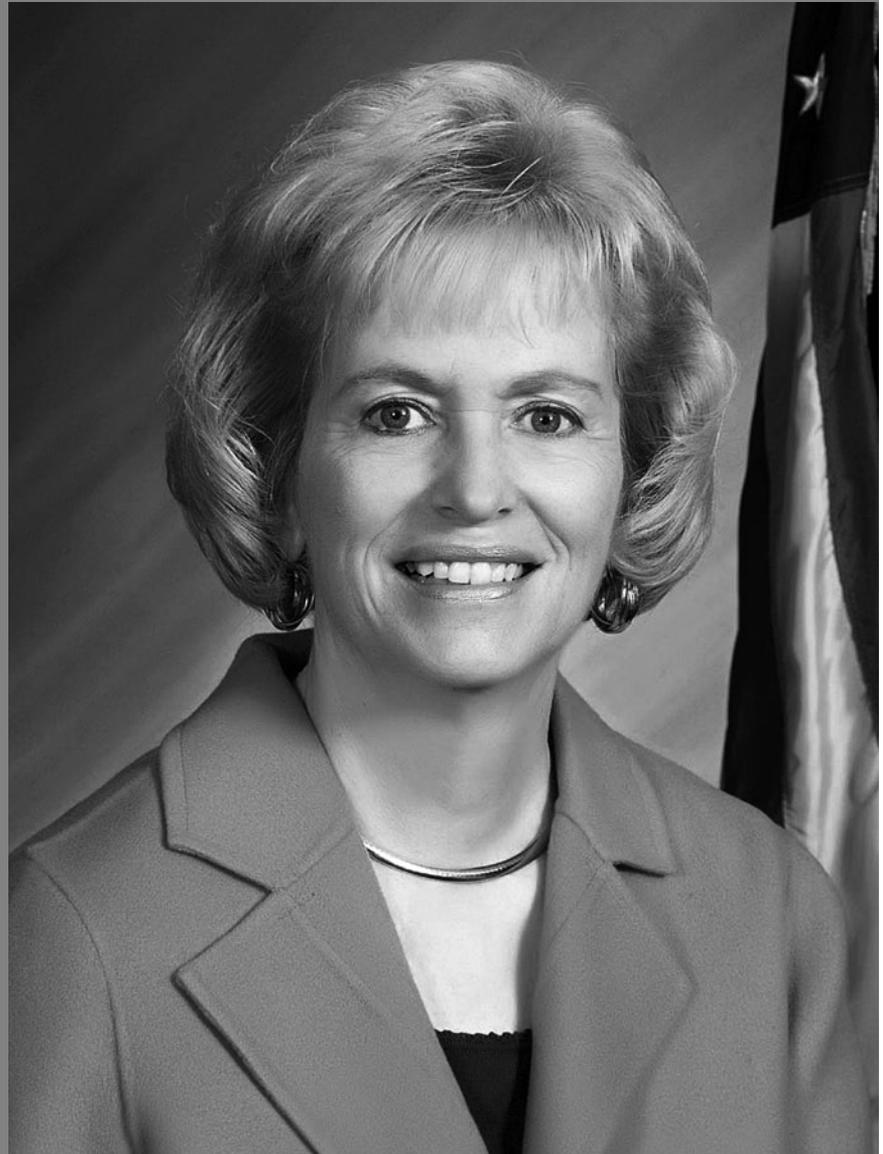
As a young man, Mr. Barnes enrolled at University of Michigan on a swimming scholarship. He planned to become a dentist, but changed his mind after taking a historical geology class. He first explored for oil with Exxon, and then became a successful independent producer. Though some of his wells are still producing, a time came when it was difficult for independent producers to compete. Weighing his future employment options, he moved to Evansville and accepted a position at University of Southern Indiana, which was starting a new geology program. From 1969-1989, he taught geology, physics, and geography, and retired as assistant professor.

Choosing a position at USI “was the best thing for me,” he said. “I developed new insights, took art classes, learned how a university operates, studied philosophy and creative writing, and helped rebuild a field camp in Wyoming for University of Michigan,” he related.

He speaks lovingly of his family—he has three sons and four grandchildren—and proudly of his former students. “Lisa Rhoades Goggin was my most successful student; she discovered Chevron’s largest Gulf of Mexico oil deposit,” he said.

To honor his beloved grandmother, Professor Barnes created the Belle McGregor Student Scholarship in Geology in 1998, and he plans to add to the fund through his estate plans. His will also includes bequests to honor three treasured USI colleagues and for the Wyoming field camp he helped to restore. But he is not resting. “I am looking for a new purpose,” he said, as he talked about rejuvenating the nature walks around the USI campus.

*Vaneta Becker  
likes being  
involved in  
the process of  
betterment.*



## Vaneta G. Becker '94

Alumna Vaneta Becker is one of Southwest Indiana's most senior lawmakers, appointed at age 31 to fill a vacant seat in the Indiana House of Representatives. She served 25 years there before moving to the Indiana State Senate in 2005. She was an advocate for the establishment of the University of Southern Indiana as a separate state university. "Establishing USI as a separate state university is a major accomplishment," she said, "but working for USI's fair share of funding also has been fulfilling."

Senator Becker is known as a consensus builder, capably uniting interest groups to ensure progress and working across political lines with ease. Being in the legislature "has been an opportunity to be a champion for the community on issues that affect people's daily lives," she said.

Raised by a single mother of five children, Becker, as a teenager, helped support her family. After high school she worked as a property manager and sold insurance. She married Ray Becker, a former Evansville City Council member who died unexpectedly in 1975. Her experience in his campaigns, her precinct committee work, and her fund-raising efforts for candidates led Republican Party officials to appoint her to the House in 1981. She has been elected each time she has stood for election to the legislature.

Senator Becker serves on the Indiana Commission for Women, the Senate Health and Provider Services Committee, and is a member of a state advisory organization on long-term health issues. She was instrumental in founding the Albion Fellows Bacon Center, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, and she has served on the boards of Ark Crisis Nursery and the YWCA. She also serves on the Alcoa Community Advisory Board. She recently won the first Albion Fellows Bacon Award at Evansville's Women's Equality Day celebration.

While serving in the House, she returned to USI as a nontraditional student and earned her degree in political science. Today she is married to educator Andy Guarino and continues as a broker with FC Tucker Emge Realtors.

A member of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, Senator Becker plans a scholarship endowment for women studying political science.

*Meg Blair enjoys  
making important  
things happen.*



*Meg (left) and Lori Blair*

## Margaret "Meg" Henderson Blair

In her own words, Meg Blair likes to "get things started." She has worked with the most prominent corporations and academic institutions, but she chose to fund the first Presidential Scholarship and endow the first chair at the University of Southern Indiana to "get things started."

In 2005, Meg was named Marketing Practitioner of the Year by the Academy of Marketing Science, an international association of marketing academics. It was a fitting achievement for someone who has dedicated her life's work to marketing as a discipline and to improvement in financial performance, by applying the science of measurement to the art of marketing.

Meg Blair is best known in Southern Indiana as co-founder and president of research systems corporation (rsc). After building rsc into a globally regarded firm, she and her wife Lori left Evansville with plans to retire, but a group of industry leaders pressed her to keep working on the marketing accountability initiative. In 2007, Meg became the founding president of the Marketing Accountability Foundation and its Marketing Accountability Standards Board (MASB).

Because MASB is a "virtual" body of academics and practitioners living throughout the world, modern telecommunications enable the Blairs to divide their time between homes in Nantucket, Massachusetts, and Islamorada, Florida. They gifted their 34-acre Blair Pond property, located near the University, to the USI Foundation.

In all the places where they have lived, Meg and Lori have been active in their churches and their communities. Meg was a member and trustee of First Presbyterian Church in Evansville where they both "loved the people in the congregation and the music."

Meg volunteers her expertise in strategic planning to assist churches and other nonprofit organizations in focusing on mission and directions for success, continuing her commitment to "making important things happen."

She was educated at Sarah Lawrence College and the New School for Social Research. In 1994, Meg received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Southern Indiana. Conferral of the degree recognized her international prominence in marketing and service to the Evansville community.

*Jim and Barbara  
Blevins wanted  
others to share  
their love of  
the arts.*



## James R. and Barbara K. Blevins

Jim and Barbara Blevins can be called the ultimate champions for private support of the arts and humanities at the University of Southern Indiana. Dr. Blevins, who died in 2007, was one of the earliest faculty members and became the first dean of Liberal Arts. Mrs. Blevins, also an educator, taught in Evansville's public schools, supervised USI student teachers, and taught USI noncredit classes. They met while both were teaching in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Blevins earned degrees at David Lipscomb College and George Peabody College, where Mrs. Blevins also graduated.

Mrs. Blevins served on the boards of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and its Guild as well as Willard Library and its Friends. Dr. Blevins was former chair of the Indiana Committee for the Humanities. At USI, they co-founded the Society for Arts and Humanities, a lively group that supports theatre, music, and the arts. Dr. Blevins saw opportunities for USI's theatre program to grow by producing regional professional theatre.

Mrs. Blevins was her husband's most ardent booster. She was the creative genius behind fund-raising events for USI, its theatre program, and community arts organizations.

Explaining the energy he and Mrs. Blevins gave to building private support for education and the arts, Dr. Blevins once said, "All of us who were here in the early days got caught up in the growth and possibilities of this new university."

The 20th anniversary season of New Harmony Theatre was dedicated to them, honoring their vision and dedication to its success. They also were recipients of the Arts Advocate of the Year Award from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana. She retired in 1995 and he retired in 2000.

A planned gift is in place to ensure future funding at USI for their interests. They established a student development fund to support travel, participation in conferences, and research. A 10-week tour of Europe's music festivals as an undergraduate inspired Mrs. Blevins' lifetime enjoyment of music, theatre, opera, travel, and all the interests she and Dr. Blevins shared. "Students need to see what is going on in the world," she said.

*The Brundicks' contributions to USI Athletics have been remarkable.*



## Edward L. Jr and Holley A. Brundick

Ed and Holley Brundick hoped to settle in a Midwestern community after Dr. Brundick completed nine years as a surgeon in the U.S. Air Force, including time in Germany. He accepted an opportunity in Evansville, where “everyone was so nice,” he said.

Dr. Brundick studied at University of Kansas and entered medical school at University of Missouri, where he met his bride-to-be. Married during his junior year in medical school, they recently celebrated 50 years of marriage.

Beginning in 1971, Ed volunteered as the team physician to Evansville athletic teams. In 1998, he was selected as the first recipient of the Indiana State Medical Association Team Physician Award. He served 27 years as USI’s team doctor, and nearly 20 years at Central High School. Long-time Varsity Club members, the Brundicks have supported a variety of USI initiatives. They are avid golfers and as a member of Victoria National Golf Club, Dr. Brundick was influential in arranging for USI Athletics to be the beneficiary of the prestigious Victoria National Endowment Tournament, which he chaired in 2002.

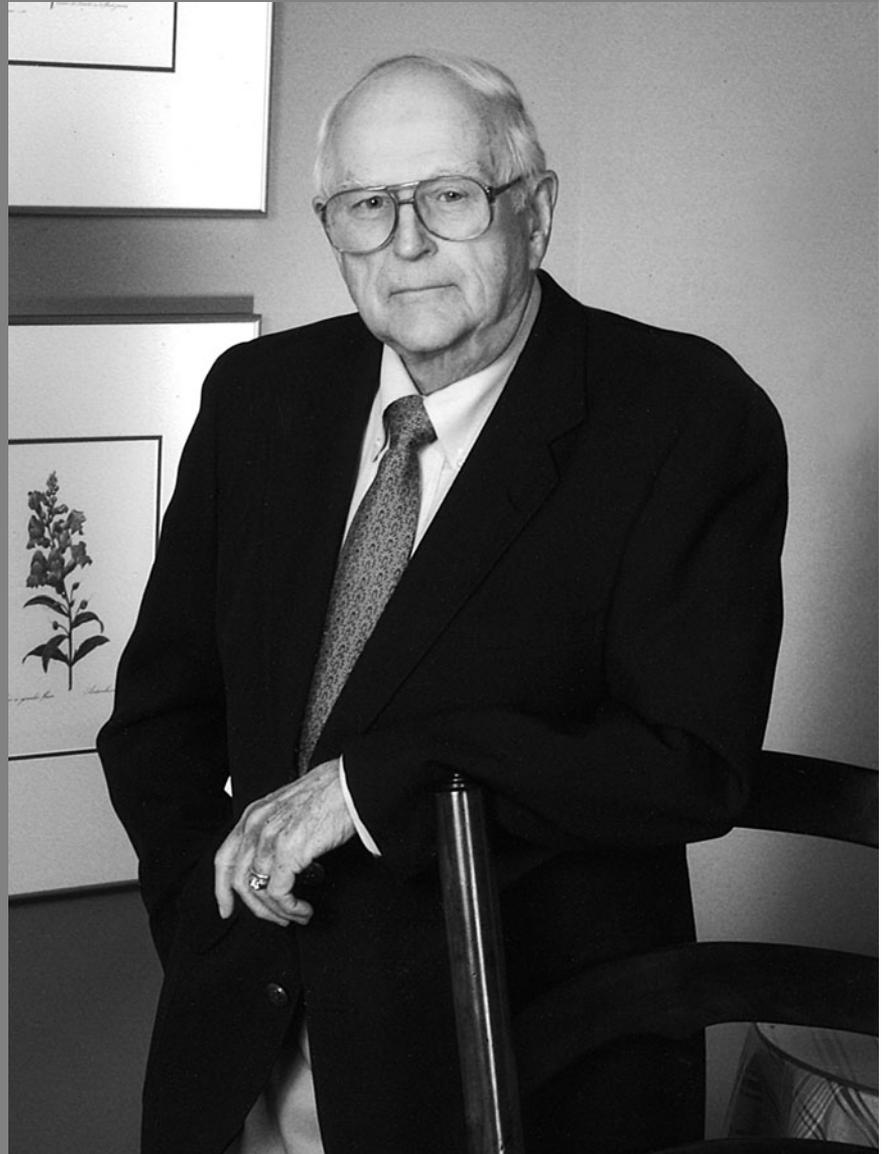
Dr. Brundick practiced orthopaedic surgery for many years with Orthopaedic Associates. In 2008, Orthopaedic Associates honored his service by naming its new building for him. In retirement he works part time at the Evansville Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

Dr. and Mrs. Brundick have been active board members for Deaconess Hospital and its Foundation. Mrs. Brundick has applied her considerable gardening expertise caring for the rose beds at St. Mary’s Hospital and at St. Mary Catholic Church, where the Brundicks worship. Active in the Vanderburgh County Medical Auxiliary, she also took an active role in their three children’s school and extracurricular activities.

For almost a decade, the Brundicks hosted the USI “Florida Friends” event when they had a home in Sarasota. Through the USI Foundation, they established the Edward L. Brundick Jr. and Holley Brundick Charitable Remainder Trust. An unrestricted fund, it will allow the University to meet its most pressing needs.

In recognition of Dr. Brundick’s extraordinary service to his profession and the University, USI awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1999.

*Bob Davies  
made an early  
investment in  
USI's engineering  
program.*



## Robert A. Davies

World War II interrupted Bob Davies' college education, but the experience shaped his lifelong love of flying. In September 1942, the summer before his sophomore year at Evansville College, he entered the service. He wanted to fly, but the Air Corps required two years of college. Undaunted, he passed an equivalency test and began his training. He flew B-25 bombers in combat, and at war's end, he joined the reserves, ultimately retiring with 20 years of service. He came home intent on finishing his college degree in industrial technology, but his father's health dictated that he take over management of the family's business.

Mr. Davies owned a commercial and residential construction business and also had a retail store. Active in community leadership positions, he has served on the Evansville City Council and the Vanderburgh County Commission. He was a board member of the American Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, Evansville Museum, Reitz Home Museum, and Willard Library.

Over the years, Mr. Davies kept his pilot's license active and, with a friend, owned a number of increasingly complex airplanes. Although he does not fly anymore, he proudly wears an Air Force One cap given to him by President Ronald Reagan.

For many years, he was married to Sara Burckhardt Davies, a member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors and founder of the Community Foundation Alliance. She was the long-time director of Leadership Evansville. Her father, Thompson Burckhardt, had been an early USI Foundation Board member. Mr. Davies said that his wife talked him into the creation of an engineering scholarship at USI, and then he made another gift after she died in 2003.

"I like to give to an institution like USI because it will do something important with the gift—like the engineering scholarship. It will be spent as it needs to be spent," he said.

Mr. Davies is now married to Billie A. Sanders, a Certified Public Accountant who has been active in local philanthropic work, including the presidency of the Evansville Estate and Financial Planning Council.

*The Ehlers  
are making a  
difference.*



## Craig R. and Margaret “Peg” Ehlen

Educators Craig and Peg Ehlen have been philanthropic pacesetters at their respective institutions of higher education. Craig is professor of accounting at University of Southern Indiana and Peg is professor of English at Ivy Tech Community College in Evansville.

When Dr. Ehlen joined USI, he brought 20 years of experience in public accounting and senior financial management with major corporations, including American General Finance in Evansville. “In the corporate world, it was not only expected, but required, that you participate in philanthropic endeavors,” he said. When he started teaching, giving seemed natural.

Dr. Ehlen switched careers when he took a one-year appointment at USI in 1989, then completed his Doctor of Business Administration degree in 1994 at Southern Illinois University. Honored in his new career, he has received the Indiana CPA Society “Outstanding Educator” Award. He has played a central role in strengthening the USI accounting program, whose students consistently win state and national competitions.

The Ehlen family has enjoyed the progress of their individual institutions. At USI, the development of residential opportunities, Dr. Ehlen believes, has given faculty “a chance to have more contact with students, to build community, and to engage in academic projects such as the accounting competition.”

Mrs. Ehlen, who has taught for 22 years in public schools and community colleges, remembers the importance of early agreements between Ivy Tech and USI. “We now see many students move back and forth between the institutions, and Ivy Tech has been able to develop many more programs that are tied directly to USI’s degree programs,” she explained.

Through the Ivy Tech Foundation, they have created the Peg Ehlen Scholarship, offered to a broad range of students and favoring those with disabilities. At USI, students benefit from the Craig R. Ehlen Endowed Accounting Scholarship, earmarked for senior accounting majors who have expressed an interest in careers in public accounting, internal auditing, or forensic accounting. Through *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, they have an estate gift in place.

Of their philanthropy, Dr. Ehlen said, “We like the idea of a legacy; to set an example for our children and grandchildren to learn to support what is important to them.”

*Helen Elliott's  
legacy is forever  
linked to her  
beloved New  
Harmony.*



Helen Elliott never forgot that her great-grandfather, James Elliott, was a member of Robert Owen's Community of Equality, one of the two utopian experiments in the founding years of New Harmony. She grew up in New Harmony's atmosphere of intellectualism and pursued her interest in history and English, receiving a bachelor's degree from Oxford College and a master's degree from Indiana University. She also did graduate work at University of Chicago and Indiana University.

She taught briefly at Poseyville High School before moving to Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis, where she retired in 1947 after 27 years as a teacher and counselor. Aware of her heritage, she researched and wrote about New Harmony and the pioneering Elliott family and was a regular contributor to the Indiana Historical Society publications.

Miss Elliott served on the boards of the Indiana Pioneers Society, Harmonie Associates, and Historic New Harmony, Inc. She was a regent of the New Harmony chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and secretary of the New Harmony Memorial Commission.

She and her family gave the State of Indiana 700 acres of farm land for the nucleus of the 3,100-acre Harmonie State Park along the banks of the Wabash River.

Miss Elliott died in 1982 and left her handsome Steamboat Gothic home, across the street from the Workingmen's Institute in New Harmony, and a generous bequest for its restoration, to Historic New Harmony. The home has been carefully and lovingly restored, thanks to donations to the USI-New Harmony Foundation and its annual Summer Hat Luncheon. It now houses the offices of Historic New Harmony, a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

Miss Elliott's niece, Jane Hickam Grizzell, spent many summers and holidays in the New Harmony home. Through her gifts and fund-raising efforts, she helped restore the house. "My Aunt Helen left a legacy of love and integrity for our family, and we remember her many lovely qualities," she said fondly.

Though Miss Elliott sought no recognition for her work on behalf of New Harmony, she received many accolades including an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from University of Southern Indiana.

*History, heritage,  
and community  
motivated  
Liz Fortune's  
philanthropy.*



## Elizabeth Candee Gilbert Fortune

Elizabeth Fortune was a Texas oil heiress who adopted the Hoosier state after marrying Indianapolis businessman Robert P. "Pete" Fortune. With her husband, who was president of an exporting firm, she led civic endeavors for decades, generously sharing the couple's resources with business and philanthropic groups.

Mr. Fortune's grandfather was an early investor in Eli Lilly Company. Her family, the Gilberts, were among the first settlers of Beaumont, Texas, and amassed a fortune in oil exploration and real estate. She was a 1940 graduate of Connecticut College and married Pete Fortune in the early 1950s.

Interested in history, Mrs. Fortune was the first Hoosier elected to the Council of the American Museum in Bath, England, which depicts United States history and art. Known for her high energy and enchanting personality, she motivated others to philanthropy, urging Indianapolis business leaders to raise money for charities and civic improvements. "It's an old cliché," she was quoted as saying, "but it takes money to make money."

Mrs. Fortune was a board member of the National Society of Colonial Dames in Indiana and the USI-New Harmony Foundation. The Colonial Dames chapter owns and maintains the historic David Lenz house, a site on the New Harmony tour. A close friend of the late Jane Blaffer Owen, she financially supported the restoration of the Rapp Owen Granary. She was active in many Indianapolis organizations, including Trinity Episcopal Church.

In 1972, Mr. and Mrs. Fortune donated more than a quarter of a million dollars for the Fortune-Fry Research Laboratory at the Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis Center for Advanced Research. The lab brought together the engineering expertise of Purdue and the medical knowledge of IU to develop the science of bioengineering, and used ultrasonic diagnostic equipment. The work helped prolong the life of the Fortunes' daughter, the late Candee Wild, who died from a brain tumor in 1978.

Mr. Fortune died in 1973 and Mrs. Fortune died in 2002. Inspired by the work of her good friend Jim Sanders, former director of Historic New Harmony, Mrs. Fortune remembered Historic New Harmony in her will with an unrestricted bequest of \$50,000.

*The Franklins help  
charities express  
appreciation.*



## Joseph E. "Jef" and Neal A. Franklin

Dr. Joseph E. "Jef" Franklin and his wife Neal are transplanted East Coast natives who came to Evansville for a quality of life on which they now thrive. In 1975, Dr. Franklin had finished a medical fellowship in gynecological oncology when a medical recruiter introduced him to an opportunity at Evansville's Welborn Clinic.

Evansville was a contrast to the lives the Franklins left behind. Mrs. Franklin grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Vassar College, studying political science and French on a full scholarship. Dr. Franklin, son of a New Jersey surgeon, graduated from Haverford College and the New Jersey College of Medicine. The couple met through Dr. Franklin's college roommate, who had a girlfriend at Vassar. "I had the car...", Dr. Franklin explained.

"We wanted to live in a place where our children could have freedom to enjoy the values of the society we see reflected here," Mrs. Franklin said. "There are so many attractive features of this community that are affordable and accessible...the Zoo, the Philharmonic, two colleges, the Children's Museum; and we like supporting good things."

The Franklins became involved with USI after a mutual friend introduced them to then-head basketball coach Bruce Pearl. First avid basketball supporters, the Franklins now also support academics, especially the arts. Mrs. Franklin is in her second year as chair of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. She has been a leader in the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and its Guild, the Public Education Foundation, and the Women's Fund of the Vanderburgh County Community Foundation. Dr. Franklin is an avid golfer and president of Evansville's Coterie, the nation's oldest continuous dance club. He also serves on the Board of the Vanderburgh County Community Foundation.

The Franklins generously offer their spacious home in the Historic Preservation District for events that recognize donors to their favorite nonprofit organizations. "It is important to say 'thank you' to people who sustain the organizations which add so much to our community's vitality and quality of life," Mrs. Franklin emphasized.

Members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, they have an estate gift in place to support USI Theatre.

*Bob and Judy  
Griffin are long-  
time investors in  
higher education.*



## Robert E. and Judith A. Griffin

Bob and Judy Griffin have supported many USI endeavors over the years. They were early and enthusiastic boosters of the Presidential Scholarship program from the time of its inception in 1987. In 2003, they endowed the Robert E. and Judith A. Griffin Presidential Scholarship.

To honor Mrs. Griffin's parents and to perpetually assist Evansville Mater Dei High School students who attend USI, they endowed the Dr. John and Grace Eisterhold Scholarship. In addition, Mr. Griffin led a fund drive to establish the Robert D. and Mary Kay Orr Business Scholarship at USI. They also made a leadership gift to the Business and Engineering Center where the Project Management Laboratory is named for them.

Mrs. Griffin is an Evansville native. Mr. Griffin, a St. Louis native, came to the community after military service, armed with an M.B.A. degree. Seeking an entrepreneurial opportunity, he and Robert D. Orr, later governor of Indiana, invested in Indian Archery and Toy Corporation. The company added other ventures, became Indian Industries, and was purchased in 1973. It became Escalade, with Mr. Griffin as president and CEO, and today is a global leader in the sporting goods industry.

Mrs. Griffin's creativity is well known. With her husband, she restored a historic property in Newburgh, Indiana, where she operated a tea room for a time. She enrolled in art classes at USI, studying under sculptor and now Professor of Art Emeritus John McNaughton, who said she "did museum-quality work" and was able to "transfer her personality to the art she created." The Griffins and McNaughtons became fast friends.

In 1987, Mr. Griffin was elected to the USI Foundation Board of Directors and has served as its chair. He also has been active in the Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Junior Achievement, and the Indiana University School of Medicine Evansville Center. In 2003, USI recognized his innovative business leadership and service to the University with conferral of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He was elected to Evansville's Business Hall of Fame in 2008.

Members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, the Griffins have an estate gift in place to benefit the University.

*The Jermakowicz family has  
made international impact.*



*Eva*



*Walter III*

## Eva Jermakowicz '87 and Walter Jermakowicz III '03

Eva Jermakowicz and her son Walter III are true citizens of the world. The Jermakowicz family immigrated to the United States after being exiled from communist-ruled Poland in 1984. Eva's husband, Walter Jr, was an internationally known economist and advisor to Lech Walesa during the Polish Solidarity movement. While in exile, he won a Kosciusko Foundation Fellowship and a temporary visa to teach at a Pennsylvania college. He applied for political asylum and sought a permanent teaching position. His dean recommended he accept the offer of the "recently founded" University of Southern Indiana, saying "this one has the greatest potential for growth and expansion."

Eva later was appointed to the USI accounting faculty, and together the Doctors Jermakowicz continued their teaching and scholarship. Walter Jr, who died in 1998 at age 53, was the author of books and articles on emerging world economies and a consultant at the Harvard Institute for International Development of the World Bank. After his death, memorial contributions and other gifts from the family created the Walter W. Jermakowicz Memorial Scholarship for International Studies.

In 2008, Eva became chair of the Accounting and Business Law Department at Tennessee State University, moving closer to sons Walter III and Jeremi in Nashville. She has worked with the European Commission on implementing International Financial Reporting Standards by European Union Companies and has published three books on the subject.

Walter III earned two degrees in three majors as a USI undergraduate. He was USI's first Goldwater Scholar, won a Fulbright to study in Germany, presented his research in England, and pursued research opportunities at Mayo Clinic, IU School of Medicine, and Washington University. The student member of the USI Board of Trustees, he won the prestigious USI President's Medal. He has been studying at Vanderbilt University's joint M.D./Ph.D. program where he has completed a Ph.D. in neuroscience and two years of medical school. He plans a residency in neurosurgery and further research on neural prosthetics and brain-machine interfaces.

Both Eva and Walter III continue their close friendship with USI. Walter said, "USI showed us that what we heard in Europe is completely true. Through hard work and dedication, individuals can succeed in this country. The best decision I ever made was to enroll at USI."

*Civic leadership  
has characterized  
the Leitchs' lives.*



## Daniel and Diane Davidson “Dee Dee” Leitch

“Dee Dee” Leitch moved with her husband Dan to Philadelphia, Houston, and Evansville as his career developed. They came to Evansville in 1991 when he was appointed president and CEO of American General Finance, from which he retired as chairman in 1995. An enlightened and progressive community leader, Mr. Leitch urged his business colleagues to invest in the development of the University of Southern Indiana.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Leitch immersed themselves in civic affairs in every community they called home. For Mrs. Leitch, philanthropy was a way of life, learning from her grandfather, who raised the first million dollars for Boys Town, and her father, who worked “tirelessly” for Community Chest campaigns and economic development programs. She attended boarding school in Philadelphia and graduated from Bennett College in New York. Raising three children—Laura, David, and Ted—was a large part of her life, and she loved supporting their interests. A volunteer with her church, she taught Sunday school for 14 years and was active in the Junior League for 20 years.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University and the Wharton College at University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Leitch also studied at Harvard Business School. He was a pioneer in contemporary business practices, collaborating with RCA Data Processing in the first commercial use of computers for customer-data retrieval.

In Evansville, Mr. Leitch led the 1994 United Way campaign and served on several boards, including the Evansville Museum, USI College of Business Board of Visitors, and USI Foundation.

Mrs. Leitch stayed in the Evansville community after her husband’s untimely death in 1996 at age 63. She finished her husband’s term on the USI Foundation Board and has been an active member of the YWCA and its board. Mr. and Mrs. Leitch supported many of the University’s fund-raising efforts and became members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society through the donation of a charitable IRA. Reared with the idea of giving to charity, Mrs. Leitch believes it is an important part of life. “It gives me great pleasure to give,” she said.

*Aleen Rankin likes  
the progress that  
has come with  
USI's development.*



## Aleen K. Hahn Rankin

Aleen Rankin, who has lived all her life near the campus of the University of Southern Indiana, has witnessed a rich slice of history from her vantage point. The daughter of a respected western Vanderburgh County family, she tells stories from the Great Depression, grateful that she was the daughter of a farming family. "At least we had food...no one had money," she said.

And she was Ohio River-side to witness the launching of an LST ship produced not far from her home. "I was a sophomore at F.J. Reitz High School when my aunt got tickets to the launch...it was quite an occasion in Evansville," she related.

Mrs. Rankin and her sister were able to go to high school, but her older brothers did not because there was no transportation to school at that time. "I would have loved to go to college, but it simply was not possible," she lamented.

All these years later, she is deeply immersed in her favorite college. She is a member of the USI President's Associates and the *Reflections* Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation. She lives on the edge of the USI campus at Solarbron Pointe Retirement Center, where she moved after the death of her husband, James E. Rankin.

An Army veteran, Mr. Rankin served in World War II, including time in the Pacific Theatre. Together the couple owned a car wash business before he joined the Army Corps of Engineers to work at Dam 46 on the Ohio River, following in his father's footsteps. He retired in 1980 after 20 years. Married for 50 years, the couple loved fishing, thoroughbred horse racing, and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. Their home, not far from USI, was on property that had been in the Hahn family for many years.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Rankin created an estate plan that included a gift to benefit the USI Foundation. She later established a charitable gift annuity from which she receives income during her lifetime. The James E. and Aleen K. Rankin Endowment in the Vanderburgh County Community Foundation will benefit her church and USI students of the future.

*Dorothea Schlechte's  
charm and lively  
curiosity drew  
others to her work.*



## Dorothea Johnson Schlechte

Dorothea Schlechte made many generous gifts during her 102-year sojourn on this earth. A native of Michigan, she came to Evansville in 1948 when her husband, Walter A. Schlechte, accepted the position of executive vice president at Old National Bank. He ultimately became chairman of the board.

A 1929 graduate of Northern Michigan University where she was president of both her sorority and the senior class, Mrs. Schlechte had taught biology and physical education in Michigan public schools. She loved the arts and nature and studied drawing, painting, and sculpture. A founding member of the Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, she held lifetime memberships in The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society, and took birding trips throughout Northern and Central America. She and Mr. Schlechte traveled widely, with many trips to her ancestral home in Norway.

In the sixties, she persuaded her husband to convert Old National Bank's Washington Square community room into an art gallery, exhibiting the work of local art faculty and students. This began the bank's long-standing commitment to the arts. Old National funded the Old Gallery in the Evansville Museum and now uses its riverfront headquarters lobby and public areas to display works of art. A promoter of the arts for over six decades, Mrs. Schlechte was recognized for her arts leadership with the conferral of the Arts Advocate of the Year Award from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana in 2003.

She created the Dorothea Johnson Schlechte Art Scholarship Endowment at USI to assist students in perpetuity. Mrs. Schlechte also provided underwriting for the creation of the artistic façade at the entrance of the David L. Rice Library at USI. The limestone relief was designed by USI artists Katie Waters and John McNaughton, cast in clay, and produced by Evans Limestone Company in Bedford, Indiana.

Mr. Schlechte died in 1988; he had retired from Old National in 1980 after 30 years. Mrs. Schlechte died in April 2010. They were the parents of three children, Tom, Anne, and John. At her funeral, Reverend Kevin Fleming captured her spirit, saying, "She loved beauty in all its incarnations. She loved her family. She loved life."

*Service and  
learning are  
at the core of  
the Schriefers'  
activities.*



## **Victor V. Schriefer Jr and Margaret E. "Peg" Schriefer**

During his lifetime, Vic Schriefer has pursued many interests, and in retirement he continues to pursue education. As a pre-schooler, he moved to Evansville with his parents, Dr. Victor V. Schriefer, M.D. and Margaret E. Smith Schriefer.

Working his way through college while employed at WUEV Radio and local television stations, in 1966 he earned a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from the University of Evansville. Mr. Schriefer ultimately put his science background to work at Sterling Brewery, which became G. Heileman Brewing Company, where he retired as quality control manager in 1994.

Mr. Schriefer served his country in the U.S. Air Force as an airborne radio operator, receiving an honorable discharge in 1961. He is a "ham" radio operator, and though the language has evolved from Morse Code to Skype on computers, he continues his networking. He long has been interested in music and theatre, influenced by his mother Peg, who performed for many years in Evansville's Civic Theatre productions. Mrs. Schriefer has estate plans that will create the Margaret E. Schriefer Liberal Arts Endowment at USI.

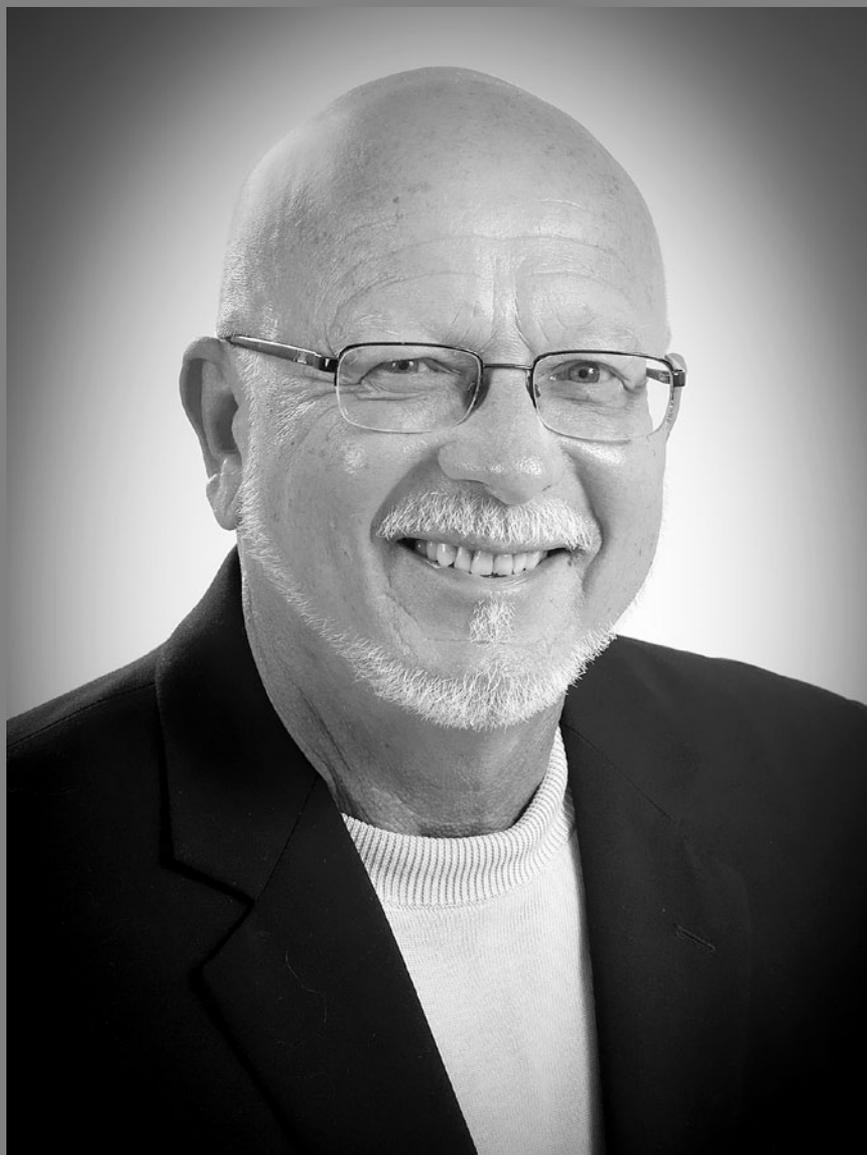
Mr. Schriefer has achieved almost 50 years in Masonic service and soon will receive the Meritorious Service Award from the Scottish Rite, where he has been a 40-year choir member. To give back to his fellow Masons, Mr. Schriefer has an estate gift endowment in place to benefit the residents of the Masonic Home in Franklin, Indiana.

Mr. Schriefer audits classes at USI and University of Evansville, keeping his knowledge current in math and science. In his spare time, he tutors middle school students at his church and is a volunteer staff member at WNIN-TV.

Mr. Schriefer has been a member of the USI Foundation Board since 2006. He has funded three Bachelor/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) scholarships at USI and is a generous contributor to the Annual Fund. He made a leadership gift for programmatic support in the USI Business and Engineering Center where the communications laboratory is named for him. His estate plan will provide scholarships for the College of Nursing in perpetuity and also assure that the University's greatest needs are met through an unrestricted endowment.

In recognition of his community service and philanthropy, USI awarded him an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2008. He has remarked that becoming Dr. Schriefer is his greatest honor.

*Norman Schwartz  
plans to assist  
future educators.*



## Norman L. Schwartz '71

Norman Schwartz plans an estate gift that will endow the Elaine C. and Norman L. Schwartz Scholarship for Future Educators. Priority will be given to elementary education majors, married students, and graduates of Evansville Central High School.

Mr. Schwartz originally created the scholarship as a memorial to his wife Elaine '81, who died in 2005 at age 61. A member of the last graduating class of the former Central High School in downtown Evansville, she earned her bachelor's degree at University of Southern Indiana, her master's in education from Indiana State University, and also earned an associate degree in interior design at Ivy Tech Community College. Mrs. Schwartz taught for 23 years in Evansville schools and according to Mr. Schwartz, "educating children was a priority in her life."

She also was a member of Calvary Baptist and Crossroads Christian churches. Mr. Schwartz continues to attend Crossroads and has been active in the USI Varsity Club. When their two sons, Eric, who "walked on" in soccer at USI, and Aaron, were young, he coached youth soccer. Today, the travel necessary in his consulting business has made coaching impossible. He is a member of Rolling Hills Country Club where he says he is an "average but enthusiastic" golfer.

Mr. Schwartz was a member of the first graduating class of USI. While attending college, he worked at Bristol Myers Squibb and continued his employment there after earning a bachelor's degree in biology. In 1993, he retired from Bristol Myers' Quality Assurance department and became a consultant, monitoring human clinical drug trials. In the past he has managed contracts at Covance, the Clinical Research Group at Deaconess Hospital, and Bristol Myers, auditing the way trials are conducted and reporting to the companies that authorized the trials.

Mr. Schwartz is a member of the USI Alumni President's Associates through the USI Foundation.

He and his fiancée, Charity Frey '10, a graduate of USI's acute care nurse practitioner master's degree program, enjoy attending USI events, including the annual President's Associates dinner.

*Mary Legler  
Wilson fully  
appreciates  
the value of a  
scholarship.*



## Mary Legler Wilson

Mary Legler Wilson's ancestors were Southern Indiana settlers, dating to a sizeable 1836 land purchase in Evansville. Though she was born in Rockford, Illinois, and grew up in Pennsylvania, she moved to Evansville after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh and teaching briefly. In Evansville she worked at Serval, interpreting blueprints for the wartime production of wings for P-47 aircraft, finding that her mathematics major served her well.

Following the war, she worked for an advertising agency and then returned to teaching. For many years she lived in California, but returned to Evansville in 1968 when her husband William Robert Wilson retired from civilian work for the U.S. Air Force.

University of Southern Indiana captured her interest after she attended Madrigal dinners, where she made friends with University faculty and supporters.

Mrs. Wilson became a charter member of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society by remembering the USI Art Department in her will. She later established a charitable gift annuity that will fund the Mary Legler Wilson Endowed Science Scholarship, perpetually benefitting USI students interested in pursuing careers in science-related fields.

She said that she favors scholarships because she graduated from high school during the Depression and needed a scholarship to attend college. "If I had not had a scholarship, I would not have had a college education," she explained.

She also cited her family's legacy in education. In addition to her own teaching career, Mrs. Wilson's mother was a teacher and her great-uncle was principal of Evansville's Cedar Hall School. Her son Edward earned a doctorate in experimental physics at Stanford University and is retired from teaching at the University of San Francisco. Mrs. Wilson's husband died in 1980, and in 2007 she moved to Redwood City, California, to be closer to her son. No longer needing her Evansville home, she used the proceeds from its sale to create her scholarship endowment.

Before she moved to California, her long-time support of the University was recognized by the USI Society for Arts and Humanities at its annual meeting.

## USI Foundation Board Chairs

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1968–1973

Albert A. Woll†  
1973–1976

E. Donald Elliott†  
1976–1986

R. Jack Brunton†  
1986–1987

C. Wayne Worthington†  
1987–1992

Ted C. Ziemer Jr  
1992–1998

Robert E. Griffin  
1998–2000

John M. Dunn  
2000–2002

Carolyn S. Georgette†  
2002–2003

Ronald D. Romain '73  
2003–2006

Thomas E. Topper†  
2006–2008

Bix Branson  
2008–2010

Kevin M. Eastridge  
2010–

† Deceased



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