

# 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 10,000 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,

The \$200 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Frank F. McDonald Sr. in 1968 began a legacy of giving from generous friends which continues today and which will benefit the University of Southern Indiana for untold generations to come.

This year's edition of *Faces of Philanthropy* contains the photographs and stories of old friends; or, perhaps, people with familiar names and faces. And for some readers, this is an introduction to the gracious and generous men and women featured in this second edition.

What we have in common, however, what unites all of us, is a great institution of higher learning. Some of the people in these pages never met one another, but they all shared one common belief—that higher education should be not only excellent but affordable and accessible—and they worked tirelessly so that the University of Southern Indiana could flourish.

We remain grateful to all those who chose to support the University in the past and we sincerely thank those who support its work today. May those featured here be a source of inspiration to all to help, whenever we can and however we can, to develop opportunities at the University of Southern Indiana.

Sincerely,



David A. Bower  
Director of University Development  
President, USI Foundation  
October 1, 2009



*As early  
supporters of USI,  
Charlie and Mary  
Alice Bertram  
helped develop  
many aspects of  
University life.*



## Charles J. and Mary Alice Bertram

Dr. Charles Bertram and his wife Mary Alice were among the first members of the USI family. Dr. Bertram was an early mathematics faculty member who was revered as the chair of the Education Division. He also co-founded the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) of the NCAA Division II, served two terms as its president, and was USI's first GLVC Faculty Athletics Representative, from 1975-99 until his death. He was named to the GLVC Hall of Fame in 2002, and when USI began its own Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007, Dr. Bertram was among the inaugural class.

Dr. Bertram was widely regarded as the person who put USI intercollegiate sports on the map. He also was a co-founder of the USI Varsity Club. Drawing on his mathematics background, he created the popular Eagle Math program. Emulated nationally, it brought second- and third-grade students to USI to learn math concepts and interact with student athletes. Mrs. Bertram remembers "the kids loved going to campus because for them, it was going to college."

Also an educator, Mrs. Bertram was her husband's loyal partner in all he undertook for USI. She was one of former first lady Betty Rice's most constant volunteers in building community for the University, bringing new families into the USI circle and reaching out to the community on behalf of the University. Active in the Junior League, Philharmonic Guild, and Public Education Foundation, she has chaired Salem United Methodist Church Council, Friends of Willard Library, Pi Lambda Theta, and Altrusa. Mrs. Bertram retired as librarian from Vanderburgh County's Cynthia Heights Elementary School in 2001.

When Dr. Bertram died at age 60, former USI President H. Ray Hoops said that Dr. Bertram was "part of the heart and soul of this University." In Dr. Bertram's memory, his family established the Charles J. Bertram Memorial Scholarship for Student Athletes. Mrs. Bertram is proud that all recipients have been "high-achieving" in the classroom.

Mrs. Bertram remains a close friend of the University. A Perpetual Member of the President's Associates, she made a gift to name the Bertram Labs for Mathematics in the Science and Education Center. To honor her parents and remember her brother, she established the Lehman-Bertram Memorial Scholarship, and she plans an estate gift as well. Because her father was a self-taught biblical scholar, she thinks she might like to establish a scholarship to benefit students in the humanities.

*Now living in Michigan, John and Carol Bolger stay connected to Evansville through USI activities.*



## John J. '80 and Carol M. Bolger

John '80 and Carol Bolger came to Evansville in the 1970s with Mr. Bolger's work for CrediThrift Financial, now American General. While moving through leadership positions in the company, he enrolled at USI to complete a bachelor's degree, something he had pursued at other institutions while being transferred with his job. For six years he took night classes and earned his degree in business. He became active in the USI Alumni Council and the College of Business Board of Visitors, which he served as treasurer. Mr. Bolger was Executive-in-Residence for the College of Business in 1986.

As president of CrediThrift, Mr. Bolger extended his community service to many organizations. He was active in Leadership Evansville, the Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Boy Scouts, and the Welborn Hospital Foundation Board. He and Mrs. Bolger also were active in their children's academic and extracurricular activities. They both served their church, Our Redeemer Lutheran, in leadership positions. The Bolgers regarded church as part of their weekly schedule and participated fully in church life. Mr. Bolger said that although Mrs. Bolger supported all aspects of his business and community service, her focus was always on the family.

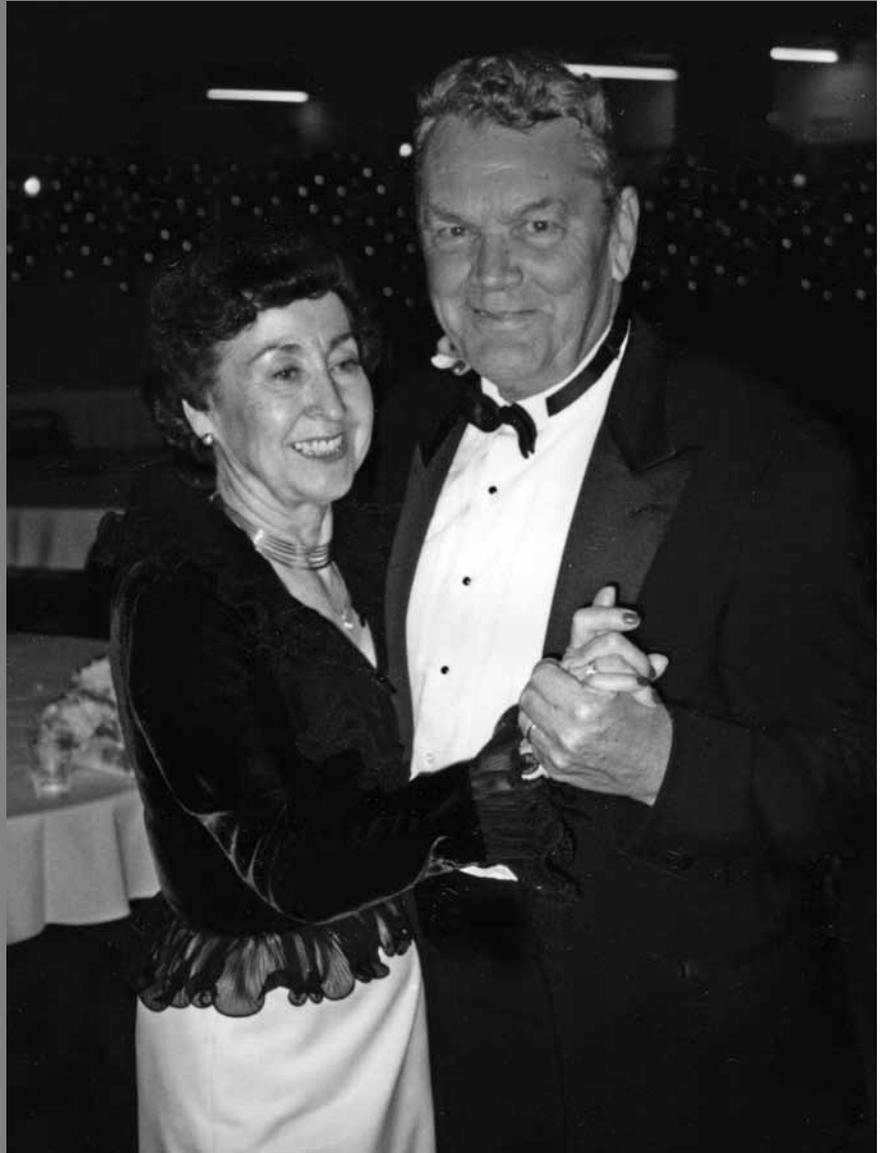
Today, retired and living in West Olive, Michigan, they both are focused on family. They have three children, two in the Chicago suburbs and one in the St. Louis area. The Bolgers try to be involved in the lives of all nine grandchildren, taking the Amtrak for frequent visits. When a grandchild turns age 10, a trip with these grandparents is in order. "We spend our days loving our grandchildren," Mr. Bolger said.

A long-time member of the USI Foundation Board, Mr. Bolger served as its treasurer and still serves on its Advisory Council. The Bolgers are members of the USI Foundation Alumni President's Associates.

In 1996, through the Vanderburgh County Community Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Bolger established the John and Carol Bolger Fund. Year after year, the Bolger Fund supports the University's award of the John and Carol Bolger Scholarship to a promising student in the College of Business.

The Bolgers have another home in Venice, Florida, and look forward to the annual USI family and friends reunion in Sarasota.

*Former USI Trustee  
Louise Bruce and  
her husband Bud  
quietly contributed  
to the economic  
well-being of Perry  
County, Indiana.*



## Hubert R. Bruce and Louise Simons Bruce

In 1995, when Louise S. Bruce was appointed by Indiana Governor Evan Bayh as a trustee of the University of Southern Indiana, she modestly worried if she would be up to the job. It took her no time at all to break complex issues down to a fundamental question: "Is this good for students?" For her, that was the bottom line.

Mrs. Bruce had a ready wit, a dazzling smile, and more energy than most people half her age.

When she died in 2006 at the age of 92, she had served three four-year terms on the board, and several years as secretary of the board. She was named Trustee Emerita shortly before her death.

Mrs. Bruce and her husband Hubert R. Bruce, known as Bud, were both children of the Great Depression, and had to forego a college education. Mrs. Bruce's USI experience, according to daughter Susan, meant that "Mom finally got to college."

Mr. Bruce was a self-taught engineer who started his own sand and gravel and construction business, owned towboats, built a seaport, and had coal mines. They founded the Ohio Valley Company in 1945 and Mr. Bruce was responsible for saving both the Can Clay Corporation and the Cannelton Bank. To preserve a piece of regional history and architecture, the couple purchased the Cannelton Cotton Mill, once the largest industrial building west of the Alleghenies, and donated it for adaptive re-use.

Mrs. Bruce was a businesswoman in her own right, managing the Bruce family's real estate rentals. Actively involved in their six children's lives, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce made sure each child had an opportunity to go to college. At Mr. Bruce's death in 1988, Mrs. Bruce became president and chairman of the board of Can Clay, which produces clay pipe products marketed world-wide.

Mrs. Bruce pursued her business, political, church, and volunteer activities with zeal, and represented Can Clay Corporation internationally. Interested in history, genealogy, and preservation, she was active in Daughters of the American Revolution, Perry County Historical Society, Historic Cannelton, Inc., and was a faithful member of St. Paul's Catholic Church.

Understanding the importance of philanthropy, Mrs. Bruce established the Hubert R. Bruce and Louise Simons Bruce Fund in the Perry County Community Foundation. A permanent endowment, it provides scholarships for Perry County students attending USI, matching her interests with the needs of deserving students from her home county.

*Jack and Bert  
Burgdorf share  
their time, talent,  
and resources  
to promote  
educational  
opportunities and  
athletics at USI.*



## Jack E. and Bertha J. Burgdorf

Bertha, known fondly as “Bert,” and Jack Burgdorf are long-time friends of USI who have given both their time and resources to create opportunities for students. They believe that higher education puts people in a position to help others and “that pulls the community up.” In their estate plan, the Burgdorfs have provided a gift to the USI Foundation through a charitable gift annuity. Their gift will provide an unrestricted scholarship at USI. “USI is a bright shining star...we watch students graduate and get good jobs, and we think that is wonderful,” Mrs. Burgdorf said.

In honor of Mrs. Burgdorf’s parents, Frances H. and Guy O. Cornell Sr., the Burgdorfs established the Cornell Memorial Scholarship. “My dad worked night and day and he always stressed education, saying you must work to get what you want. I thought it was appropriate to try to help USI students in my parents’ honor.” This annual scholarship is awarded to a Warrick County female student with financial need who participates in a minor sport or the dance or cheer team.

The Burgdorfs also have supported USI Athletics by establishing a \$25,000 Screaming Eagles Scholarship. Active in the Varsity Club, the Burgdorfs both work at the Varsity Club Booth – which Mr. Burgdorf actually helped to build – at the annual West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. They also help with the intramurals and recreation program and are enthusiastic boosters of women’s athletics. In recognition of Mr. Burgdorf’s extraordinary volunteerism at the University, the Volunteer USI program named him its first “Volunteer of the Decade” in 2007.

Mr. Burgdorf is a retired tool and die designer and Mrs. Burgdorf has worked for several local companies, including the University, filling in temporarily during registration. In their retirement years, they both enjoy volunteering. Mr. Burgdorf, a Korean War veteran, assists with VFW projects. Mrs. Burgdorf volunteers at the VA Clinic and enjoys genealogy research, par-three golf, and raising flowers, which she gives away.

The Burgdorfs raised three children. Their son Gary is a USI construction administrator, assuring that major construction projects stay on time and meet specifications and budget. His wife Carol works in USI Security.

*Together Bob and Carol  
Carithers enriched the  
quality of life through  
nurture of the arts.*



*Evening Song, 1996*  
Kathryn Waters, USI Art Faculty

## Robert W. and Carol Clausen Carithers

With her late husband Robert W. Carithers, Carol Carithers passionately pursued promotion of the arts at the University of Southern Indiana and in the community. Mr. and Mrs. Carithers collected and commissioned art and engaged themselves as volunteers in the southwestern Indiana arts community. They gave awards for student art shows and were instrumental in founding the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. "Bob was more into music, so he taught me about music, and I taught him about art," Mrs. Carithers noted.

Mrs. Carithers has a rich artistic background. Her mother painted, her brother is a New York artist, and she has worked as a commercial artist. The Carithers bought their first piece of art together on their honeymoon and continued collecting as they traveled and moved with Mr. Carithers' employment. When Mr. Carithers retired as a hospital executive, they came to Evansville where he had graduated from Bosse High School and University of Evansville. Mr. Carithers died in 1997, and after 33 years of marriage, the couple had amassed an impressive art collection. Mrs. Carithers donated several pieces of art to the University when she moved to St. Louis in 2007. She had grown up there and graduated from Webster University where she has once again become active, particularly in its opera program.

While in Evansville, Mrs. Carithers was an active volunteer in the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra Guild, Southwestern Indiana Arts Council, and the Reitz Home Museum. She chaired the Arts Committee of Evansville's Greenway Passage, now a centerpiece of downtown revitalization, and worked with USI students to create and install art work for the Greenway.

Charter members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, Mr. and Mrs. Carithers made known their intent to establish a generous endowment during *Campaign USI*. Mrs. Carithers also has plans in her estate to donate additional pieces of her art collection. The USI Society for Arts and Humanities honored Mr. Carithers by naming its Scholarship for Arts and Humanities in his honor.

In an *Evansville Courier* interview, Mrs. Carithers said she would like to be remembered "as someone who was of service to the community." The fact that she keeps her ties to the University of Southern Indiana is testimony to her commitment to being of service in preserving and promoting the arts.

*John and  
Gail Dunn's  
philanthropy and  
volunteerism have  
touched every  
good cause in  
southwest Indiana.*



## John M. and Gail A. Dunn

Evansville civic and business leaders John and Gail Dunn have invested their energies in many community organizations, but few so completely and tirelessly as the University of Southern Indiana. Mr. Dunn was encouraged by friends to join the USI Foundation Board of Directors in 1993, and Mrs. Dunn, whose roots are firmly entrenched in the west side of Evansville, enthusiastically supported him. Mr. Dunn assumed leadership in the USI Foundation, serving as chair from 2000-02.

Today, Mr. Dunn's leadership is focused on full development of the University as chair of the USI Board of Trustees. Appointed trustee in 2007 by Governor Mitch Daniels, Mr. Dunn, as Board chair, found himself immediately thrust into the role of chair of the USI Presidential Search and Screen Committee, which resulted in the appointment of Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett as the University's third president.

Before his trustee appointment, Mr. Dunn received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from USI in recognition of his innovative business leadership, prominence as a civic leader, advocacy for educational opportunity, and voluntary service to many nonprofit and social service organizations. Mrs. Dunn holds an honorary doctorate from Oakland City University where she and her husband, an alumnus, have been active volunteers.

The Dunns have touched almost every nonprofit entity in southwestern Indiana. One of Mr. Dunn's most prominent roles was as former chair of the Welborn Baptist Hospital Committee that carefully guided the sale of Welborn to Saint Mary's Medical Center, ultimately creating and funding the Welborn Baptist Foundation, which today makes generous grants to support improved community health, well being, and quality of life in a 14-county region of the Tri-state.

During *Campaign USI*, Mr. and Mrs. Dunn pledged an unrestricted estate gift, qualifying them for membership in *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation. The Dunns' gift to the Business and Engineering Center underwrote the Sales Classroom. Mrs. Dunn enjoys planning the annual gathering of USI friends and alumni in Sarasota, Florida, where the Dunns have another home.

Mr. Dunn is chair and CEO of Dunn Hospitality Group, Ltd. and a partner in the development of Eagle Crest Commercial Center on the eastern edge of Vanderburgh County where several Dunn Hospitality hotels are located.

*As a couple,  
Remig and  
Pauline Fehn  
were described  
as “always  
enthusiastic,  
informed, and  
selflessly generous  
of heart.”*



## Remig M. and Pauline G. Fehn

Pauline and Remig Fehn shared many mutual interests during their lifetimes. They loved the arts, community progress, travel, and gourmet cooking. Complementing one another, Mr. Fehn was described as thoughtful and reflective, and Mrs. Fehn as vivacious and energetic.

Mrs. Fehn was a flutist, a musical composer, and a poet. She was educated at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and began playing flute with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra when the Orchestra debuted in 1934. In 1980 when she retired as principal flutist, she held the distinction of being the orchestra member who had played with the Philharmonic the longest. She composed music for special events, including the wedding of her daughter, for whom she also made her wedding dress. Mrs. Fehn was nationally recognized for her poetry, particularly Oriental haiku verse.

A highly respected banker, Mr. Fehn gave up a Notre Dame scholarship to help support his family in the Great Depression, starting as a teller and retiring 57 years later as chairman of the board of People's Savings Bank. He was instrumental in changing Indiana's banking laws to allow banks with Indiana charters to become full-service banks, a project he shepherded for over a decade. An active volunteer, he gave leadership to the Indiana Bankers Association, Vanderburgh County Easter Seals, Kiwanis, Evansville Levee Authority, Redevelopment Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Evansville Industrial Foundation, Christ the King Catholic Church, and Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

Often asked what his musical talent was, Mr. Fehn would quip, "playing second fiddle to Pauline's flute." The Fehns were the first to endow a chair for the Philharmonic, named in Mrs. Fehn's honor. They also cherished their work for Easter Seals, planning together for the building that now houses the Rehabilitation Center.

The Fehns served as board members for the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. In their estate, they provided a gift to establish the Remig and Pauline Fehn Arts and Humanities Endowment. The annual award helps students grow in their knowledge and love of the arts and humanities.

The Fehns' advocacy of the arts was recognized in 1996 when they were jointly named recipients of the Evansville Mayor's Arts Award from the Southwestern Indiana Arts Council. Mr. Fehn died in 2001 at age 86. Mrs. Fehn preceded him in 1999 at age 78.

*Over many years, Evansville natives Elmer and Doris Halwes have engaged themselves in supporting USI students.*



## Elmer W. and Doris J. Halwes

Doris and Elmer Halwes think it is important to help students who need assistance to get through college. Mrs. Halwes graduated from Stephens College and University of Evansville and Mr. Halwes, whose friends call him Holly, graduated from Wabash College.

Mr. Halwes retired from National City Bank after 31 years in auditing and in accounting for the real estate and installment loans division. A Mason, he has been active in Scottish Rite and Hadi Shrine. Mrs. Halwes was a social worker, volunteered for the Red Cross and the Day School Opportunity Shop, and raised the couple's three sons. She has been an active member of the USI Foundation Board since 1997.

In 1999, they established the Bess C. and Elmer W. Halwes Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Vanderburgh Community Foundation to benefit USI students in the College of Business who are studying accounting or finance. The fund honors the memory of Mr. Halwes' parents; his father was a banker and his mother was an active volunteer.

The Halwes Fund provides support for the Bess C. and Elmer W. Halwes Memorial Dean's Scholarship at USI. The USI Foundation established the Deans Scholarships to complement the Presidential Scholarships. The 10 Deans Scholarships are highly competitive with five awarded to students in any major and five more given to one student in each of the USI colleges. Mr. and Mrs. Halwes were among the first University friends to establish a Deans Scholarship.

In partnership with Mrs. Halwes' brother, James A. Sanders, also a USI Foundation Board member, they established the Roy W. and Adelaide Daudistel Sanders Scholarship in honor of Doris' and Jim's parents. Roy Sanders worked for Servel and his wife was an active community volunteer. This fund provides financial assistance to USI students with disabilities, generously assisting three students annually.

Mr. and Mrs. Halwes support many University endeavors through the USI Foundation and the USI-New Harmony Foundation. They were honorary co-chairs with James Sanders for the 2009 Toast to the Arts, the principal fund-raising activity of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities.

*These Evansville expatriates continue to give back to the community where they had a successful business venture.*



## Donald R. and Allene H. Hazeltine

Don and Allene Hazeltine still call Evansville home even though they now live in Sarasota, Florida. From 1959-90, Mr. Hazeltine was a partner with Richard Shepard in early McDonald's restaurants. These fast-food pioneers who owned restaurants in southern Indiana and western Kentucky were included in the autobiography of Ray Kroc, founder of the McDonald's chain. Mr. Hazeltine was president of Southern Indiana Operating Company, Inc., the Hazeltine/Shepard partnership. He retired and moved to Florida in 1993.

While living in Evansville, Mr. Hazeltine served on the USI Foundation Board of Directors and was appointed to the Foundation's Advisory Council in 1989. Mrs. Hazeltine was an early supporter of USI, helping initiate a sorority system on campus through her work in Sigma Sigma Sigma.

During *Campaign USI*, the couple contributed an endowed Presidential Scholarship. Then, in 1999, they contributed a \$1 million charitable gift annuity to the USI Foundation. This deferred gift will pay an income to the Hazeltines during their lifetimes and then turn over the investment to the Foundation as an unrestricted gift. Theirs was the first million-dollar gift by a member of the USI Foundation Board.

"While working with the Foundation Board, we worked closely with David and Betty Rice, then president and first lady of USI. I was impressed with the good they were doing with what money they had. Evansville had been good to us, so we thought giving the money to the University would be a good way to give back to the Evansville community," Mr. Hazeltine said in a *USI Magazine* article in 2000. Mrs. Hazeltine agreed with him, saying, "Because we received a lot from the community, this is a way to give it back."

Former USI President H. Ray Hoops said the Hazeltines "represent the best in public citizenship. They view their giving not as charity, but as an investment in the future and in future generations."

The Hazeltines are part of a corps of Evansville expatriates who gather annually with the University president for a reunion in the Sarasota area. The Hazeltines each received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 2000.

*Successful in  
business and  
artistic endeavors,  
the Hirsches  
enjoyed helping  
students from  
Posey County,  
Indiana.*



## Charles E. and Erma N. Hirsch

Charles and Erma Hirsch had celebrated 58 years of marriage when Mrs. Hirsch died in 2005. Together they supported many common interests, and the University of Southern Indiana was fortunate to be among them.

Both from Poseyville, Indiana, they were active business leaders in the community. Mrs. Hirsch was a banker and Mr. Hirsch was an owner of Hirsch's Department Store and a well-known artist. Mrs. Hirsch retired as vice president of the Poseyville Branch of Farmers Bank and Trust after 47 years.

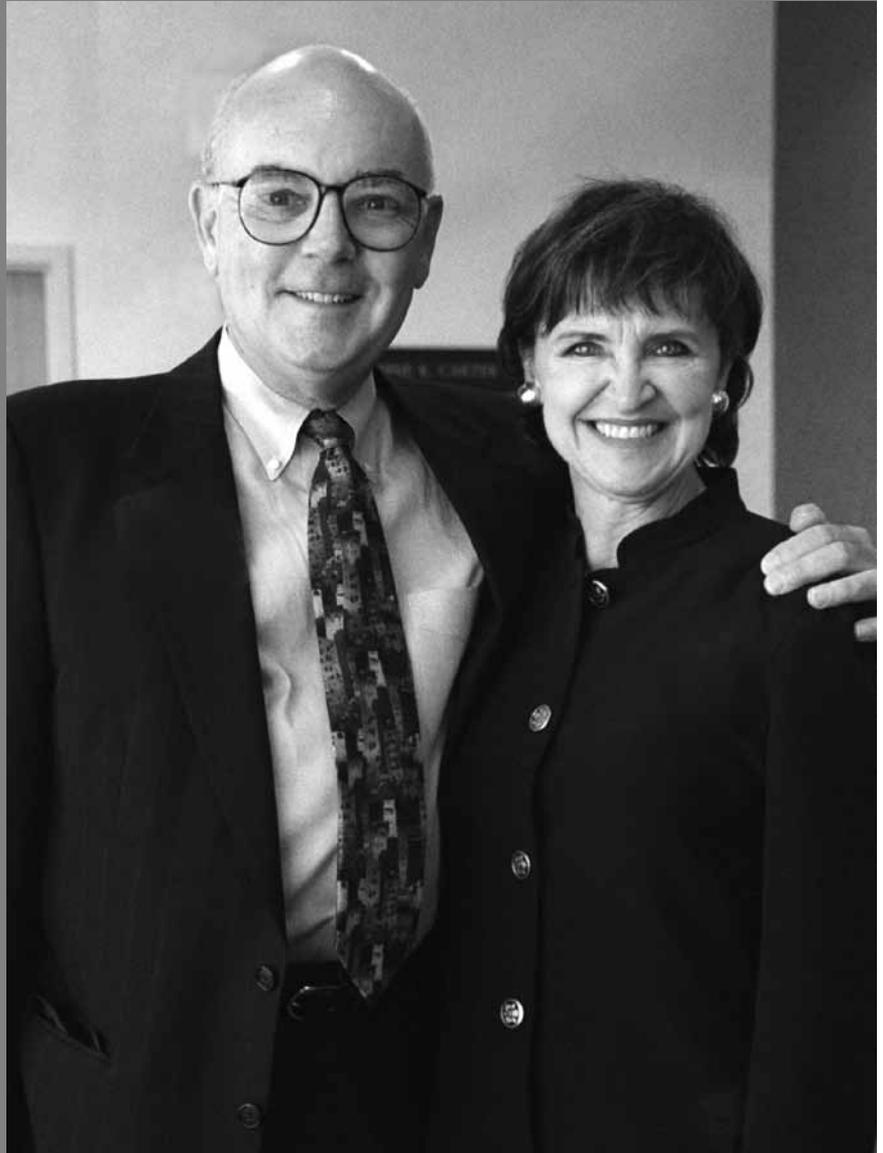
For some time, the couple had given an annual scholarship before they decided to establish the first of two endowment funds to perpetually support their scholarship interests. Their endowment gifts were matched by the Lilly Endowment in a challenge program offered to all Indiana institutions of higher education. To benefit graduates of North Posey High School, they first created the Charles E. Hirsch Endowed Scholarship for an entering student majoring in art, music, or theatre and the Erma Nix Hirsch Endowed Scholarship for an entering student in the College of Business. Their second endowment gift created the Charles E. Hirsch Fine Arts Scholarship and the Erma Nix Hirsch Business Scholarship, both to students with financial need.

Long-time friend and USI Foundation Board member James A. Sanders said the scholarships are a "wonderful, lasting legacy to Charles and Erma, recognizing their achievements in the arts and business."

The Hirsches also generously supported their faith with an endowment gift to St. Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana, and another gift to their home parish, St. Francis Xavier Church. Active in the Reitz Home Museum in Evansville, they donated their collection of French- and German-made antique dolls and other toys to the Reitz Home. Mr. Hirsch also has enhanced student learning experiences through gifts of art from his extensive collection. These have been accessioned into the USI Art Collection, used by faculty in teaching art, history, and culture.

The Hirsches joined *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation, and have supported Historic New Harmony, New Harmony Theatre, and Presidential Scholarships.

*John and Judi  
Lippert helped  
people achieve  
their dreams.*



## John D. and Judith V. Lippert

When the University of Southern Indiana's new Business and Engineering Center opens in 2010, its large lecture hall will carry the name of the late John D. Lippert. Mr. Lippert was intent on making a gift to this project before his death. His leadership gift was the very first gift announced in the successful campaign to raise \$2 million to enhance instructional capabilities in this newest state-of-the-art building.

Mr. Lippert and his wife Judith came to Evansville from Michigan where he had begun his 50-year banking career. He was recruited by National City Bank of Evansville, where he rose to chairman and chief executive officer. Mr. Lippert was responsible for purchasing several banks and was instrumental in forming National City Bancshares, a holding company which he also served as chairman and CEO. National City Bank was later named Integra Bank.

Mr. Lippert's impact on the Evansville business and philanthropic community was well documented. He gave leadership to the Evansville Industrial Foundation, Operation City Beautiful, Deaconess Hospital Foundation and Deaconess Development Corporation, United Way, Indiana Bankers Association, and Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science. In 1984 when the legislatively mandated study was undertaken to direct the University's establishment as a separate state university, he was appointed to the Community Advisory Panel by Governor Robert D. Orr. Mr. Lippert joined the USI Foundation Board in 1986 and was a charter member of the College of Business Board of Advisors, chairing that body during its accreditation process for the Master of Business Administration degree. In 1995, Mr. Lippert was the College of Business Executive-in-Residence.

People of deep faith, the Lipperts started a grass-roots movement that created All Saints Anglican Church in Evansville. They were married for 26 years, and Mrs. Lippert was an active partner in shaping the gifts they made to the University, including an estate gift that brought them into *Reflections* Planned Giving Society. Mrs. Lippert continues her involvement in the University and enjoys telling people that her husband helped many people achieve their dreams, and she gets great satisfaction from that thought.

*A lifetime of  
friendships with  
students and  
families is the  
treasure of Jack  
and Barbara Marr.*



## Jackson L. and Barbara A. Marr

Jack and Barbara Marr have dedicated their entire careers to teaching and shaping young lives. These Iowa natives came to Evansville in 1971 after graduating from Iowa State University. Dr. Marr was recruited as an assistant professor of biology by Dr. Melvin W. Denner, a former colleague at Iowa State who was the University of Southern Indiana's first biology department chair. Mrs. Marr taught kindergarten and the early grades for 30 years, mostly at Evansville's Tekoppel School. She wrote the full-day kindergarten program for the school corporation and was a pilot teacher in what has become one of the corporation's most successful programs.

They both speak fondly of relationships maintained with their former students. They say nearly every day a former student or parent comes up to share a hug, and frequently the Marrs travel to visit USI graduates who have moved away. Dr. Marr attends a monthly alumni lunch for Alpha Omicron Psi, a USI social fraternity that he advised – and Mrs. Marr chaperoned – for many years. And the man who built the USI men's tennis program from a club sport to a successful NCAA Division II program over 23 years counts his former players among the Marrs' extended family.

Dr. Marr was a full professor, chair of the biology department, tennis coach, and Faculty Athletics Representative to the Great Lakes Valley Conference. He has chaired the Varsity Club and both the Marrs have devoted thousands of hours to the development and support of the USI intercollegiate sports program. In 1981, Dr. Marr received the Faculty Recognition Award from the USI Alumni Association. In 2005, Dr. Marr's "extraordinary service" as a volunteer to the Athletics Department was cited when he was named USI's Volunteer of the Year. Today both of the Marrs serve on the Volunteer USI Advisory Council.

Dr. Marr has volunteered for USI Foundation fund-raising projects, including the tennis team, Varsity Club, Melvin W. Denner Medical Sciences fund, and his own scholarship. Biology graduates, many of whom are now physicians, contributed to the Denner and Marr funds, endowing them perpetually. In 2009, the Jack Marr Men's Tennis Alumni Scholarship was established in his honor.

Married 42 years, the Marrs tried to set good examples for young people. "I always felt students needed to see that all kinds of things were possible...a successful marriage, successful career, and productive volunteer experiences," Dr. Marr said.

*Dr. Robert  
Reid assured  
the University's  
solid academic  
foundation.*



Dr. Robert L. Reid came to the University of Southern Indiana in the 1974-75 academic year as the first vice president for Academic Affairs. During his nearly 30 years of service as the chief academic officer, he guided the development of associate, baccalaureate, and master degrees and directed the commitment to excellence in teaching for which the University is known. Dr. Reid also shaped academic policies and built bridges between faculty and the community in the University's important formative years. Recognizing the importance of building partnerships within the region and state, he promoted opportunities for faculty service, as well as scholarship and teaching. A professor of history, he was committed to his own scholarship and is the author of several books on local and U.S. history. Dr. Reid led outreach and service by example, becoming a trustee of the Indiana Historical Society and chairing the Indiana Humanities Council, Vanderburgh Historical Society, and Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Reid earned his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in his native Minnesota, and was granted master's and doctorate degrees in history from Northwestern University. He represented the University in regional and national academic organizations, including leadership positions for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges, which he served for over 30 years as a consultant evaluator. At the time of his retirement, the HLC said: "He is the epitome of a good academic citizen...for his commitment to and participation in regional accreditation."

Dr. Reid became a charter member of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society in 1998 with an unrestricted gift of life insurance. He plans another gift through his estate.

Now provost and vice president emeritus, he retired in 2003. He continues his work with the Higher Learning Commission and has extended his research on the 1937 Flood. He also is on the 2011 Steamboat Bicentennial Commission, which will celebrate the 200th anniversary of steamboat travel from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. Steamboat travel changed dramatically the history of transportation and thus of industrial and business development. Dr. Reid lives in northwestern Vanderburgh County with his wife Paulette Roeske Reid, a poet and writer.

*Committed to educational opportunity in their community, Ron and Connie Romain have served the University since their student days.*



## Ronald D. '73 and Connie Dartt '74 Romain

You might say that Ron and Connie Romain have had a love affair with the University of Southern Indiana. These college sweethearts have served in important leadership positions with every entity dedicated to developing public higher education opportunities in southern Indiana. The USI Foundation, Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc., and the USI Board of Trustees have benefitted from their active board participation.

Mr. Romain, who played baseball at USI, graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He joined his father in business and served as the general manager of United Leasing, Inc. until 1980. He then assumed leadership of the company and today is CEO of United Companies, a holding company for Romain Automotive Group, United Leasing, and Professional Transportation, Inc. Mrs. Romain graduated in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. As a student, she sang and danced in the popular Mid-America Singers, USI's show choir. Mrs. Romain has been active in their business, serving United Leasing as its secretary and treasurer.

The Romains were co-chairs for the successful Alumni Division of *Campaign USI* and continue to bring alumni into membership in the Alumni President's Associates. A member of the USI Foundation Board for over 15 years, Mr. Romain was the first alumnus elected chair. He is also on the major gifts committee which raised over \$2 million in programmatic support for the Business and Engineering Center in 2007-2008. On behalf of United Leasing and its associates, the Romains pledged \$50,000 to name the Board Room in the new building, announcing the gift as they celebrated the opening of the company's new corporate headquarters in 2007.

Mrs. Romain served on the Board of Directors of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), the nonprofit entity that provided land for USI and built its first student housing. Mrs. Romain also has served on the Volunteer USI Advisory Council.

Mr. Romain is now a trustee of the University, appointed the alumni representative on the Board by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2008. Both the Romains have been active in numerous community endeavors and they count their membership in Central United Methodist Church, where they met as teenagers, among their most important work.

The Romains were inducted into the President's Circle in 2005. In 1994, they received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USI Alumni Association. Mr. and Mrs. Romain established the Romain Baseball Scholarship and the Connie Romain Music/Theatre Scholarship. By providing for USI in their estate, they became members of *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation, in 2003.

*Bob and  
Carole Rust have  
creatively assisted  
the University with  
their expertise and  
their resources.*



## Robert A. and Carole D. '77, '97 Rust

Bob and Carole Rust's lives have been intertwined with the University of Southern Indiana since Mrs. Rust starting pursuing college degrees at USI in 1973. She holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in English (1977) and French (1997). She also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Indiana State University, earned completely on the USI campus. Mr. Rust, a Purdue graduate, also has taken courses at USI.

The Rusts moved to southwest Indiana when Mr. Rust joined General Electric in Mount Vernon as an engineer. They raised their three children in Mount Vernon and became avid community volunteers. Mrs. Rust worked in health care and retired in 1994, and then pursued another career as a freelance writer. Mr. Rust retired from GE in 1988, but continued to work as a staff engineer and project manager on USI and Historic New Harmony projects. Both now "officially" retired, they have traveled widely and Mrs. Rust's travel articles often have appeared in newspapers.

In 1985 by appointment of Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr, Mrs. Rust became a founding trustee of the University, serving as alumni representative and vice chair. She also served on the Alumni Council and the USI Foundation Board and chaired the USI-New Harmony Foundation Board. In 1984 she received the USI Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 1997, its Alumni Service Award.

The Rusts' philanthropy mirrors their interests. To benefit the county of their residence and to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, they established the Bob and Carole Rust Fund in the Posey County Community Foundation. At USI, they also established the Bob and Carole Rust Engineering Scholarship, the Bob and Carole Rust Foreign Language Scholarship, and the Bob and Carole Rust Art Travel Scholarship.

Over the years, their gifts have been matched by Mr. Rust's former employer, General Electric, doubling their generous contributions to Historic New Harmony, New Harmony Theatre, New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, Society for Arts and Humanities, and the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award. To create the Bob and Carole Rust Endowed Presidential Scholarship, they transferred appreciated stock and used a GE match and a Lilly Endowment match. The Rusts are charter members of *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation.

*The Smith  
family's University  
involvement spans  
three generations  
and nearly four  
decades.*



## Marvin L. and Joan B. Smith

Marvin Smith's first visit to the University was in 1970 to recruit students for employment with the Evansville agency for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, where he was the new managing partner. Mr. Smith became acquainted with President David Rice and, at Dr. Rice's urging, Mr. Smith led the formation of a loosely knit group that became the Varsity Club. He served as first chair of that group, which has become instrumental to the success of USI Athletics, then later joined the USI Foundation Board.

The Smith family has a three-generation tradition of involvement at the University. Five of Mr. and Mrs. Smith's six children attended USI. Of 14 grandchildren, nine have attended USI.

The Smiths' son-in-law Norman Miller '77 is managing director and financial advisor for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network Evansville Group and their grandson Josh Miller '02 is managing director for Northwestern's Western Kentucky group.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, with son-in-law Norman and his wife Vivian, established the Northwestern Mutual Intern Scholarship for USI students who completed an internship with the company. In 2008, The Northwestern Mutual Evansville Group underwrote the mock interview room for USI Career Services' new office space in the Orr Center.

More than 30 years ago, Marvin and Joan Smith purchased life insurance, which in time will endow the Marvin L. and Joan B. Smith Presidential Scholarship. Daughter Vivian and her husband Norman Miller and grandson Josh Miller and his wife Jessica also have established planned gifts of life insurance to benefit future USI students. They believe that life insurance is an excellent vehicle to generate a significant gift with a modest investment while reaping tax advantages. Their estate gifts qualified them for membership in *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation.

In recognition of his long and continuing commitment to shaping the role of the University, Mr. Smith was inducted into the USI President's Circle in 2008. He retired in 1997 and he and Mrs. Smith continue to stay busy with parenting, grand-parenting, community service, and collecting.

The Smiths appreciate friendships made through their association with the University. "When we moved here, we knew no one. Being involved with USI meant that we got to find family in USI friends," Mr. Smith said. Mrs. Smith agreed, "We appreciate our USI social friends so much, seeing them at dinners and basketball games."

*Dr. Tom Topper's  
talents in science  
and music  
motivated his  
dreams for USI.*



## Thomas E. Topper

Dr. Tom Topper loved music almost as much as the practice of medicine, and he enthusiastically supported all the arts and the sciences at the University of Southern Indiana.

A native of Evansville, Dr. Topper grew up not far from the University, and he left only long enough to complete his education and establish himself in the practice of medicine. He was a revered surgeon, eventually specializing in vascular surgery. Dr. Topper also made time to be a clinical instructor of surgery at the IU School of Medicine and the director of Graduate Medical Education at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

An active member of the West Side Nut Club, each October he would trade his surgical scrubs for a brown Nut Club cowboy hat and bolo tie to volunteer at the Fall Festival. Though he loved the west side of Evansville, he worked tirelessly for the entire community. Dr. Topper played trumpet in the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra where he also served as a board member and president.

Dr. Topper died in 2008 at age 60, shortly after completing his term as chair of the USI Foundation Board of Directors. A bequest from Dr. Topper's estate endowed the Thomas E. Topper Baccalaureate/Medical Doctor Scholarship for USI students who will enter the IU School of Medicine.

As he chaired his final USI Foundation Board meeting, Dr. Topper took a moment for personal reflection, saying, "Education has always been...one of the real enablers of people. I think that the privilege and right to have access to an education belongs to everyone, and that's no better embodied than by USI."

One of Dr. Topper's dreams was for USI to have a full music major. During *Campaign USI*, his gift funded the Topper Music Practice Room in the Liberal Arts Center. He also proposed expanding present limited music offerings to an academic minor, then eventually to a major, as funding becomes available. The Topper Music Fund was created with memorial gifts made at the USI Society for Arts and Humanities Toast to the Arts. Dr. Topper was a long-time Society board member.

Dr. Topper was inducted into the President's Circle in 2008. His wife Gina Happe Topper '97 continues to be active with her alma mater.

*The Whipple family draws its inspiration from unselfish parents.*



*Zadie*

*Mike*

*Donna*

## Michael W. Whipple '75, Zadie E. Whipple '78, and Donna R. Whipple

Michael Whipple is assistant treasurer of the University of Southern Indiana and has oversight for debt and investment management, carefully managing several hundred million dollars in bond issues and the University's investment portfolio.

His wife Zadie Whipple '78 holds a B.S. in Health Professions from USI, complementing her associate and baccalaureate degrees in nursing. She has devoted her career to health care.

Mr. Whipple's sister Donna has led a rewarding life in scientific teaching and research. She graduated from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana, and entered the Sisters of Providence, teaching chemistry and biology for nine years. She left the order and became part of a research grant team working to develop rapid response testing for diseases, including blood-sugar tests for diabetics. And, because diabetes can cause blindness, she worked with the American Foundation for the Blind to develop accurate blood-sugar testing products that could actually "speak" to blind diabetics. She called her 25 years of this work a "wonderful experience."

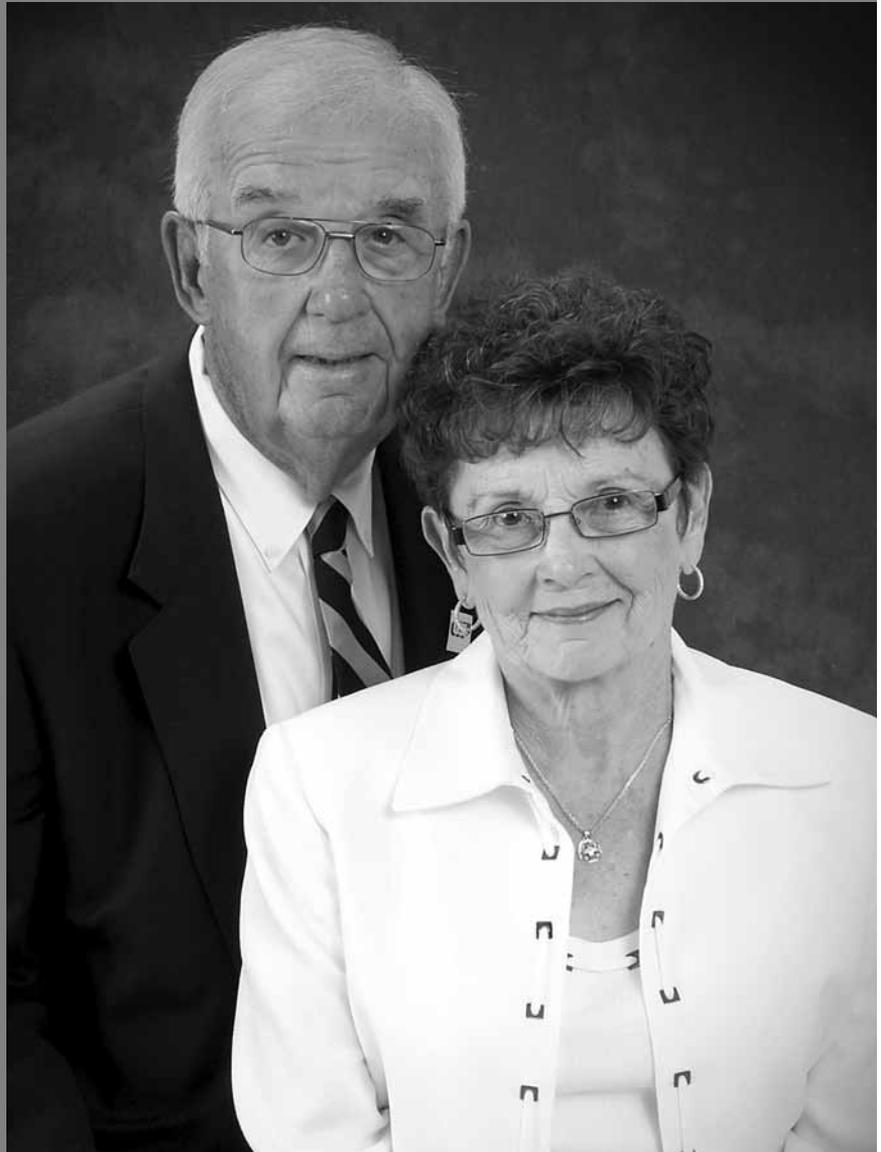
Mike and Donna's parents—Donald and Ruth—were supportive of the USI Foundation because of Mike's enthusiasm for the development of the University. When Ruth Whipple died, the family created the Ruth Ellen Whipple Scholarship to benefit nursing students, "because of mom's affinity for her daughters-in-law who were nurses."

In memory of Zadie's parents, Mike and Zadie created the Lonzo and Vera Morgan Memorial Scholarship, targeted toward a veteran, in recognition that Lonzo, Vera, Mike, and Zadie all are veterans. Mike and Zadie see these memorials as a way to continue the lives of loved ones. Donna finds that supporting scholarships is "very rewarding to see the immediate outcome – helping students. While Donald was living, he gave generously to both scholarship funds and his gifts were matched by his employer, General Tire. At his death, the Ruth Whipple Scholarship was renamed to include him.

Mike, Zadie, and Donna are members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, and hope their estate gifts will enhance these memorials to their loved ones. Through their wills, Mike plans to fund an accounting scholarship, Zadie plans a nursing scholarship, and Donna plans to add to the Whipple Scholarship.

"Giving to the USI Foundation allows us to help students, remember and honor our parents, and help USI to grow and prosper," Mike emphasized.

*Jim and Eileen  
Will are among  
the earliest and  
most ardent  
supporters of  
public higher  
education in  
southwest Indiana.*



## James L. Will Sr. and Eileen Berendes Will

Jim and Eileen Will have been lifetime partners to one another and to the University of Southern Indiana during its 44 years. Mr. Will became acquainted with President David Rice when the University was located in the former Centennial School Building near James L. Will Insurance, which he founded in 1957. He helped to found the Varsity Club and served as its president.

Mr. Will was a board member of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), the entity which purchased 1,400 acres of land to provide a new home for the University in the late 1960s. He was key to SIHE obtaining the bonding needed to construct student housing. In 2008 SIHE merged its assets with the USI Foundation, which Mr. Will also served as a board member.

In 1996, Mr. Will was appointed to the USI Board of Trustees. He served three four-year terms as trustee and was chair from 1999-2002, a time of tremendous growth for the institution. In recognition of his service to the University, Mr. Will was inducted into the President's Circle in 2002. The USI Alumni Association conferred its Special Recognition Award on him in 2003.

Mr. Will sold his insurance business to his son, James Jr., in 1999; it later was purchased by Old National Bank. Mr. Will had other business interests including K&W Farms and K&W Leasing, and built the first Hardee's restaurant, with Fore Investments, Inc., on the west side of the city. He served the city and county in many voluntary board appointments; some of his favorite charities have been the Boys Club and the West Side Nut Club.

When Mr. and Mrs. Will married in 1955, they were the first to exchange vows in the newly established Resurrection Catholic Church. They raised five children, two of whom graduated from USI, and they became active in Resurrection School and its board. They also were involved in the Mater Dei Friends and Alumni Board and for the Birthright Pregnancy Resource Center, which Mrs. Will served as a volunteer for 20 years. The Catholic Diocese of Evansville honored their exemplary service with induction into the prestigious Bruté Society.

Together Mr. and Mrs. Will established the James L. Will Sr. and Eileen H. Berendes Will Endowed Presidential Scholarship and they are charter members of *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation.

*The Zurstadts were engaged citizens who believed that expanding educational opportunity was good for the community.*



## Fritz H. and Henrietta W. Zurstadt

Fritz and Henrietta Zurstadt were nearby neighbors of the University of Southern Indiana and closely watched the University's development on parcels of land that had been in the Wehmer family, Mrs. Zurstadt's ancestors. They were interested in higher education opportunities, both public and private, because they believed it spurred progress in the community, related their daughter Marjorie Z. Soyugenc.

The Zurstadts and their son-in-law Rahmi Soyugenc founded Evansville Metal Products, Inc., a sheet metal fabricating company. Mr. Zurstadt served as president and Mrs. Zurstadt was corporate secretary and office manager. Like many Evansville residents, Mr. Zurstadt had worked at Republic Aviation during World War II. He became a master designer and craftsman in metal, working at George Koch Sons and Evansville Sheet Metal and teaching in the mechanical arts program at North High School before starting his own company. Today, Evansville Metal Products is managed by Mr. Soyugenc, employs around 100 people, and has the distinction of also owning the only remaining U.S revolving door company, International Revolving Door Company.

Both the Zurstadts were active in Concordia Lutheran Church. In 1962, Mr. Zurstadt was named "Outstanding Church Layman of the Year" by *The Evansville Courier*. Mr. Zurstadt was a Board member of Hahn, Inc. and both of the Zurstadts were involved in community and educational organizations. Mrs. Zurstadt was a troop leader for Girl Scouts and active in PTA and the Lutheran School. "They were devoted to community, church, and family, which was pretty typical of those people we call the backbone of the community," said Mrs. Soyugenc. "The ethic of that particular group of people in our community made Evansville a very solid city," she stressed.

Mr. Zurstadt died in 1996 at age 84. His will left a gift which later was used for a recognition display when *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation, was established. Mrs. Zurstadt died in 2001 at age 88. She had a revocable trust agreement which left an unrestricted gift to benefit the University. At the request of their daughter and successor trustee of the trust, Mrs. Soyugenc, it is being used for a memorial scholarship in her parents' names.

## USI Foundation Board Chairs

Joseph E. O'Daniel†  
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

† Deceased



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