

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 11,000 (Fall 2017)* students are enrolled in academic programs in business, liberal arts, nursing, health professions, science, engineering and education. Selected graduate degree programs serve persons in professional and technical studies. More information is available on the web at USI.edu.

*Overall USI enrollment is the sum of dual credit, undergraduate and graduate students, a higher education standard.

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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,

October 1, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of the Foundation's establishment. With a \$200 gift from Mr. Frank F. and Mrs. Cloedeen G. McDonald Sr., a legacy of giving at this University was officially born.

Years before the formal organization of the Foundation, however, generous friends were helping the University in many ways. The best-known entity was Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE). Its first meeting was March 16, 1966 – just six months and one day after the University opened its doors at Centennial School. The members of SIHE knew to establish a permanent campus they would have to acquire land. Between March and August 1966, when the organization filed their incorporation papers, SIHE secured an option on 1,200 acres for the Mid-America University Center. An adjacent 220 acres were a gift from Mary Nurrenbern to the Catholic Diocese of Evansville, which later deeded the land to SIHE.

On January 15, 1967, SIHE announced a \$750,000 campaign to purchase the land options. By August 18, an amazing \$969,000 had been pledged, with single gifts ranging from \$1 to \$75,000.

The efforts of the members of SIHE 50 years ago established the strong tradition of giving by community members, which continues today. The Seal of the University bears the Latin inscription “Academia populi – Academia populo,” signifying we are a scholarly community supported in every way “by the people and for the people.”

Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision 2017 documents individuals who chose to support USI in diverse ways and who, like those reading this volume, share the common belief higher education must be accessible, affordable and of excellent quality.

May their example move us to continue to work tirelessly to make a great institution even better so our efforts, like theirs, will benefit the University of Southern Indiana for generations to come.

Sincerely,



David A. Bower, MA, CFRE
Vice President for Development
President, USI Foundation
October 1, 2017



*Leo and Bettye
Adler personify
the impact of
unrestricted
giving.*



Leo A. and Bettye C. Adler

University of Southern Indiana is privileged to have many friends with a true success story. The strong work ethic and generous spirit of Leo and Bettye Adler mirror much of the growth of campus. Leo was born in Evansville in 1904 and Bettye was born in 1914.

In their time, Leo and Bettye Adler were among the most effective business leaders in Evansville. Beginning in the 1920s, they opened, owned and operated Adler Mayonnaise Company, later to be known as Adler Food Company and Adler Distributing. They both served in executive positions, overseeing every aspect of their enterprise. The Adlers made the first commercial mayonnaise in the Tri-state area in 1923 and ultimately began wholesale distribution of mayonnaise and salad dressings in 1924. Soon thereafter, the Adlers expanded their business by distributing Kraft cheese products. At the height of their production in 1955, Adler Foods produced 50,000 jars daily of mayonnaise, jellies and other specialty food items.

In addition to his business acumen, Leo was a success in many other ways. At the age of 13, he attended Lockyear Business College. He also was a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve and served at the U.S. Naval Air Base in Peru, Indiana, as well as the USS Sumpter in Baltimore, Maryland. During WWII, Leo participated in six South Pacific invasions.

Leo and Bettye were active in the community and in their parish. Life members of St. Benedict Cathedral, they played an integral part in the ordination of Gerald A. Gettelfinger as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville in 1989. Leo was a fourth degree Knight of Columbus, which strengthened their relationship with the church and its philanthropic causes.

Annual contributors to the University, the Adlers well understood the need for unrestricted funding. Leo died in 1994, but it was not until Bettye's death in 2000 that the USI Foundation received notice of the Adlers' estate plans. Having no children, Leo and Bettye left a legacy to generations of USI students. Their estate plans assisted many organizations, leaving much of their contributions unrestricted. Unrestricted gifts make a tremendous impact on the University. The Adlers' thoughtful and generous bequest provides the USI Foundation with the flexibility to meet the greatest needs of the University.

The Bergers' resolve and strong character remain within the community.



Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger

Sydney and Sadelle Berger brought new meaning to the sense of community. Evansville would be hard-pressed to find another couple who spent most of their life helping others as much as the Bergers. Civil rights activists their entire lives, they both held a moral compass that was unparalleled.

Sydney Berger graduated second in his class from Columbia Law School in 1940. In 1947, Sydney began his own practice in Evansville after serving in the United States Army. In 1972, he and his son Charlie established the firm Berger & Berger. Mr. Berger served on the Evansville Human Relations Commission for 10 years, providing services for many local civil rights and anti-poverty organizations. Sydney also was an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Southern Indiana for 20 years, contributing his entire salary back to the University. It is no surprise his own constitution was as strong as the living document itself.

Sadelle Berger also broke ground in the local community for her humanitarian work. Among her most impressive accomplishments was becoming the first woman president of Temple Adath B'nai Israel in 1974. She was additionally a member of the Indiana Center on Law and Poverty, that sought to improve living conditions of the poor. Her volunteerism extended to the YWCA, Red Cross, Friends of Welfare Rights, League of Women Voters, as well as the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality. A 1963 alumna of the University of Evansville, she also was an active member of the Academy of Arts & Sciences at that institution.

In 1996, Sydney and Sadelle's son, Charlie, and his wife, Leslie, established the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award with the USI Foundation, which recognizes a University faculty member for distinguished community service to groups, agencies and institutions external to the University.

Sadelle Berger died in 1984 and Sydney Berger in 1988. In the August 3, 1988 edition of the *Evansville Press*, Bill Jackson wrote about Sydney's legacy saying, "The record of his life will show a man who developed strong principles and never deserted them. A man who cared about people, and the law, and his country. A man who lived without complaint or apology. If only the rest of us could live so well." Aptly speaking for both, this statement encompasses the resolve and strong character of Mr. and Mrs. Berger.

*Ron and Terry
Boren believe
success comes
after hard work
and dedication.*



Ron J. '81 and Terry L. Boren

Ron and Terry Boren have continually persevered and worked hard toward goals for their careers and family. The Borens' generosity to the University of Southern Indiana tells an enriching story and invites a lesson in philanthropy.

Ron graduated from USI in 1981, taking seven years to complete his degree. When entering college, he found a job in a local clothing store where he would become manager. His duties grew into full-time commitments, forcing him to attend USI at part-time status. Terry, a graduate of the University of Evansville, has a similar account. She cleaned houses and worked at the Vanderburgh County Extension Office to afford college. They met by chance at a band concert through mutual friends. Ron lost Terry's phone number and it was not until a serendipitous moment they met again while cruising Franklin Street.

Ron, who has now worked 35 years for Hilliard Lyons, recalls the early beginnings of his career and marriage when they did not have much. He would use a phonebook and beans to increase his clientele. Every time he connected with a potential client, he would move a bean from one side of his desk to the other. It became a daily contract to meet the same amount as the day before, if not more. He credits this technique with growing his business and kindling his passion for making connections with people. Terry was an educator for over 30 years; she understood the care and nurturing involved in making a better life for their family. She worked throughout the years as a tutor for additional income, remembering now that those efforts paid for groceries on many occasions.

The Borens began giving to USI when they could. However, Ron was drawn even closer to campus when assisting a client with establishing a USI scholarship proved rewarding. Ron's genuine passion for his alma mater turned into an invitation to become a director of the USI Foundation. Now in his twelfth year on the board, Ron continues to assist in the successful development of the University.

Ron and Terry have three children and three grandchildren. Their church is a huge part of their life and both enjoy travel. Ron remains close to his USI Alpha Omega Psi fraternity brothers and is involved with the West Side Nut Club.

The dedicated mission of the Borens is to give back in order to help others along their own journey. Their passion is infectious.

*Rita Brunner gives
back because of
all USI gave to her.*



The University of Southern Indiana has led Rita Brunner to a life of good fortune and lasting friendships. Rita has been part of USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement for 25 years. Although her role has remained relatively the same throughout the years, every day is a new experience and opportunity.

Rita is from West Lafayette, Indiana. She attended Indiana State University and majored in elementary education. While a college student, she met her husband, Ralph, who was studying to be a pilot. When asked how she settled in Evansville she responds, "By pure accident. Ralph was looking for a job flying commercial planes and he picked up the *Courier & Press*, thinking it was for the Indianapolis area." So began their journey to southern Indiana after college graduation, when Ralph accepted a piloting position flying out of Evansville Regional Airport, moving cargo throughout the country. Tragically, Ralph died in 1989 in a plane accident while on a routine flight assignment. It was a difficult time for Rita, but the peace she found kept her in Evansville to finish the life they began together.

In 1992, Rita arrived at USI. Upon her arrival, she worked in Continuing Education where she was introduced to Linda Cleek '82 M'00, executive director emerita of Continuing and Professional Education, and Ed Jones, dean emeritus of Extended Services. Together, all three led the department's growth into new stages of community engagement and impact. Rita notes that although her role has not changed significantly, she has experienced the freedom to make the best of her work and be part of a wide variety of community partnerships. Her work is deeply personal and she sees herself as an ambassador of the University at all times.

Rita's dedication to her work at USI is not the only characteristic for which she is known. Besides her humor, she also possesses strong altruistic qualities. She recalls attending college and only paying \$600 out of her own pocket for her education. Scholarship support made this possible, and it has been a leavening experience. For Rita, USI represents hope, community involvement, and above all, an unparalleled learning environment for students. After reflecting on all the University has provided her, she finds it fitting to give back to USI and support students as they work toward their own goals.

Rita says there is one lesson in philanthropy she has learned. She states, "You never know whose lives you will touch. When I make a gift, I get the same feeling I once had when I first attended college. It is amazing to see what students can do and I want to help them grow in any fashion possible, much like USI has allowed me to do."

*USI is a large
part of Marie
Bussing's life.*



Dr. Marie A. Bussing

Born and raised in Evansville, Marie Bussing has been a faculty member at the University of Southern Indiana since 1991. Over her two-decade career at USI, she has become a beloved economics professor with an ability to connect with students. It is easy to see Marie's passion for education when speaking with her, but her kindhearted and humble disposition is what truly makes her genuine.

Marie received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Evansville. She began her professional career at Citizen's Bank, now Fifth Third. She attended Middle Tennessee State University, earning a doctoral degree in economics. The program allowed her to combine her study interests with her career goals. An author of nine books, Marie demonstrates a true passion for teaching. She comments that teaching at USI has been a life-changing experience, especially seeing her students move on to fulfilling careers.

Community service also is central to her values, having dedicated her time and expertise to the St. Vincent Health System Board of Directors and the St. Vincent Foundation. She also serves on the Commerce Bank Board of Directors and is a former president of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana, Inc. Marie has been a member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors for 21 years, and in 2014 she was elected chair. Her leadership as chair was key to the success of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*.

Marie understood her leadership on the USI Foundation Board also set an example for giving. As one of the directors of the Bussing-Koch Foundation, she knew philanthropic efforts would have their greatest impact during the capital campaign. Along with her mother, Connie Bussing, and brother, attorney Bill Bussing, Marie established the Bussing-Koch Scholars, for future students within the Romain College of Business. She serves as faculty advisor for Omicron Delta Epsilon, an academic honor society, recognizing scholastic achievement in economics. Establishing this scholarship with her family has only strengthened the affinity and fondness she has for USI and its academic excellence.

Marie's greatest joys are her two daughters. Amie Bussing Turner graduated from USI in 2016, and lives in Louisville. Katie Koch Bussing, Marie's youngest daughter, is a Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine scholar at University of Evansville. Marie and her family continue to be an influential force for the University and the entire community.

*Deidra Conner's
giving reflects
the University
colleagues who
coached and
believed in her.*



Deidra Conner is among the most recognized faces in Evansville-area nonprofits. This is not by chance, but by calling. Her dedicated care for community, passion for serving and unequivocal leadership are a true inspiration.

Deidra's journey to become president of The Arc of Evansville began at the University of Southern Indiana. She was the first among her family to attend college, with an upbringing in a traditional blue-collar household. She was valedictorian of her high school class and her academic success brought her to USI. During her college tenure, Deidra changed her major four times, at one time believing she would receive a degree in elementary education. She encountered the late Dr. Emmet Edwards, professor emeritus of management, and Dr. Wanda Hibbits, professor emerita of business, who strongly advised her to consider accounting as a profession. She also recalls Marilyn Schmidt, director emerita of Career Services and Placement, helping her along the way and teaching her how to find her voice.

After graduation, Deidra began her career in public accounting at George S. Olive, now Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (BKD). It was within this role that she encountered local nonprofits and recognized the passion many of the employees had for their vocation. She started to look toward the future and how to convert this passion into a formal career. Deidra found herself moving on to other positions before becoming chief financial officer at Evansville ARC in 2001. Nine months later, she was promoted to president.

Working for The Arc of Evansville has taught Deidra to change her life priorities. In her opinion, The Arc of Evansville is one of the few places where people are genuinely themselves. Leading an organization that brings great joy and prosperity to a unique population continues to motivate her.

Deidra has never forgotten her USI roots. "My experiences and my relationships at USI opened a whole new world for me," she states. She truly believes every experience and every accomplishment of hers is a direct result of her USI education and the network of friends and supporters within the University. Deidra continues to serve on the Romain College of Business board of advisors, was a member of the Accounting Circle and previously served on the Alumni Council. She made the decision during USI's first capital campaign, *Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher*, to include the USI Foundation in her estate. Deidra's decision reflects the University colleagues who coached and believed in her, and she desires to help others in the same fashion.

*Nadine Coudret
epitomizes
excellence,
leadership and
generosity.*



When someone thinks of the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing and Health Professions, it is impossible not to associate Nadine Coudret with its success. Since the College's establishment in 1988, Nadine's leadership saw it through many innovative transformations. Retired since 2012, her work is lasting and her magnanimity is boundless.

Nadine is from Vincennes, Indiana, the oldest of five siblings. She gravitated toward a career in health care from an early age, and eventually graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing. In 1958, she became a faculty member at the school. Her profession then took her to the University of Evansville for 17 years, completing her tenure as dean. She had quite an interesting journey to USI, crediting Bob Reid, Provost and Vice President Emeritus for Academic Affairs, for her eventual arrival. During a car ride home from a committee meeting in Indianapolis, they discussed at length the soon-to-be college dedicated to health professions. She now recalls that car ride was an interview without her even knowing it.

When Nadine arrived at USI, there were no bachelor degrees in health professions. It was at her kitchen table where an ideal curriculum was conceived for the growth of many of these programs. Her emphasis and strategy was on the intricate balance necessary for USI students to acquire and possess the passion, intellect and skill for their careers. She also knew executing a well-rounded curriculum would take experienced and dedicated faculty. Nadine believes the community gains in the expertise of knowledge, and it is critical this knowledge is transferred to eager aspiring students.

For Nadine, the central component to her leadership during her USI tenure was knowing she was in a position to serve others and keep education accessible. Both she and her husband, Raymond "Duke", were active on campus. Duke, a successful construction businessman, served on the USI Varsity Club Board of Directors for 19 years. After his death in 2007, Nadine found comfort in the caring USI community. They have three children.

An annual contributor to the University, Nadine also has established the Raymond J. and Nadine A. Coudret Endowment. Further funding toward the endowment will be made possible by an estate gift. Nadine remains involved with the College of Nursing and Health Professions and serves in various capacities for the advancement of health within the region and state. The specialness of USI is still attractive to Nadine. Her generosity to USI shows us all the unwavering commitment to excellence she possesses and has exhibited throughout her entire professional career.

*Virginia Bantle Cox
exemplified a
legacy of humility.*



2016-2017 USI Merit Scholars recognize the generous donors of the University.

Virginia Bantle Cox

In the spring of 2003, the USI Foundation received notice that Virginia Bantle Cox had written the University into her will. Virginia had not been a contributor to USI during her lifetime, but in her death, her giving story began.

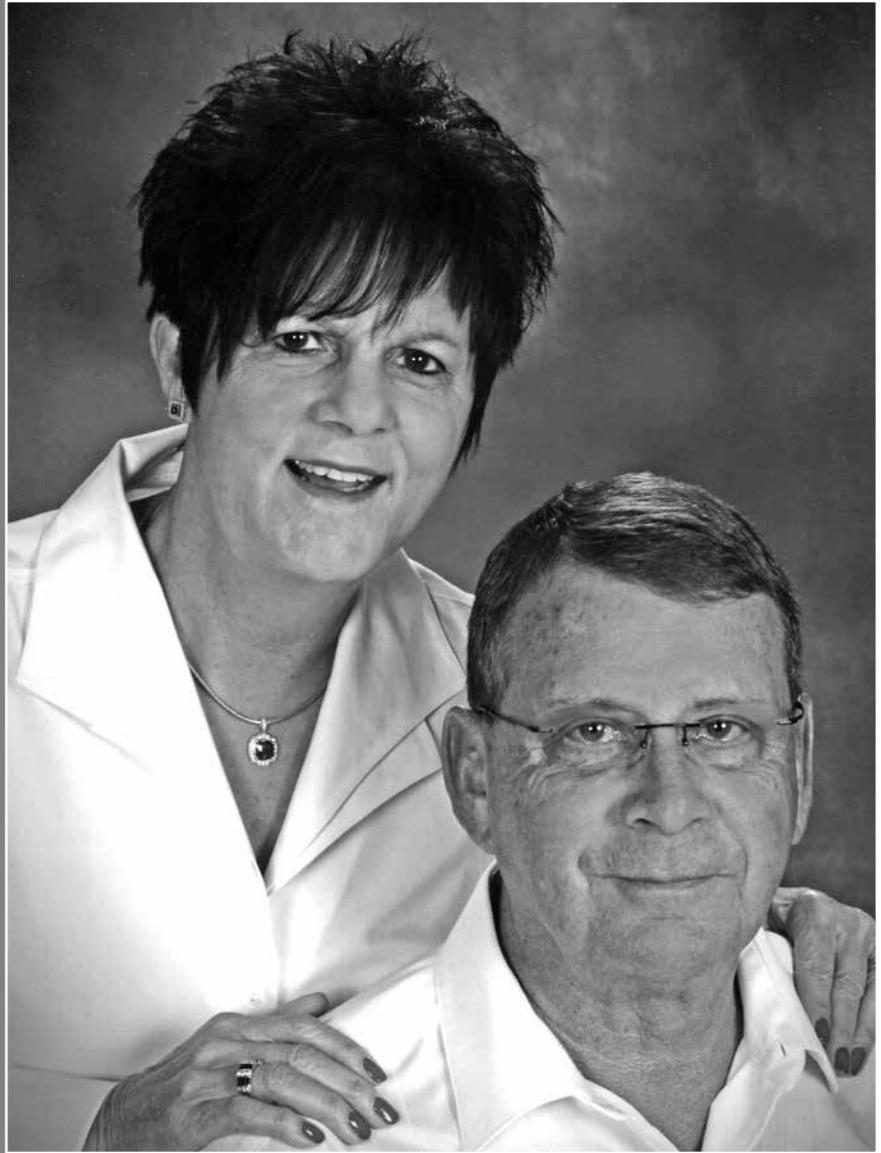
Born in 1908 in Wadesville, Indiana, Virginia lived her entire life in southern Indiana. Although the USI Foundation does not know how she became engaged with campus, it is reasonable to assume her proximity allowed her to experience the growth of USI. The extent to which USI students excelled in their academics and professions must have made a lasting impression on her.

She first married Opie Bantle, a WWII veteran, who died in 1972. Upon completion of his military service, he became the owner and operator of Bantle's Cleaners, which later became known as Clayton's Cleaners. Residing in Posey County during their marriage, Virginia and Opie were active in their local church. In 1985, the widowed Virginia married Russell Cox, who was retired from the Indiana State Police. Mr. Cox, a WWII Navy veteran who served in the Pacific Theater, died in 1996.

Virginia took careful consideration in making her estate plans. She decided to fund a scholarship endowment with the USI Foundation. At the time of her death in 2002, Virginia owned five items to her name – a china cat, a cedar cabinet, her wedding ring and two silver trays. The gracious and thoughtful recognition of the University by Virginia speaks volumes of her character. She did not find joy in material items, but in philanthropy. She exemplified a legacy of humility.

Her scholarship endowment, the Virginia Bantle Cox Memorial Scholarship, will serve students in perpetuity. Support from donors like Virginia changes lives by making a college education more affordable, allowing students to engage in activities important to college life. The USI Foundation recognizes Virginia's generosity so that students who benefit from her scholarship will know she planned this gift to assist them in all aspects of their academic tenure while on campus.

*The Cullums' zeal
for life reflects
their benevolence.*



Terry L. and Rosie M. Cullum

Terry and Rosie Cullum have strong roots in Posey County and the west side of Evansville. Over the years, they both have found USI to be an integral part of their lives, and, in some ways, USI has strengthened their roots to the area. Rarely do they miss a USI home basketball game, and rarely do they go without checking in with coaches to know the season's prospects.

Rosie first became engaged with the University while married to her husband, Rex, who was close to then-head USI Men's Basketball Coach, Bruce Pearl. When Rex died suddenly from lung cancer, Rosie established a scholarship for the basketball program in his memory. The scholarship reflects Rex's desired qualities in a basketball player and it has attracted top student athletes. Rosie and Terry have both enjoyed meeting these players, inviting many of them into their home.

Terry and Rosie met in the USI Varsity Club room, while Rosie was serving on the Varsity Club Board of Directors. Terry was working long hours for his career at the time, but is thankful his basketball interest led him to a USI game that evening. Since then, much has occurred, including marriage, and their commitment to the Varsity Club and helping USI student athletes has only strengthened.

When asked about their favorite USI memory, Rosie immediately goes back to the 1995 championship game. It was a moment in which she felt proud to be part of USI Athletics. Terry and Rosie travel with the men's basketball team regularly and look forward to another moment like this happening one day.

Both of them agree USI is blessed with wonderful people, and the many dedicated fans keep drawing them more into USI athletic programs.

One lesser-known fact is their interest in concerts. They attend nearly every concert in Evansville, and while traveling they try to find a nearby location where one of their favorite artists will be entertaining. The Cullums' zeal for life reflects their benevolence, and with USI they have found "nothing but net."

*Frances Forsythe
was among the
University's most
active advocates.*



Frances J. Forsythe

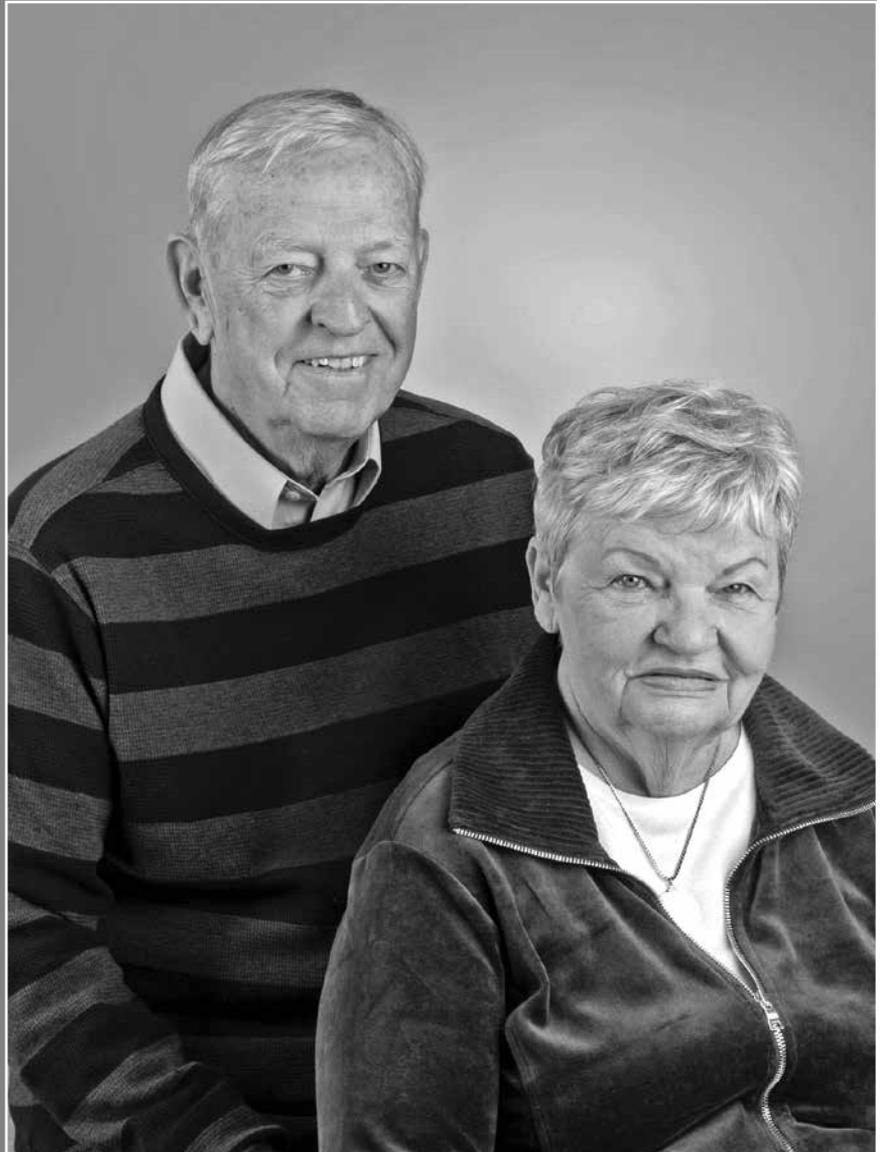
Frances Forsythe first engaged with USI when she enrolled in a noncredit continuing education course, Business Update for Women. It was natural for her to receive continuing business education due to her profession, having worked many years for Martin Serrin Insurance Company in Rockport, Indiana. Originally from Spencer County, Frances moved to Evansville upon retirement. Once in close proximity to the University, her connection to campus continued to grow.

It was not long before Frances formed a close friendship with Dr. Dona Frost, professor emerita of business. Both shared many interests and eventually traveled together throughout their retirement. As their relationship flourished, Frances became even more engaged, volunteering on numerous occasions for University initiatives and projects. During the infancy of the USI Foundation, when budgets simply did not allow for additional staff support, Frances would dedicate one day a week to help with important administrative and clerical work. It was during this time she became familiar with University needs and priorities, and she worked tirelessly to meet those objectives. One such objective was seeing the fulfillment of the University Home fund drive, which established the USI president's residency. At one time, she even reviewed blueprints of the University Home to ensure the most appropriate space was crafted.

In a letter dated January 10, 1983, former director of development, Wayne Boultinghouse, wrote to Frances and thanked her for her continued commitment to USI. He stated, "When one fully understands your role in our University's development, it's not surprising how quickly the campus has grown." Frances' generous spirit led her to remember the USI Foundation in her will. At the time of her death in 2005, she established the Forsythe Student Enrichment Program Endowment. Her generosity continues to support business students in their efforts to reach academic and professional goals.

When recognizing the impact Frances has on USI, it is best to use her own words from the spring 1980 edition of *8600 Magazine*: "My interest in the growth of the University is for the benefit of students, as well as for the community. It has been a great personal satisfaction to have an opportunity to assist in this endeavor and to be associated with USI."

*The Frederkings
show a lifetime of
giving to USI.*



Ed F. and B. June Frederking

Ed and June Frederking's life has been full of many generous moments. However, the most leavening of all have been moments in which they were on the receiving end. As June states, "We had instances in our life when we did not have much and people gave us help that we remember and appreciate."

Early in their marriage, June experienced a dental emergency without insurance to cover the costs. Little did they know their doctor would overlook their expenses. The doctor explained he knew what it was like starting out as a young family and trusted the Frederkings would give back when they had the capacity to do so. This has been a lasting experience, indicating where their giving began.

After Ed's service in the United States Army was complete in Alaska, they moved to Champaign, Illinois, where Ed pursued bachelor's and master's degrees. The Frederkings then moved for a short time to Saint Louis, Missouri, before relocating to Mount Vernon, Indiana. It was during their early years there that their association with USI quickly cemented. A basketball game was their first true encounter with USI, with Ed commenting how the young, scrappy talent drew them into campus. Over the years, Ed and June became more involved with USI Athletics, serving on the Varsity Club Board, working in the Varsity Club booth at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival and hosting student athletes in their home. Their connection strengthened when June enrolled as a nontraditional USI student, and when Ed became a director on the USI Foundation Board.

Ed and June were the owners of Tri-State Trophies, which is now managed by their children. For over 50 years, the business has served the community. The Frederkings have come to realize their business was an additional means to support their connection with the area.

They have found great joy in the establishment of their scholarship, the Beverly June Frederking Scholarship, which assists students enrolled in the master's of nursing program, planning a career as a nurse practitioner. June was an active volunteer for 11 years with a local nonprofit and witnessed first-hand the work of nurse practitioners. They believe this scholarship support is a way to attract quality students and help them attain successful careers.

Both Ed and June see USI as a positive asset for the whole community – so much so, they always bring out-of-town guests to campus. The Frederkings believe they have been amply rewarded for their contributions to the University's success and hope others will continue a giving tradition.

*Jay and Cecelia
Fredrich receive
great personal
satisfaction in
giving.*



Jay and Cecelia A. Fredrich

Jay and Cecelia Fredrich embody the phrase one commonly uses when life's circumstances turn out different than they envisioned: "I never thought I would see the day when. . ." However, the Fredrichs say it with the most upbeat meaning possible.

Jay was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas; Cecelia, in Morganfield, Kentucky. They met over summer break between college semesters while Cecelia was visiting family in Arkansas. Soon marriage came, then growth of their family. Jay began his career as a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in the Little Rock District, working on a navigation project on the Arkansas River. His role expanded to writing computer programs to be adopted by other civil engineers. In 1972, he applied to be a congressional fellow in order to learn policy affecting public works projects. Jay and Cecelia never imagined that accepting the congressional fellowship would lead to a promotion offer to direct the California Corps district where he was stationed at the time.

The Fredrichs relocated to Washington, D.C., where efforts on policy writing were successful. Jay is extremely proud that one of his policies became law. The accumulated experience proved to be invaluable and he accepted a position as senior policy advisor for the Corps. In 1976, he was invited to manage the Institute for Water Resource. The Fredrichs eventually found themselves longing for home, and he applied for a faculty position to Indiana State University-Evansville, now USI, in 1979. They had a total of six weeks to sell their home and move to Evansville once he accepted the position in engineering technology.

Jay had no other interest than teaching by this time, and the Fredrichs were happy to find family and a home at USI. Looking back on his time as a faculty member, there are three moments that stand out. One was writing his anthology, *Sons of Martha*, which was a book used in his introduction to civil engineering courses. He also states that crafting a new University core curriculum provided a sense of accomplishment and pride. Above all, he enjoyed designing a course on cathedrals, which focused on a multidisciplinary approach for student learning. It is still enjoyed by students today.

The Fredrichs' giving is a representation of their life philosophy, and continue to be generous friends of the University. Jay never imagined his career would be so fluid as to include the civil service, policy and research and then teaching. Although they both agree they did not foresee this particular path for their life, they see how much USI taught them about the rewards of helping others. Almost in unison, the Fredrichs say, "We receive a great personal satisfaction seeing others, particularly students, reach their goals in life and careers."

*Randy Haaff
identifies USI as
his launching pad,
both personally
and professionally.*



Randy Haaff came to USI in the early 1980s with a story similar to that of other students. He decided to earn his degree in finance, and the University was affordable. He credits Frances Forsythe for his journey to USI as well. Randy grew up in Grandview, Indiana, and was a close neighbor to Ms. Forsythe. He mowed her grass as a summer job and she would speak to him about the great opportunities USI had to offer.

Early in his college career, Randy found other mentors in Dr. Dona Frost, professor emerita of business, and Dr. Wanda Hibbitts, professor emerita of business. Taking him under their wings, they helped him build his skills, acquire his business knowledge, and cultivate his interest for finance and accounting. It was due to Dr. Frost that Randy was selected as an intern at General Electric, the first USI student to ever receive such a position. The internship turned into 15 years of employment with the company after graduating, giving him the opportunity to travel abroad. Randy lived and traversed Europe and Southeast Asia during that time, but home always seemed to call to him. He moved back to the Midwest in the early 2000s, working in various roles associated with banking and capital investment. In 2012, he relocated to Evansville and has since heightened his engagement with the University.

Randy always had an innate sense of giving, first responding to the needs of the Here & Now Fund, which underwrites the greatest needs of the University. He began his giving immediately after graduation and has increased his commitments over the years. Due to his generosity, each of the University's four colleges has a scholarship endowment in his name. Randy also has endowed a men's baseball scholarship and is currently funding a Presidential Scholarship endowment. He is a member of the Varsity Club, and an annual contributor to the Society for Arts & Humanities Toast to the Arts Gala.

USI remains a passion of Randy's and he is a fixture at many University events. Members of the community know what campus means to Randy by seeing all the activities in which he is involved: USI Foundation Board of Directors, Alumni Council, the Accounting Circle, Speaking Eagles, and as a lecturer in the Division of Outreach and Engagement. Randy identifies USI as his launching pad, both personally and professionally. He truly enjoys being on campus and helping students achieve a great USI experience, just like his.

*Alice Hertli
views her life
with gratitude.*



Alice Hertli describes her life as a series of fortunate events. Her Midwest upbringing is a special part of her history. However, the eventual love and generosity she found shaped her worldly perspective.

Alice was born and raised in Carthage, Missouri, in a well-educated family. Both parents were college educated. Her father was a lawyer and her mother was a homemaker. Being raised in a home where higher education was valued left an impact on Alice. Her college degree was in elementary education. Alice taught in the local school system for a few years, but certain obstacles surfaced which led to her becoming a single mother working multiple jobs. Although a challenging time, Alice recalls it was within those moments that she appreciated the lessons her family instilled within her.

Alice looked toward the future and took the Professional and Administrative Career Examination, beginning her 35-year career in the civil service. In 1978, she received an invitation to interview as a wage and hour compliance officer for the Department of Labor in Saint Louis. After accepting the position, she soon met her late-husband, Peter, who was stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood. Once married, Peter and Alice were sent by the Army to Murnau, Germany.

Peter was originally from Switzerland, making the transition to Europe natural. Peter experienced a life that most people only read about in a novel. One noteworthy element of his life's journey includes being part of the entourage of Prince Rainier of Monaco. In 1955, Peter came to the United States as the Prince's valet. Although the Prince's trip was to seek a wife, Peter's was to seek a new life. Little did he know at the time he would find Alice, adding even richer chapters to his story.

After living in Germany for three years, Peter and Alice returned to the United States. Alice revived her career with the Department of Labor, which then brought them to southern Indiana in 1987. Although her career may have been a factor, the real reason for their move to Posey County was their mutual passion for horses.

Peter and Alice engaged with the New Harmony Theatre almost immediately. They found the equity stage a true cultural asset to the region and rarely missed a performance. The Hertlis began making annual gifts to the Theatre as soon as they realized they could, and a few years after Peter's death in 2009, Alice established an endowment to be funded through their estate. Alice states one lesson in philanthropy she wants known: if she can be a benefactor, anyone can.

*Dr. Wanda Hibbitts
molded her
superior
reputation at USI
and produced
students of the
same caliber.*



Dr. Wanda B. Hibbitts

Professor Emerita of Business Dr. Wanda Hibbitts experienced the same struggle for education as many of her early students. She met obstacles in earning the advanced degrees she needed to ultimately become a legend among University of Southern Indiana business and accounting faculty.

After high school in Owensboro, Kentucky, she earned an AB degree from the Bowling Green College of Commerce (since merged with Western Kentucky University) where she studied business as an emerging discipline. “Most colleges were just beginning to teach business,” she remembered.

In Evansville, she taught at Lockyear Business College. Seeking to earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree to enable her to teach at the collegiate level, she applied to Indiana University in Bloomington, where she was denied admission; told that no woman could succeed there. Undeterred, she applied and was accepted to the MBA program at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, and became the first female student to enter and to graduate in 1969. She also earned the CPA, and persisted to earn a doctorate from Southern Illinois University.

With MBA in hand, in 1970 she joined five-year-old Indiana State University Evansville, where she molded the superior reputation the University rightfully earned in producing well-prepared graduates for the accounting profession. “I loved teaching. I always thought accounting was a beautiful thing, and I loved passing it on to students,” she enthused. And pass it on, she did, to many of the finest accountants in Indiana.

Dr. Hibbitts was married to the late William Ayers Hibbitts, with whom she had two daughters. Vivian June is a professor of accounting in the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her oldest child, Martha Fay, had spina bifida and was the first Easter Seals child in Indiana. Wheelchair-bound, she was able to attend USI, the first college in Indiana accessible to disabled students. She died at age 22.

Dr. Hibbitts was named USI’s Distinguished Professor in 1986. After her retirement, in recognition of her extraordinary achievements, the Romain College of Business established the Wanda B. Hibbitts Accounting Scholarship Endowment for talented accounting students. She lives in Bloomington, Indiana, close to her daughter.

*Susan Huck's story
with campus is
interwoven with
family, friendships
and philanthropy.*



Susan Huck has come to know USI on a deeply personal level. Her story with campus is interwoven with family, friendships and philanthropy.

Susan knew from an early age she wanted to be a professional Girl Scout. Even though she did not fully understand what this would entail, she saw scouting as part of her character. When it was time for college she realized this might not be possible and decided to pursue a degree in education from Indiana State University. Upon graduation, she accepted a teaching position just outside Detroit, Michigan. However, a call from the Royal Oak Girl Scout Council to become a camp and field director near Detroit immediately led to Susan cancelling her teaching contract. Her childhood dream turned into 39-plus years with the Girl Scout organization. She retired from the Raintree Council, now the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana, in 2004.

When asked about her fondest USI memory, Susan said she holds two closely. The first is recalling how well-known USI First Lady Betty Rice was for her cooking and for her bread pudding. One year, during preparation for USI's annual Madrigal Feaste, Betty accidentally broke a glass bottle into her famous recipe. Knowing the entire batch was fouled, Betty needed as many hands as possible to remake a new batch to feed 1,200 University guests. Susan was among the help enlisted, and she recalls it only strengthened the warmth she saw in the Rices. The second memory is the dedication and opening of the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries. Susan was a cousin to Kenneth McCutchan, and it provided a profound sense of pride to see the Art Center dedicated in her late cousin's memory.

Following the death of Kenneth, Susan looked toward giving and establishing a legacy for her family. She first established the Lenora McCutchan and Ida and Richard Peva Memorial Scholarship Endowment, which assists a liberal arts student annually. Susan additionally established a scholarship in 2013 to help students learn about financial responsibility. As a young child, her parents gave her a weekly allowance, and one year she decided to purchase roller skates. She promised she would pay them back by taking 50 cents out of her allowance; it took nearly a year to pay off her lavish expense. From that moment, she never wanted to be in debt again. Her scholarship reinforces this story. She wants students to learn the obstacles associated with financial burdens.

Susan's generosity provides a lifetime of giving. Hearing student testimonies of how her scholarships change their lives gives her much joy and satisfaction.

*Keith Jewell and
Erika Rager both
have found a spirit
of giving at USI.*



D. Keith Jewell '86 M'91 and Erika Rager

Philanthropy and vocation have collided for Keith Jewell and Erika Rager. Although serving in different capacities, both found a calling for health care, and at USI they found a spirit of giving. Keith and Erika first met while working for Franciscan Health in Indianapolis, Indiana. Keith actually hired Erika for the organization because of her experience as a surgical oncologist. Now married, with one daughter, Kate, the couple reside in Indianapolis, where their story began.

Keith was born and raised in Evansville and was the first in his family to attend college. Coming from modest means, he enrolled at USI because it was cost-effective. His time as a student was incredibly transformative – both in education and leadership skills. After completing his degrees, Keith began his career as an accountant and consultant, preparing financial forecasts and strategic financial plans for hospitals, physicians and long-term care facilities. In 2013, he had the opportunity to return to Evansville to head St. Mary's Health System, now St. Vincent. Erika also is a professional in her own right, having received her medical degree from Vanderbilt University and completing residency at the University of North Carolina.

Upon Keith's return to the area, he immediately called upon President Linda Bennett to see how he could engage with his alma mater. Keith quickly became reacclimated with the University. He was elected to the USI Foundation Board of Directors and contributed to the great success of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*. His leadership gift during the campaign allowed USI to reach its goal one year early. When invited to deliver the Commencement address during the spring 2015 graduate ceremony, Keith was deeply honored. The opportunity to speak to a room full of students who desired to do more for their community with a passion for knowledge brought many of his own USI experiences to the surface. Keith also is proud of his contributions to the new soon-to-be medical and research center, located in downtown Evansville, which is a collaborative effort between USI, UE and IU.

As Keith and Erika's relationship blossomed, giving became an important part of their life. They have established the D. Keith Jewell Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) Scholarship Endowment and the D. Keith Jewell College of Nursing and Health Professions Endowment. An estate gift will further contribute to these endowments. Together, they wish to see USI grow vibrantly well into the future.

*Arthur Kanzler's
thoughtful
planning impacts
numerous students.*



Arthur G. and Elsie D. Kanzler

The USI Foundation planned giving society, *Reflections*, recognizes donors for their plans to remember USI in their wills or other estate plans. There are instances when the USI Foundation is not aware of donors' wishes until after their death. Arthur and Elsie Kanzler made plans for the University and became members of *Reflections* posthumously.

At the time of Arthur's death in 1999, the Arthur G. & Elsie D. Kanzler Scholarship was established through a generous bequest. This scholarship is awarded primarily to recipients of the prestigious Deans Scholarships. Their intent was for the scholarship funds to help students who demonstrate a financial need and an aptitude and willingness to obtain an education conducive to a meaningful career. Arthur and Elsie's passion for higher education drove their decisions, as they also established a similar scholarship at the University of Evansville.

Arthur had a unique resumé, having spent nearly 50 years of his professional life in banking. His career began at Lamasco Bank, located then on the West Side of Evansville, as a messenger. In 1931, a bank run forced Arthur to become a posting bookkeeper at National City Bank. This change established his 45 years of service with the organization, eventually serving as vice president from 1973 until his retirement in 1976.

Arthur married Elsie Jacobs later in life. Elsie was a successful businesswoman with her first husband, Bob. They were the founders of the once-famous local eatery, Farmer's Daughter Restaurant. Their business had a successful 30-year run, beginning in the early 1960s. Elsie died two years and one day earlier than Arthur, on June 17, 1997.

Although the USI Foundation never had the opportunity to express gratitude in person to the Kanzlers for their significant scholarship endowment, their story and generosity are forever immortalized in the numerous students their thoughtful planning impacted.

*Linda Willis’
heart for USI
demonstrates
actions speak
louder than words.*



The name Linda Willis is synonymous with the University of Southern Indiana. Linda has been an ardent supporter of the University, with her dedication and commitment spanning over 40 years. Linda embodies USI and has helped grow the campus in every way.

Linda resides in Mount Vernon, Indiana where she spent nearly 40 years as a teacher. Earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Evansville and a master's degree from Indiana State University, her professional career was devoted to elementary education. During the early stages of her career, Dr. John Emhuff, then superintendent of Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon, encouraged Linda to become involved with USI. Dr. Emhuff saw the potential of the young University, and Linda quickly became immersed in USI's community.

Linda has served in many capacities for USI and is currently a member of the Varsity Club Board of Directors and Historic New Harmony Advisory Board. Her volunteerism is exemplary and varies from dipping candles at Heritage Artisan Days in New Harmony to serving a steak sandwich at the Varsity Club booth annually at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. Because of her genuine service to USI, the USI Alumni Association awarded Linda an honorary alumna status in 2016. In 2006, she received the Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Enrichment Award, which is given to individuals who are models of community education in the Historic Southern Indiana region. Linda understands that giving also includes financial support. She is a charter member of *Reflections*, and contributes annually to USI, making her a member of the USI Foundation's C. Wayne Worthington Society. During *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*, Linda made an additional planned gift to benefit Historic New Harmony's Living Learning Classroom.

One of Linda's greatest joys in life is traveling the world, with her passport revealing many global adventures. Never one to travel in luxurious style, her greatest voyages have included camping under the African night sky, hiking to see silverback gorillas in Rwanda, and even venturing to Antarctica to see penguin colonies.

Linda's soft-spoken demeanor, warmth and generosity shine through. Her heart for this institution demonstrates that actions speak louder than words. Linda believes in USI and believes in its students. She may feel as though her contributions are small, but in reality they resound with great depth.

*Loretta Zygmunt's
passion for
commitment
inspired her giving.*



Loretta M. Zygmunt

Loretta Zygmunt always demonstrated the true essence of a generous spirit. Throughout her life, the care and passion she had for community drove much of her giving. As she and her family members became successful in their professions and in life, her giving grew in educational support. Along with her late husband, she established the Dr. Walter A. and Loretta M. Zygmunt Endowment Fund at the University of Illinois, where they met when attending college. And, after witnessing the many achievements of their daughter Deborah Zygmunt, they also established the Zygmunt Family Scholarships at Purdue University.

Loretta and her husband have supported the University of Southern Indiana annually for over 20 years. Following Walter's death in 2012, Loretta decided to leave behind a legacy of the Zygmunt family. During *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*, Loretta became a member of *Reflections*, and made an outright gift to fund the Loretta M. and Walter A. Zygmunt Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship assists full-time incoming freshmen who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue a degree in math, biology, chemistry, geology, physics or engineering.

In 1953, the Zygmunts moved to Evansville from New Jersey, when Walter joined the Research and Development staff of Mead Johnson and Company. For the latter half of his employment he was assigned to the Regulatory Affairs Division, where he served as the associate director until his retirement in 1987. Walter became engaged with USI early on in their settlement in the area, becoming an adjunct professor in microbiology and contributing to the teaching program at the Evansville campus of Indiana University School of Medicine. Loretta was a scientific researcher, having received her degree in bacteriology. She began her career at Kraft Foods, researching ways to hasten the ripening of cheese. Upon their relocation to the Evansville area, Loretta taught seventh and eighth grade science and biology at Evansville Day School. For 17 years, Loretta also worked as a homebound educator in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. During this time, Loretta's belief in supporting education in every capacity possible was fortified.

Loretta also was very active with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, working in the ticket booth and attending nearly every performance. She was a fixture on USI's campus during many scholarship ceremonies, presenting funding on behalf of the American Association of University Women. The USI community and its students have been beneficiaries of the Zygmunts' involvement, and due to Loretta's generosity their commitment to educational excellence will continue.

USI Foundation Board Chairs

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