

Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university
in Evansville, Indiana. More than 10,400 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 www.usi.edu.

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"We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle."



Cloedeen G. and Frank F. McDonald Sr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Friends,

This year with the fifth edition of *Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision* you will be introduced to an extremely diverse group of people. Some were friends of the University of Southern Indiana from its inception; some came to know us much more recently; and some we never had the pleasure of knowing because they provided the Foundation with an unannounced gift from an estate plan.

Many people make for many diverse ideas and yet there is a unity of purpose that comes from all of these friends. Without knowing one another, they form a bond that forever will remain as a legacy to this University—the desire to help students and faculty. This same bond exists with the readers of this booklet—you care about higher education; about helping students at USI achieve their dreams; about ensuring that professors have everything they need to provide the highest caliber of teaching and learning opportunities. This is why generous friends of vision are essential to the continuing excellence of this great academy of learning. Private gifts make a dramatic difference to the life of USI and we do not take your investment in us for granted.

For all of you who agreed to be featured in this year's edition and to all the relatives who allowed us to publish a story about your family member, we say thank you! We are grateful to all those who make gifts to the USI Foundation for the benefit of the University. Your generosity has a positive impact on individuals and consequently on society, not only today but for all future generations.

Sincerely,



David A. Bower
President, USI Foundation
October 1, 2012



*The Bernhardtts
loved their
community.*



Robert F. and Florence R. Bernhardt

As a child, Florence Rupper Bernhardt grew up on Evansville's west side where her parents owned a grocery store. Before graduating from Reitz High School, she attended Centennial School, which, in 1965, became the first home of the University of Southern Indiana. As a result of that connection, she always had a fondness for USI.

Bob Bernhardt graduated from Stanley Hall and Bosse High School, where he was class president in 1939 and played on Bosse's basketball team that advanced to the final four of Indiana's high school basketball tournament. He graduated in business from Indiana University and returned to Evansville after service in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. He and Mrs. Bernhardt, who had graduated from Depauw University, were married in 1943.

Mr. Bernhardt was a successful businessman, first as a partner in Hocker Powerbrake Company, and then as the owner of Kight Lumber Company, which he purchased in 1957. He grew Kight Lumber into a thriving enterprise serving the Tri-state construction industry. In 1988, he sold the business to his two sons. He was active in the community, serving on Chamber of Commerce committees and devoting time to Bethel United Church of Christ, where he was president of the Church Council.

Mrs. Bernhardt loved home and family and wrote a cooking column for *The Evansville Press* in the mid-1950s. Active in the Home Economists and American Association of University Women, she traveled widely and enjoyed genealogy. She was a faithful member of Christian Fellowship Church.

The Bernhardts loyally supported the USI Annual Fund and Historic New Harmony, and they enjoyed the activities of the USI Society for Arts and Humanities. They made a generous gift to name the Kight Home Center Web Development Laboratory in the USI Business and Engineering Center. Mrs. Bernhardt also created the Robert F. and Florence R. Bernhardt Charitable Remainder Trust to fund an endowment for the benefit of the University.

The Bernhardts died just months apart in 2009. They were the parents of Tom, Kent, and Barbara.

Visionaries in many ways, the Bronsteins changed society's attitudes about lifestyles for the aging.



Sol and Arlene B. Bronstein

Philanthropists Sol and Arlene Bronstein were business leaders who used their resources to enhance education and nurture the arts. Both originally from Northern Indiana, they met through Mr. Bronstein's sister, who was Mrs. Bronstein's college roommate at Ward Belmont College. They married in 1933 and lived in Warsaw, Indiana, where they owned and operated gasoline stations and Mrs. Bronstein was a teacher. After selling the Warsaw stations, they moved to Evansville to comply with a non-competition condition of the sale.

Here, they founded the Red Bird gasoline stations, which flourished and were sold to a division of Monsanto Chemical Company in 1959. Mr. Bronstein also operated oil exploration, drilling, and refining companies—Southern Independent Oil and Refining Company and Southern Independent Producing Company of Evansville, and Laketon Asphalt Refining, Inc. of Laketon, Indiana.

After Mr. Bronstein's death in 1972, Mrs. Bronstein became president of all their oil-related businesses. She was the first woman elected a director of National City Bank, where her husband had served. At Mr. Bronstein's death, a trust was created to fund the Bronstein Foundation, which benefits Jewish and other community-wide charities, including a lecture series, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and food banks.

The Bronsteins were members of the Washington Avenue Temple, and both were directors of the Evansville Museum of Arts, History, and Science. As a tribute to the Bronsteins, the Museum had a memorial exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts that came to the Museum through their generosity. It was through the Museum that Mrs. Bronstein developed friendships with USI art faculty.

She created the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Art Scholarship, awarded to full-time USI art students who demonstrate creative artistic growth. In recognition of her patronage of the arts, USI awarded Mrs. Bronstein an honorary doctoral degree. Mrs. Bronstein, who died in 1977, created a trust to develop an innovative retirement center, just west of the USI campus, now known as The Communities of Solarbron, "where people of all races and creeds could continue to live and contribute as constructive, responsible citizens."

*The Buchanans
bring youthful
energy to USI
activities.*



Jason A. and Stephanie S. Wuchner '97 Buchanan

"We have separate lives in the same industry," declared Stephanie Buchanan of the careers she and husband Jason are enjoying in the telecommunications field. In spite of a rapidly changing environment in the field, they have managed to continually progress in their careers.

Mrs. Buchanan graduated from USI in business, and began working for a small telecommunications company before joining a business that sold infrastructure to larger companies. She now is carrier relations manager for Education Networks of America (ENA), headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, where she works with vendors in the network of services (data, Internet, voice, and video-conferencing) that ENA provides to K-12 schools.

After graduating from University of Evansville, Mr. Buchanan's first position was selling mobile phones in Indianapolis. He returned to Evansville, recruited by Van Ausdall & Farrar, to sell business equipment, including networked systems. At Van Ausdall & Farrar, USI alumnus David Herrenbruck '76 took him under his wing and introduced him to community business leaders, where he built important relationships that still serve him. In 2001, he started Business Communications Solutions LLC, providing telephone systems and networking. Now in its eleventh year, the company is prospering.

Mrs. Buchanan said she "spends more time at USI now than as an undergraduate." She serves on the USI Foundation Board and has been president of the Alumni Council. The Buchanans are basketball fans and members of the Varsity Club, recruited through their friendship with David and Jill Herrenbruck. "Being involved helped us to understand the vision of USI...the energy is infectious—socially and in business," Mrs. Buchanan said.

The Buchanan household bustles with its own energy, with four children age seven and under, including three-year-old twins. "As parents, we try to instill ideas about college as a goal. USI will be a part of their life because it is a part of our life. USI has a hard-working ethic—pride and involvement. We are both impressed that so many people who have never attended here are involved in the University," she said.

The Buchanans are members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society and the Alumni President's Associates.

*"We want to
pay it forward."*

*John and
Pam Deem*



John L. and Pamela A. '83 Deem

John and Pam Deem's lives have been intertwined with the University of Southern Indiana since Mr. Deem joined the business faculty in 1967. After teaching for two years, Mr. Deem became the first registrar, and over the years, added multiple responsibilities, including first men's basketball coach and acting vice president for Student Affairs. He taught accounting every semester for 33 years, and in 2011 he retired as associate vice president emeritus for Student Affairs and assistant professor emeritus of accounting.

Mrs. Deem had foregone college, working while her new husband pursued his bachelor's and master's degrees at Murray State University. She later enrolled at USI, took course overloads, worked full time, shepherded their two sons' schedules, and graduated with honors in elementary education. Mrs. Deem has taught kindergarten, directed a day-care center, served as vice president of a local corporation, and worked for Evansville's Fifth Third Bank, where she retired in 2005.

Mr. Deem served 12 years on the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Board, including two terms as president. The Deems are faithful members of St. James United Methodist Church, where they have been lay speakers. In retirement, they enjoy travel, golf, and involvement in the USI Varsity Club, Alumni President's Associates, and the new USI Retirees organization.

In 1990, the Deems created the Deem Memorial Scholarship Fund. Sixteen years later, they made another gift that was matched by the Lilly Endowment, pushing the Deem Fund over \$100,000. They want the fund to provide scholarships that reflect their University interests. In the mid 1990s, during *Campaign USI*, they joined *Reflections* Planned Giving Society.

USI is truly a Deem family affair. Son Tim and his wife Diane graduated in 1993; their other son Brian, his wife Robin, and all five Deem grandchildren have been involved in some way—classes, sports camps, or other enrichment activities. Mrs. Deem explained, "USI has been such a major part of our lives, and we have enjoyed the social and sports events."

Mr. Deem agreed. "I can't imagine having had a more exciting career...the opportunities for growth in academic programs, facilities, and enrollment—600 when I started; 10,600 when I retired—have been rewarding."

*Don and Mary
Jane Elliott
charted the future
of education in
Evansville.*



E. Donald and Mary Jane Elliott

When Don and Mary Jane Elliott moved to Evansville from Chicago in 1953, they immediately immersed themselves in community affairs and recognized the need for greater educational opportunities. As director, and later as vice president, of personnel at Mead Johnson Company, Mr. Elliott established the Mead Johnson Institute, an in-house educational program to meet the continuing education needs of employees. Advocating a public university, he worked in earnest with Mead Johnson executives and community leaders to establish Indiana State University Evansville in 1965; in 1985, it became the University of Southern Indiana.

Mr. Elliott also helped organize the University's Foundation and served as president from 1976–1986. He and Mrs. Elliott were among the most passionate of the University's friends. Mr. Elliott was also president of the Mead Johnson Foundation, which matched employee gifts to USI and invested in vital programs at the new college.

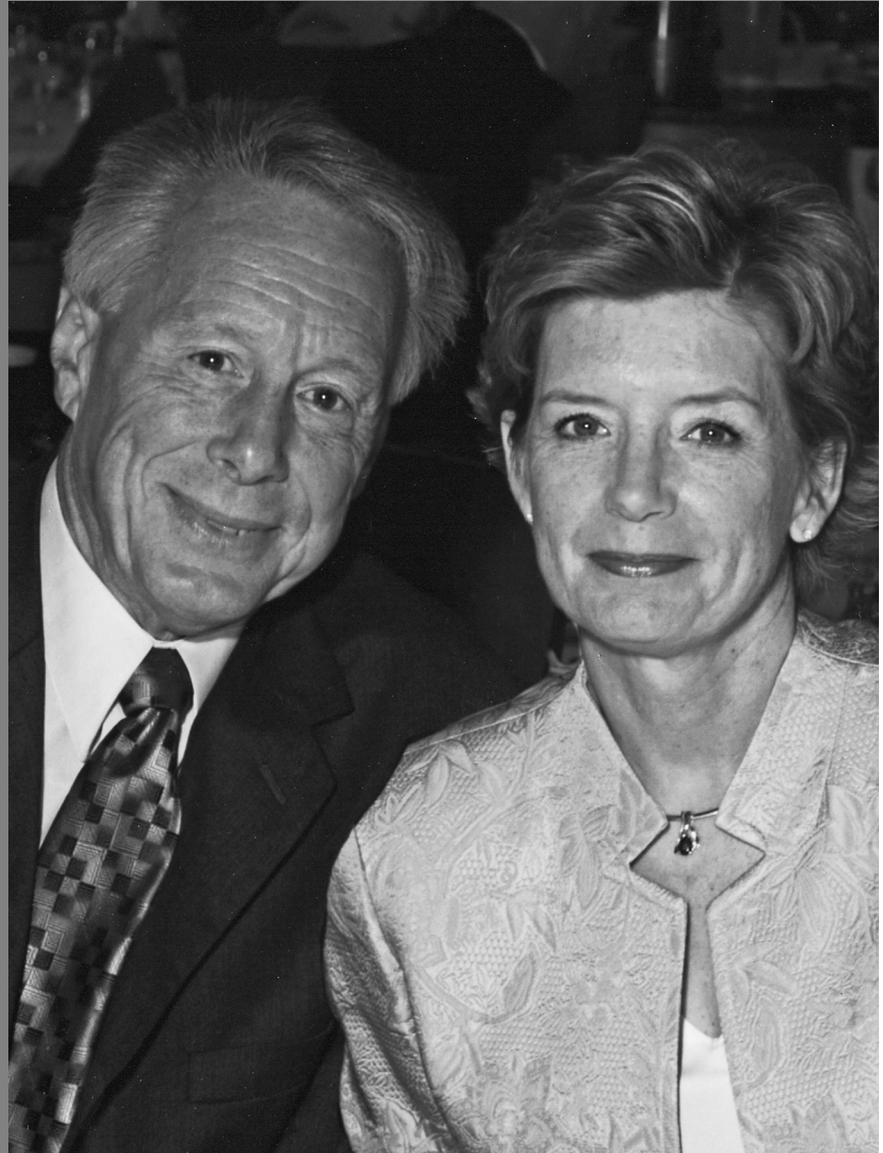
Mr. Elliott gave leadership to more than 20 nonprofit boards including local, state, and national Chambers of Commerce, Evansville Museum, Philharmonic Orchestra, Deaconess Foundation, Rotary, Rehabilitation Center, and Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. He was the founding president of Evansville's Freedom Festival and was instrumental in the development of the Evansville Civic Center. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from USI in 1979.

Mrs. Elliott had taught deaf and hearing-impaired students. Also an active volunteer, she was regarded in Evansville society as one of the city's most gracious hostesses, entertaining in their home and introducing new Mead Johnson employees to the city. She was a member of Eastminister Church, former trustee of First Presbyterian Church, and past secretary of the Musicians Club. The Elliotts' daughter, Jane Drebus, remembers her mother as "supportive of Daddy and his ventures...and her children's education."

The Elliotts established the E. Donald and Mary Jane Elliott Memorial Scholarship Fund, a need-based scholarship for incoming working freshmen.

Mr. Elliott died in 1994 and Mrs. Elliott died in 1997. Their daughter Jane and her husband Bill '75 live in Evansville; their son Don, Jr. lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Gail Charnley.

*Examples of
early USI leaders
motivate the
Englerts.*



Sylvester and Rebecca J. '84 Englert

Rebecca and Sylvester Englert share a passion for USI athletics, particularly basketball. "We admire the students who can play sports, travel, miss classes, and still make good grades. Those we support make excellent grades," says Mrs. Englert of the recipients of their Screaming Eagles Scholarship.

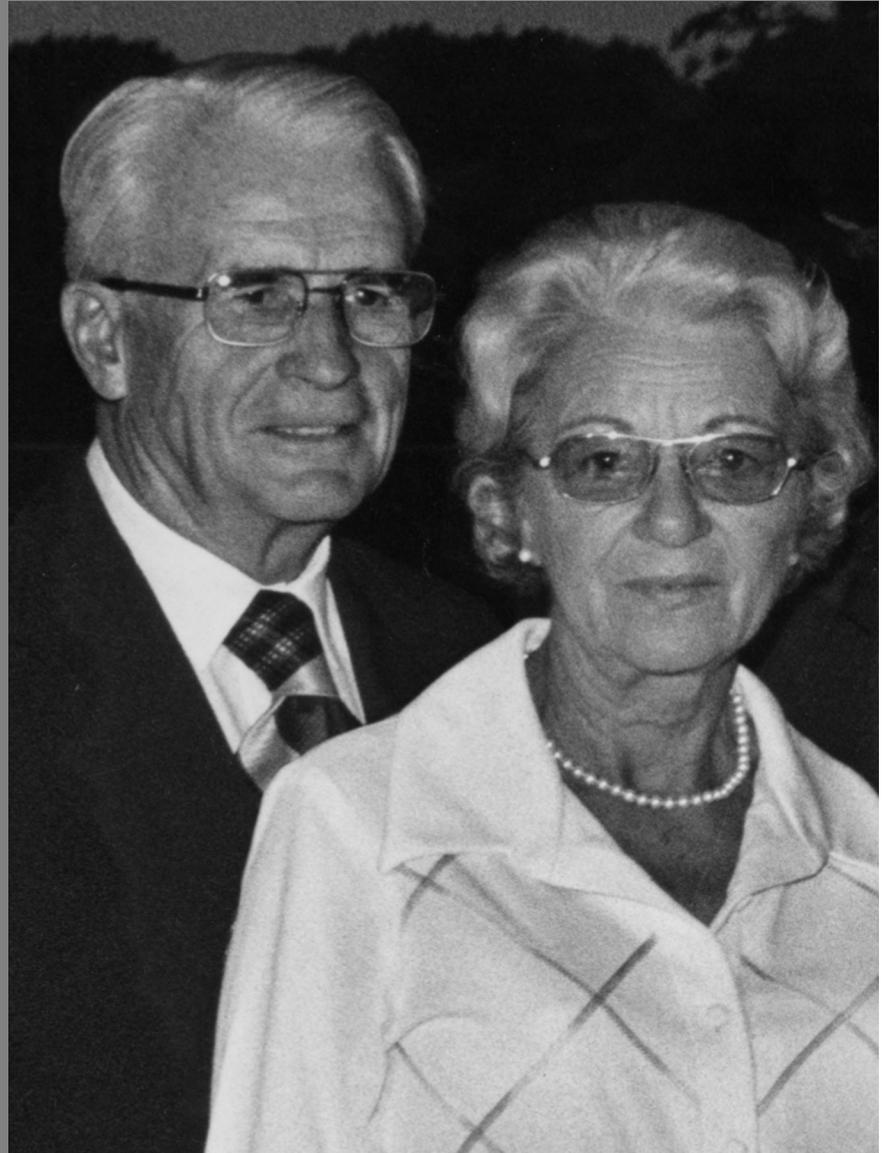
The Englerts met in Evansville on a blind date. Mr. Englert graduated from Mater Dei High School and Mrs. Englert from Boonville High School. She graduated early from high school and enrolled in the radiology program offered by St. Mary's Hospital and University of Evansville. After directing a hospital-based radiology program in Florida, she began to teach in the USI radiology program in its infancy. After earning a bachelor's degree in health services and political science at USI and a master's degree in public administration from Indiana State University, she taught full-time at USI for nine years and also taught political science part-time for several years. Mrs. Englert eventually started her own business, specializing in quality management, problem-solving, and leadership skills. She is now Quality/Regulatory Specialist, responsible for quality, patient relations, patient safety, compliance, and physical environment, at The Heart Hospital at Deaconess Gateway campus. Mr. Englert is retired after a career as a tool-and-die maker for 20 years each at Hahn, Inc. and Whirlpool Corporation.

Early in her career, Mrs. Englert sought advice from USI President David L. Rice. "He was the first person in my life, in a position like his, to take time to encourage my career path," she said.

She also was motivated to support USI by the business leaders who brought public higher education to southwestern Indiana. "For me, it was an early example of people believing in something and sustaining it," she said.

The Englerts became basketball fans while she was on the faculty. Today, they are members of the Varsity Club, Alumni President's Associates, and *Reflections* Planned Giving Society. They have created a deferred gift to benefit the basketball program, with their wills leaving an amount equally split between men's and women's basketball, and perpetuating their annual gift to the Screaming Eagles Scholarship.

*The Fritz family
ensured the
resources to meet
educational needs.*



Edward E. and Virginia L. Fritz

Ed and Virginia Fritz were among the University's early and most generous donors. Mr. Fritz approached President David L. Rice in 1971 to discuss the shortage of well-educated dental health care providers in Southern Indiana. His firm, the Chayse-Virginia Corporation (named Virginia after his wife), was the second-largest manufacturer of dental chairs in the world. The company had worked extensively with communities in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and Illinois to address manpower shortages. He worked with President Rice and Indiana University School of Dentistry Dean Ralph McDonald to initiate the dental auxiliary education programs at USI.

To assure the program had a good start, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz made a \$60,000 grant to the USI Foundation. Their hope was that the program would attract rural and minority students who, after graduation, would return to communities with critical manpower shortages. On the USI campus, an important component of the educational program was the establishment of a dental hygiene clinic, which has served low-income patients for over 40 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Fritz also established the Virginia and Ed Fritz Scholarship to help "typically unrecognized" students who have financial need. The endowment annually benefits several students from various majors. Mr. Fritz was an active member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors for 25 years. In 1975, USI awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Mrs. Fritz shared her husband's interest in business and education, and both were active in Masonic organizations. She was a member of the Daughter of Isis Temple and a past Queen of the Nile, and he was a member of Scottish Rite and Hadi Shrine. During wartime, Mr. Fritz was a manager at Republic Aviation and represented Evansville on the Automotive Council for War Production. He owned Majestic Fabricators and Shawnee Plastics and retired from Chayse-Virginia in 1973. They had three children and were married for 69 years when Mrs. Fritz died in 1999. Mr. Fritz died the following year.

*USI is music
to the ears of
Phyllis Grimm.*



Phyllis R. Grimm

"Music has been a part of my life as long as I can remember," said Phyllis Grimm, a talented soprano who has sung with the Evansville Philharmonic Chorus, Old North Chorus, the Choral Society at University of Evansville, and the choirs of Bethel United Church of Christ and Bethlehem Church.

In 2011, she established the Dr. William C.H. and Phyllis R. Grimm Choral Music Endowment to provide perpetual funding for the USI Choral Music Program, intending to inspire others and to expand the program. Earlier, she and her late husband, a board-certified internal medicine physician with emphasis in cardiology, established the Dr. William C.H. Grimm, Jr. and Phyllis R. Grimm Endowed Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine Scholarship. "We had been looking for a way to help a student planning a career as a physician," she said.

Education and the arts in Evansville were appealing when the Grimms relocated to Evansville in 1960. The couple met as students at Syracuse University and soon discovered their mutual love of music. After she worked in New York City for a publisher and an advertising agency and Dr. Grimm completed his medical study, residency, and military obligation, they were recruited by Welborn Hospital.

Mrs. Grimm remembered, "Welborn brought in lots of medical specialists. We interviewed in Evansville, met a lot of people, saw the new Museum, and heard plans for the future. We thought, if we could, we would like to be a part of those plans. It would be grand," said Mrs. Grimm, who has been described by a friend as "the most celebratory person I know."

Mrs. Grimm has served on the boards of the Musicians Club, Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and its Guild, Public Broadcasting of Southwest Indiana, and Friends of UE Music. Dr. Grimm, who played piano, was a board member of the Philharmonic and active in the Evansville Museum.

Dr. Grimm practiced medicine until 1995. After their three children were raised, Mrs. Grimm started a new career as a certified interior designer. Dr. Grimm died at age 78 in 2008. At his death, he and Mrs. Grimm had been married 55 years.

*Bill Hitch laid
the groundwork
for USI.*



William L. "Bill" Hitch

Bill Hitch turned the first spade of dirt at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Evansville campus of Indiana State University, the predecessor of the University of Southern Indiana. At the time, he was the alumni representative on the Indiana State University (Terre Haute) Board of Trustees. While a student at ISU, Mr. Hitch had been a star basketball player and a highly regarded student leader.

A resident of Princeton, Indiana, Mr. Hitch and his first wife Phyllis, who died in 1982, took enormous pride in the development of public higher education in Southwestern Indiana. He became an advocate for the state's investment in the Evansville campus. He served as ISU trustee from 1969–1977 and was president of its board for two years. One of Mr. Hitch's best friends was State Senator Robert J. Fair, also of Princeton, with whom he worked to develop resources for the campus and pave the way for separate state university status. After USI was established in 1985, Mr. Fair, no longer in the legislature, was appointed to the first Board of Trustees and became its first chair.

An early member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, Mr. Hitch served on the board for 22 years. He was president of Hitch Packing Company in Princeton until its sale in 1989. This successful businessman invested his personal resources in the campus and encouraged other friends and business associates to do so as well. He became a close friend of founding President David L. Rice and many members of the faculty and staff. The University publicly recognized his leadership in business and higher education in 1979 when he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

For many years, Mr. Hitch had a scholarship endowment in the USI Foundation, but seeing the positive impact of the USI Presidential Scholarship program, he and his second wife Shirley converted it to an endowed Presidential Scholarship in 2001. Mr. Hitch died in 2003, and Mrs. Hitch continues to be involved in USI. She enjoys New Harmony Theatre and other arts initiatives. Vicki Campbell, Mr. Hitch's niece from New Harmony, continues the family legacy as a member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors.

*The Hubers are
immersed in all
aspects of USI life.*



J. David and Sarah K. Huber

David and Sarah Huber first became closely involved with the University of Southern Indiana when Mr. Huber was appointed a University Trustee in 1991. He served a four-year term on the board and then in 2001 was re-appointed and served six additional years, including four years as chair.

A native of Cannelton, Indiana, Mr. Huber earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. In 1962, his senior year of law school, he was elected Judge of the Perry County Circuit Court, becoming the youngest elected judge in Indiana. He served until 1970, and then entered private practice. Mostly retired since 2002, he occasionally takes cases of special interest.

Mrs. Huber, an Evansville native, has been a social worker with the Evansville Rehabilitation Center and a consultant for the Lincoln Hills Development Corporation. She has been active in Habitat for Humanity and is an advocate for low-income senior citizens in Perry County. A graduate of the University of Evansville, she earned her Master of Social Work at the University of Chicago.

The Hubers have given leadership to many philanthropic initiatives of the University. Mr. Huber has been a member of the USI Foundation Board and its Advisory Council. Mrs. Huber is a past chair of the USI-New Harmony Foundation Board where both are life members and now serve on the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board. They are members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society and Perpetual Members of the USI President's Associates. In 2008, Mr. Huber was inducted into the USI President's Circle, and in 2010, the couple received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.

Enthusiastic supporters of men's and women's basketball, Mr. and Mrs. Huber are members of the USI Varsity Club. They also support USI arts and humanities programs. As a director of the Edgar W. and Lucille E. Schergens Foundation, Mr. Huber oversees efforts to provide scholarships and international study grants for Perry County students attending USI. In 2001, the Hubers established the J. David and Sarah K. Huber Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, which funds their endowed Presidential Scholarship.

*Margie Kinder
was an early role
model for women
in the workplace.*



Margie R. Kinder

Margie Kinder's concern for children led her to establish a charitable gift annuity in the USI Foundation to benefit teachers enrolled in the master's degree program, "to help provide better teachers, so that children of this region will be prepared for their role as good citizens."

Mrs. Kinder was the perfect example of a good citizen, excelling professionally, creating educational opportunities for women in business, volunteering to improve her community, and setting an example of professional behavior for young women in the workplace.

Mrs. Kinder worked for the president of Frontier-Kemper Insurance and was secretary to a scientific executive at Mead Johnson Nutritionals. She and her husband Al, whom she married in 1942, operated Kinder Moving and Storage until 1972. Before women in business had many opportunities for professional development, she gave leadership to the Indiana Diamond Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. She also was a member of the Professional Secretaries International. An absolute model of decorum, she taught young women in business settings to conduct themselves with grace, dignity, and poise.

She was active in Masonic women's groups, including Eastern Star, White Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, and Hadi Ladies. She and her husband were devoted ballroom dancers, belonging to Coterie of Evansville and the Friday Night Dance Club. She also enjoyed bridge, especially with her Saturday afternoon group after she moved to Solarbron Pointe Retirement Center.

A member of the VFW Auxiliary, she remembered that her husband Al returned from military service ill with malaria, and she nursed him back to health. They enjoyed 57 years together until his death in 1999. Mrs. Kinder died in 2009 at age 86, on the same date as her husband ten years earlier. Their legacy lives at USI through the Alfred and Margie R. Kinder Endowed Teacher Education Scholarship.

*Though they
enjoyed global
success,
the McCoys
focused on close
friendships.*



Kenneth E. and Elizabeth J. McCoy

Ken and Elizabeth McCoy were partners in business as well as in marriage. They owned McCoy Machine and Tool in Grayville, Illinois, and were prominent in the booming Southern Illinois oil exploration business. Mr. McCoy held a patent on an important drilling component which he supplied to companies all over the world. Mrs. McCoy, who held a degree from Brown Business College, was the office manager. Through their friendship with USI benefactors Bill and Trudy Mitchell of Albion, Illinois, also prominent in the oil business, the McCoy's became involved in the University of Southern Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. McCoy had many community interests and were active as a couple in the Grayville Presbyterian Church, as well as the Moose and Elks clubs. They also were involved in the Evansville Petroleum Club, Deaconess Hospital Foundation, and Mesker Park Zoo and Botanical Gardens. In 1985, they planted trees near the USI University Center to celebrate their friend Bill Mitchell's birthday and to congratulate the University on its establishment as a separate state university that same year. The McCoy's were members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation.

After Mr. McCoy died in 1995, Mrs. McCoy moved to Solarbron Pointe Retirement Center near the USI campus and joined The Turning Pointe United Methodist Church. She became active in the USI arts community, enjoying the Society for Arts and Humanities and New Harmony Theatre.

Mrs. McCoy established a revocable trust agreement which benefitted several of her favorite philanthropies, including the Historic New Harmony Society and a USI Foundation Fund for Faculty Enhancement. Through the Warrick County Community Foundation, she established a permanently endowed fund, the Kenneth E. and Elizabeth J. McCoy Fund, to provide a Deans Scholarship for USI students from Warrick County. Mrs. McCoy died in 2005, but the McCoy gifts to faculty and students perpetuate the McCoy's love for their adopted university.

*The Merrills
influenced
education,
politics, arts,
law, and historic
preservation*



D. Bailey and Josephine D. Merrill

From the inception of the USI Foundation's annual fund 44 years ago, Bailey and Jo Merrill were members of the Century Club, knowing that their early \$100 annual investment—and their example of leadership—would influence others in the community in developing public higher education in Southwestern Indiana.

The Merrills were graduates of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Mr. Merrill also earned a law degree from Indiana University in 1937 and practiced law in Terre Haute for two years before moving to Evansville. In 1942, he volunteered for military service, serving as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II and earning a Bronze Star for heroic action in Central Europe. After the war, he returned to his Evansville law practice.

Mrs. Merrill was a teacher at Culver Elementary School and a faithful volunteer with the Red Cross while her husband was in service. She also was a “pink lady” at Welborn Hospital, not far from their historic home on Southeast First Street. She was involved in her husband's successful campaign for election to the United States House of Representatives, where he served one term as Indiana's Eighth District Congressman.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Merrill were exemplary civic leaders, supporting many charities and the arts. He was president of the Evansville Bar Association and active in Boy Scouts, United Fund, and Rotary. He received the Rotary Civic Award and an honorary doctorate from USI.

Mrs. Merrill was an active member of St. Mary Catholic Church, the Social Literary Circle, Evansville Dance Theater Board, League of Women Voters, and the Evansville School Board. They shared an interest in historic preservation and were active in Evansville's Riverside Historic District.

The Merrills were charter members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society and leadership donors to the USI Physical Activities Center campaign. Through their wills, they left an unrestricted gift which was used to establish the Josephine D. and D. Bailey Merrill Endowed Scholarship for political science majors.

They were married 53 years when Mr. Merrill died in 1993. Mrs. Merrill continued her USI involvement until her death in 2005.

*David Mitchell uses
his experiences
to create
opportunities for
young people.*



David E. Mitchell '85

David Mitchell graduated from the University of Southern Indiana the year the University became a separate state university, and proudly holds diplomas from both ISUE and USI. He remembers the excitement of Governor Orr coming to campus in 1984 to announce the Board of Incorporators planning process and the several months of focused discussions leading to the establishment of USI.

A graduate of Mt. Vernon, Indiana, High School, Mr. Mitchell played USI varsity baseball while carrying a triple major in economics, finance, and management. His senior year, Mr. Mitchell considered continuing immediately for a master's degree in business administration, but was encouraged by the USI Placement Office to take advantage of on-campus employer interviews. The week of his graduation, he was offered a management trainee position with Old National Bank in Evansville. "I was lucky to find a job right after college and to leave college with no debt, thanks to my scholarships and help from my parents," he said.

Mr. Mitchell later moved to Integra Bank where he rose to head of wealth management before accepting his present position as senior vice president and trust officer at German American Bank in Evansville.

He is a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon and serves on the board of the Evansville Association for the Blind and the Metro Board of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, where he is now "moving through the chairs" to eventual presidency. He supports the USI Varsity Club and attends sports events. His brother Steve '78, also played USI baseball and is retired from teaching in Mt. Vernon. His sister Julie '85, dental hygiene, lives in Pittsburgh. With three of their four children graduating from USI, parents Paul and Erma Mitchell have become involved and are USI sports fans.

A member of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, Mr. Mitchell made a gift of insurance to benefit the College of Business and the baseball program. He also is a member of the Alumni President's Associates. "With USI and the community organizations I am involved with, you can directly see the impact when opportunities are created for young people."

*Oh, to be able
to thank the
Ohlrogges for
their generosity!*



To welcome the holiday season, USI choirs stage the Madrigal Feast, the oldest tradition of the University.

Walter H. and Vada Ohlrogge

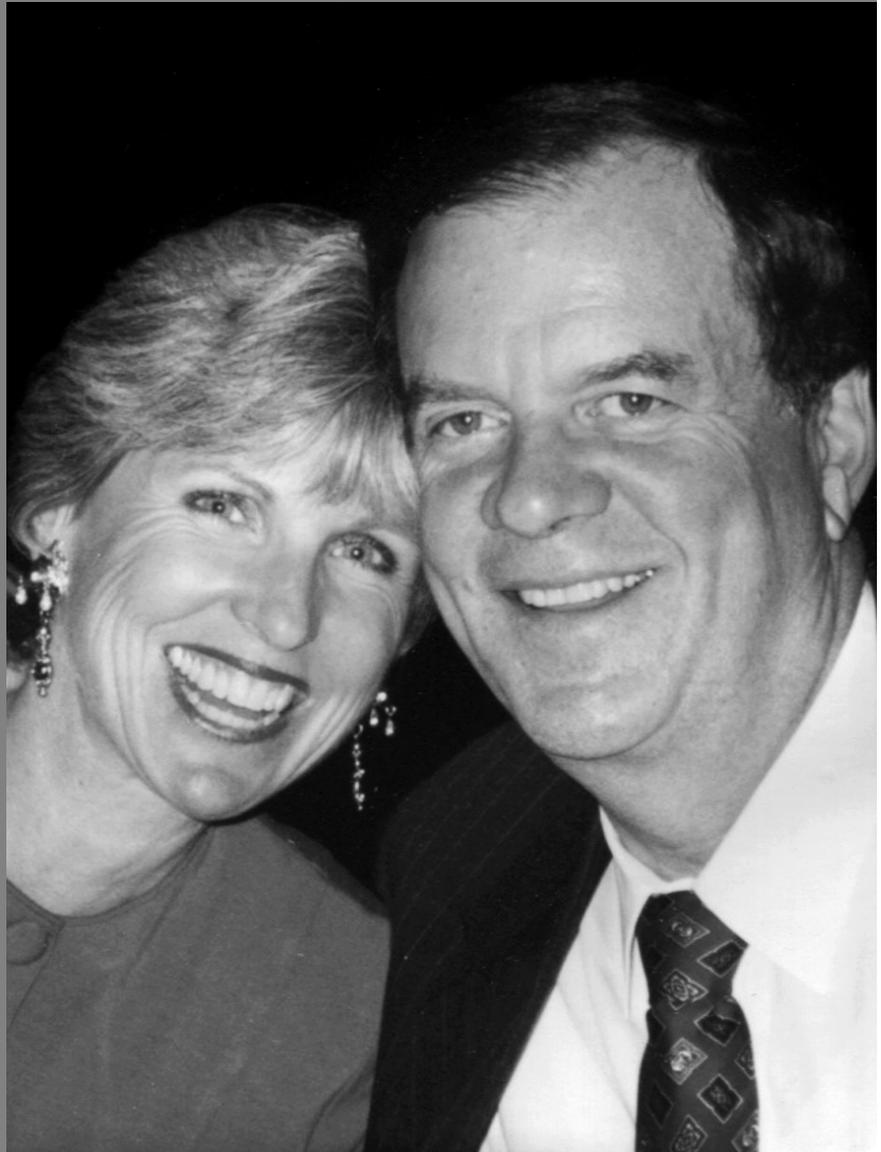
Walter and Vada Ohlrogge left a major bequest to the University of Southern Indiana, but until after their deaths, the University was unaware of their interest in assisting students. For over 25 years, the Ohlrogge Fund has been a continuing source of financial support to students.

Walter Ohlrogge was an Evansville native who graduated from Central High School. He owned and operated Ohlrogge Brothers Machine Shop with his wife, whom he married in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Ohlrogge lived on the wooded, picturesque west side of Vanderburgh County, not far from campus. They had attended First Avenue Presbyterian Church and Mr. Ohlrogge was a member of the Elks and Moose lodges. He enjoyed fishing and hunting. They did not have children.

In 1984, Mr. and Mrs. Ohlrogge, both age 81, died just a few weeks apart. Friends reported that Mrs. Ohlrogge, who preceded her husband in death, had expressed a desire to assist the developing University of Southern Indiana. A short time before Mr. Ohlrogge's death, he added a codicil to his will leaving \$387,000 to the University, granting his late wife's wish to create scholarships. At the time, it was the largest gift ever received to benefit the University of Southern Indiana. The USI Foundation used the Ohlrogge Fund to establish numerous scholarships that could meet the changing needs of targeted student populations and newly developing academic and student leadership programs. Currently, the Ohlrogge Fund provides stipends to students in the Chamber Choir and USI Theatre productions and also to out-of-state students, who pay higher fees than in-state students. More than 60 students each semester enjoy Ohlrogge stipends.

The Ohlrogges' philanthropy toward USI will be remembered in perpetuity, by the thousands of students who have benefitted from their generosity. Some of those students are pictured here because a photograph could not be found of Mr. and Mrs. Ohlrogge.

*The Schroeders
were inspired
by USI professor
Mary Schroeder*



John C. and Kathy E. Schroeder

John and Kathy Schroeder were inspired by the dedication of John's sister, Mary Schroeder, who began teaching at the University in 1967 and retired in 2004 as assistant professor emerita of Communication Studies. They marveled at Mary's enthusiasm for working with students academically, advising their career paths, and continuing relationships with them after graduation. During *Campaign USI*, the University's first capital campaign, they made a gift of insurance to endow a USI Presidential Scholarship.

Mr. Schroeder was an award-winning Northwestern Mutual Insurance agent for 30 years, and took advantage of the company's program to match its employees' gifts to higher education institutions. Impressed by USI's development, the Schroeders made a conscious decision to support the University. "We talked about it and said, 'I think this is what we are going to do,'" becoming charter members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, said Kathy Schroeder.

Until Mr. Schroeder's death in 2002, the couple had enjoyed attending USI social events, and shared an active lifestyle together, involved in daughters Lisa and Amy's school and extracurricular activities. They spent many enjoyable weekends on their houseboat at Green Turtle Bay in Kentucky, close to Murray State University, where Mr. Schroeder had graduated.

Mr. Schroeder was a past president of the Lions Club and Downtown Quarterback Club, and an active member of the Downtown Kiwanis, Evansville Country Club, Kennel Club, and UE Purple Aces Club.

Mrs. Schroeder graduated from Indiana University's College for Medical and Dental Assistants, leaving home from Burnt Prairie, Illinois, as a 17-year-old to live and study in Indianapolis. Until she married, she was active in her profession and served as president of the Dental Assistants Association. After she retired, she volunteered in her children's schools, serving as PTA president and on the Board of Reitz Memorial High School. The Evansville Museum also has been "a big part" of her life. She was a docent for six years and president twice of the Museum Guild, a position which placed her on the Museum Board. Today, she is active in the Green River Kiwanis and loves being a grandmother.

*Success on the
court and in the
classroom motivates
the Werners.*



Paul J. and Eleanor R. Werner

A case of mistaken identity led Evansville native Paul Werner to become a follower of the University of Southern Indiana men's basketball team. In the mid-1970s he began to get mail and phone calls for Paul Werner, but clearly not meant for him. It turns out that the Screaming Eagles had a new guard from Tell City named Paul Werner. Paul Werner, the soon-to-be Eagles fan, talked to then-Coach Wayne Boultinghouse, got the mix-up straightened out, and has been keeping up with the team ever since. He and his wife Eleanor are longtime Varsity Club members.

In 2008, the Werners created an endowed scholarship to benefit student athletes. A charitable gift annuity, established with a gift of stock, will fund the Paul J. and Eleanor R. Werner Endowed Men's Basketball Scholarship, which will benefit men's basketball players in perpetuity.

"Whatever degrees they earn," Mr. Werner said of the recipients, "I hope they go on to succeed."

Mrs. Werner champions her husband's emphasis on education and desire to help others reach their goals. "I think it's important for people to get all the education they can," she said. "I'm pleased that we have a way to help."

A graduate of Reitz High School, Mr. Werner grew up less than four miles from the University. He served four years in the Air Force, spending time in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, and retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb in 1994 after 21 years.

Mrs. Werner is a graduate of Central High School. She has worked in accounting for SIGECO and as a medical transcriber for the Visiting Nurse Association. She earned a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree as a nontraditional student at the University of Evansville.

The Werners share an interest in USI's Bent Twig Outdoor Education Center and in restoring the historic one-room Bokelman School there. Mrs. Werner has been president of Westwood Garden Club, which was instrumental in establishing the center and moving Bokelman School to campus. Mr. Werner's mother, Eloise, was the first president of the club in 1957. The Club supports historic Bokelman School through the USI Foundation.

*The positive
spirit of Victoria
Wertz still elevates
healthcare
education.*



Victoria L. Wertz

Victoria Wertz was a longtime friend of the University of Southern Indiana, thoughtfully making a gift of her home to the University in 1994. Her intent was for the USI Foundation to sell the home and use the proceeds to create the Wertz Nursing Faculty Enhancement Fund, which provides vital professional development for nursing faculty.

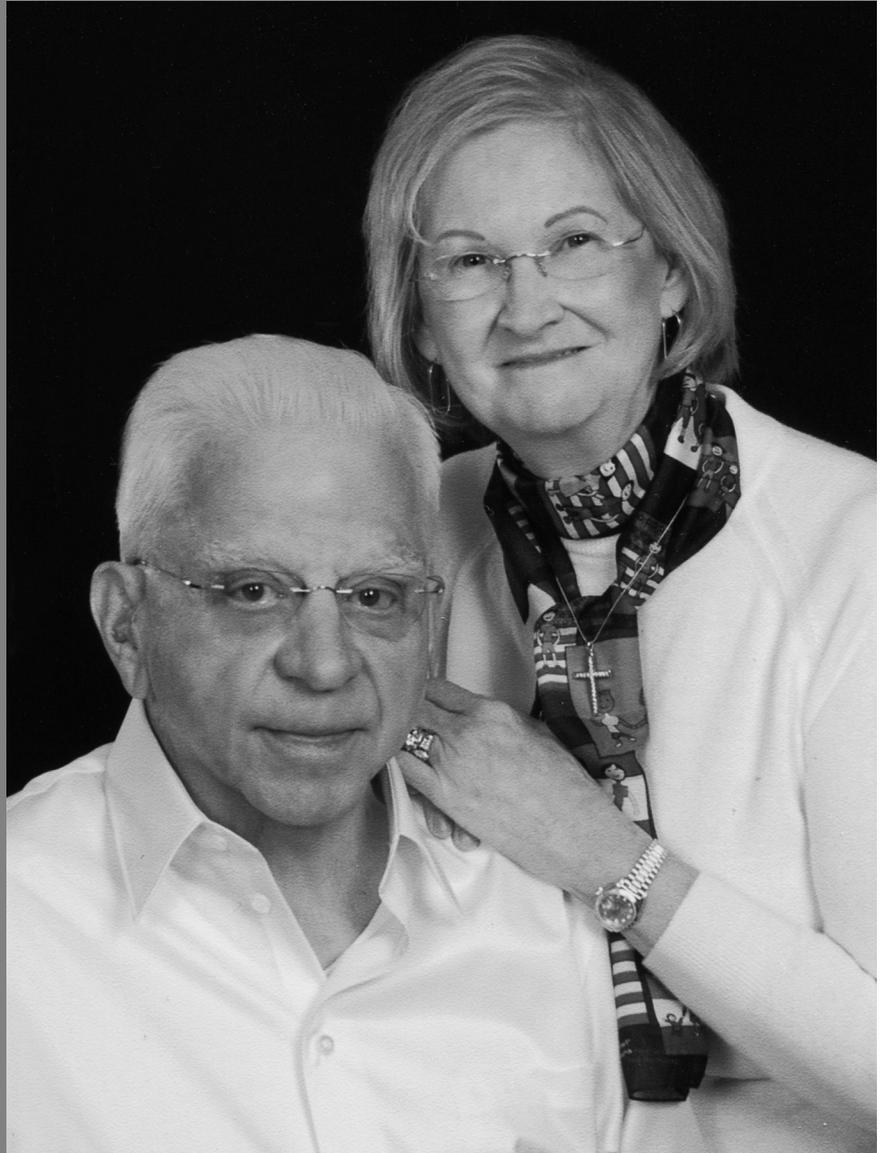
Mrs. Wertz's generosity has made it possible for nursing faculty to be on the cutting edge of new clinical information. They have been able to attend national conferences to learn and present their research on critical care nursing, advanced practice nursing, gerontology nursing, and classroom and clinical teaching institutes. She also created three nursing scholarships, named for her late husband and two daughters.

Mrs. Wertz was a good friend of President Emeritus David Rice and his wife Betty, who recalled that the Wertz family business, Maley and Wertz Lumber Company in Evansville, harvested and kiln-dried yellow poplar from Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. land near the campus for use as cabinetry and paneling in the University Home, the residence of USI's first families since 1983. In a 2004 interview, Mrs. Wertz said her husband was proud of his involvement in the University Home.

Born Victoria Howard in Owensboro, Kentucky, she enrolled in Lockyear Business College in Evansville. She became the secretary to Daniel P. Wertz, one of the owners of Maley and Wertz. In 1930, she married Daniel Wertz's son Claude, also associated with the family business. His first wife had died, and he was raising a young daughter, Barbara Jeanne. Claude and Victoria had two children, Judith and Claude, Jr. (Jay). Mr. and Mrs. Wertz had been married 57 years when Mr. Wertz died at age 90. Mrs. Wertz died in 2007 at age 103.

Mrs. Wertz's active lifestyle and positive outlook surely contributed to her long life. She was a member of the Central Turners women's basketball team, played golf, showed her saddlehorse, and was a garden club member. "I think being active makes you more mentally alert," she said as she approached her 100th birthday.

*Yowell and
Waggoner's
philanthropy
reflects their
own educational
experiences and
opportunities.*



Richard L. Yowell and Janet L. Waggoner '96

Janet Waggoner and Richard Yowell show their appreciation for educational opportunities by providing for those who follow them. When Ms. Waggoner graduated from high school in Shoals, Indiana, she “had no concept” of how she might be able to go to college. After living in Germany and Arizona, she returned to Shoals, and in her fifties, earned an Associate of Science degree from Vincennes University, a Bachelor of Social Work degree from University of Southern Indiana, and a Master of Social Work degree from University of Louisville.

Mr. Yowell was inspired by his father, a University of Missouri business graduate who became president of General Electric’s real estate and construction division. Richard graduated from Missouri in chemical engineering and spent his career with General Electric. One of the first employees on site at GE Plastics in Mt. Vernon, Indiana, Mr. Yowell helped to build the plant, and retired from there in 1991.

The couple met when Ms. Waggoner responded to a classified ad about a Lexus automobile for sale. In the midst of moving from Louisville to Evansville to accept a social worker position at Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, she missed the car, but contacted him to thank him for his cordiality. They had dinner and a year later they married. They now live in Bloomington and own a successful Bed and Breakfast in Shoals, managed by Ms. Waggoner’s daughter.

Members of *Reflections* Planned Giving Society, the couple created a charitable remainder unitrust to support the USI Department of Social Work and the Janet L. Waggoner and Richard L. Yowell Social Work Endowment. It also benefits programs at University of Louisville and University of Missouri-Columbia. To honor his father, Mr. Yowell named a University of Missouri classroom for him.

Each year, they also award a renewable \$1,000 scholarship to Shoals graduates bound for USI, usually supporting four Shoals students at USI each year. “It thrills me to see students from Shoals going on to college. We hope we are helping change Shoals’ college-going tradition,” Ms. Waggoner added.

*Ted and Clare
Ziemer are
immersed in
family, friends,
faith, and all
things USI.*



Ted C., Jr. and Clare Daves Ziemer

Ted Ziemer was a young lawyer in his hometown of Evansville when USI President David L. Rice asked him to join the Foundation Board of Evansville's new public university. "I said yes, and from then on, I've been a part of everything USI!" recalled Mr. Ziemer.

A Foundation Board member since 1976, he served as chair for six years during USI's first capital campaign. In 2007, the Governor appointed him as a University Trustee. Now in his second four-year term, he relishes his role as chair of the USI Board of Trustees. "This is the apex of my experiences in service to USI," he said.

Mr. Ziemer is acknowledged as Evansville's top volunteer charitable giving fund raiser. Numerous nonprofits have benefitted from his expertise, including St. Mary's Medical Center Foundation, where he was chair for over 20 years. He also is active in the Republican Party, assisting local, state, and national candidates in developing campaign resources.

Mr. Ziemer graduated from St. Louis University and earned his law degree from Indiana University. He and wife Clare, whose families lived next door to one another, began dating when he was in law school and she was a student at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, where she graduated after also studying French for a year in Switzerland. They married in 1963, and have been a forceful couple in leading church, education, healthcare, business, and arts groups. The Ziemers enjoy entertaining friends and civic leaders at home, where Mrs. Ziemer's culinary skills shine.

Mr. Ziemer, a partner in the firm of Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders, is active at all levels of Bar Association work. He has been Vanderburgh County Attorney and is now Evansville City Attorney. Mrs. Ziemer has been a school board member at Holy Rosary School where their three children—Ellen, Kate, and Ted IV—were educated.

During *Campaign USI*, Mr. and Mrs. Ziemer established the Ted and Clare Ziemer Endowment, which supports Presidential Scholarships. In recognition of his University leadership, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1998.

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

Kevin M. Eastridge
2010–2012

Bruce H. Baker
2012–

† Deceased