

Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

University of Southern Indiana Foundation • Established October 1, 1968

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FOUNDATION
50 & Forward

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Editor

Taylor J. Gogel '13

Contributing writers

David A. Bower

Andrea R. Gentry '05

Taylor J. Gogel '13

Contributing photography

Elizabeth Courtney Randolph

Indiana State University Special Collections - University Archives

Laverne Jones '05

University Communications

University of Southern Indiana

Some photos supplied by families, friends, Rice Library Archives,
Willard Library Archives or selected from University photo library

Graphic design

Creative and Print Services

University of Southern Indiana

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university in Evansville, Indiana. More than 11,000 (Fall 2018)* 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. (Duvall) and Frank F. McDonald Sr.

On October 1, 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 Alumni and Friends,

This October marks 50 years for the University of Southern Indiana Foundation. In celebrating a milestone, one could consider highlighting the single most significant occurrence over this period of time, year by year, or in any number of ways. As we close our 50th anniversary celebration, may our focus be on those thousands of individuals who made the thoughtful decision to provide a gift to help USI students achieve a higher education.

Making a gift is always a choice, and the USI Foundation recognizes how fortunate it is for the alumni and friends who made the decision to invest in our students, faculty and programs. The importance of a higher education is the shared value which connects all of us. The power of an education is the single most important thread that pulls us together in unity of purpose.

Collectively, we transform lives and advance the University of Southern Indiana. We open the eyes, minds and hearts of our students to a world that will eventually reap the benefit of their impact due to their USI experience. Those who contribute to the USI Foundation are perpetually entwined with the achievements of our alumni and current students.

Friendships formed through the USI Foundation are woven into the fabric of this University and we look forward to the friendships that await us in the next 50 years.

Sincerely,



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



October 1, 2018

*Alcoa Warrick
Operations
continues to see
engagement with
the community
as critical to its
company values.*



Elementary students participating in the 2017 Tri-state Science and Engineering Fair.

Alcoa Warrick Operations

Alcoa Warrick Operations has a history of revolution. Alcoa's strategic plan to build its facility in the late 1950s was a key step in transforming the entire aluminum industry – making aluminum one of the materials of choice in packaging. Essentially, Alcoa forecasted the rigid container sheet market before it even existed, with Warrick Operations continuing its innovation.

Today, Alcoa Warrick Operations is a leader in the production of flat-rolled aluminum and in its method of working directly with customers in the development of new products. Customers use the facility's flat-rolled aluminum for food and beverage containers, lithographic printing plates and industrial product applications, making it unique in the company's system and in the aluminum industry itself. The entire production employs over 1,200, facilitating the world's largest capacity for production of coated aluminum sheeting.

Alcoa Warrick Operations has and continues to see engagement with the community as critical to its company values. Alcoa began a relationship with the young USI campus early on, and the relationship has developed over the years with USI students consistently benefiting from their generous investments.

In the 1970s, Alcoa Warrick Operations established the Alcoa Foundation Scholars, assisting students in the attainment of their educational and professional goals. This was only the beginning of its philanthropic journey at USI. Alcoa Warrick Operations became an original pioneer of the prestigious Presidential Scholarship program, attracting Indiana's best and brightest students to USI. Gifts also supported the Kids in Chemistry program, endowing an engineering scholarship, and critical seed money for programs when the Business and Engineering Center opened in 2010.

Investments now connect young women to a variety of hands-on activities designed to better understand the multitude of career opportunities that await in STEM-focused fields. Annually, USI hosts the Tri State Science and Engineering Fair with Alcoa Warrick Operations' generous underwriting.

The USI community and students benefit greatly from Alcoa Warrick Operations. Just as the company has revolutionized aluminum manufacturing, so too has it brought engaging and innovative investments to the USI campus.

The Alumni Association's main goal is to help our 42,000+ alumni remain engaged with their University.



The inaugural commencement took place June 2, 1971.

Alumni Association

The University's inaugural commencement, with 151 graduates, took place June 2, 1971. Signaling a strong commitment to our growth as an institution, the first Alumni Association organizational meeting was held on September 15, 1971, six years to the day from the opening of the first campus at Centennial School. The Alumni Association continues, 47 years later, to support USI and remains an integral part of alumni engagement.

The Alumni Association's main goal is to help our 42,000 + alumni remain engaged with their University. USI alumni currently reside in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the U. S. Virgin Islands and in 44 other countries and territories throughout the world. This requires an active, persistent and thoughtful approach to alumni relations. Alumni are the primary public face of a USI education. Their success reflects the success of the University.

No matter their proximity to campus, alumni help students attain their goals. Alumni Association affinity groups continue to find ways to provide scholarships. Chapter groups, such as the Greater Indianapolis Alumni Chapter and the Dubois County Indiana Alumni Chapter, have established scholarship endowments to recruit top performing students from their respective areas. In addition, the Black Alumni Society and the Nursing Alumni Society provide annual scholarships.

In 1992, the Alumni Association also initiated the USI license plate campaign with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Seeking an additional means to increase charitable gifts to the University, alumni can purchase a license plate bearing the USI logo. Buying a USI license plate to benefit the Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment is popular with many alumni. These graduates provide \$41,300 in scholarships annually while visibly showing support for their *alma mater*.

USI has become a key asset in the effort to grow and sustain Indiana's workforce. Today, 71 percent of USI's graduates remain in Indiana. This is clear evidence of the University's commitment to meeting demands of employers for a well-trained workforce. Our alumni know the value of a USI education. Fourteen percent of all annual gifts are from alumni, and approximately 48 percent of all USI donors are alumni.

USI is sustained by alumni success, engagement and generosity. The Alumni Association serves as an essential avenue to connect alumni to campus; but, more importantly, it provides an additional opportunity to invest in the limitless possibilities of their *alma mater*.

*Giving can be a
family legacy and
a generational
treasure.*



Malcolm W. Fuhrer

Giving can be a family legacy and a generational treasure. This is certainly true for Malcolm Fuhrer. The University of Southern Indiana became a special part of his life, and his family continued in his footsteps.

The Fuhrers were a pioneer family who settled in Mount Vernon, Indiana, in 1835. As patriarch, William C. Fuhrer left his home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and began working in grain distribution upon his arrival in this region. Mr. Fuhrer soon established the first cash grain office in Posey County. At that time, local farmers had only one option to sell their goods to exporters: sending their grain down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. Developing a better business model, Mr. Fuhrer began paying cash directly to farmers, taking responsibility for transporting and trading grain throughout the country.

Mr. Fuhrer opened a flour mill in 1885 as an additional asset for the agriculture business. The Fuhrer family reorganized the business after a fire destroyed the operations in 1899. With the help of New Harmony investors, the new venture established the Fuhrer Ford Milling Company.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, William's son Malcolm arrived at the firm in 1915. For over 40 years, he oversaw the milling business and always maintained that the driving force of the business was to serve local families. This was highly profitable for the family for many decades. By 1958, the family mill was sold to other interests and Malcolm retired.

In retirement, Malcolm devoted his time to family farming and became more active in civic affairs. He served as vice president of the People's Bank and Trust Company, board member of the Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company and served on the Deaconess Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. He also helped organize Junior Achievement for Mount Vernon. Of these, he found USI to be his greatest interest, and one which he supported financially.

Along with this wife, Rose, and son, Malcolm Jr., he became a charter member of the Century Club when the USI Foundation was established in 1968, investing \$100 annually. Seeing the need for the new public University, he encouraged his entire family to become involved in its development. In 1973, the first Donor Recognition Program was launched to initiate a \$2 million campaign to enhance the University Center and its continuing education programming. Malcolm provided \$10,000 for this initiative, one of the first major gifts received by the Foundation. In 1981, he invested an additional \$7,500 in the Alumni Association to improve resources available to University alumni.

Malcolm received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from USI in 1976, and is gratefully remembered for his generosity to the University in those early years. Malcolm helped write the future for higher education in southern Indiana. The University continues to prosper from his investment decades ago. His actions are powerful reminders of how beneficial the USI experience is for all community members.

*Carolyn Georgette
personified
community virtue
and service.*



Carolyn S. Georgette

A story of leadership at the University of Southern Indiana would be incomplete without mention of Carolyn Georgette. A woman of humility, she personified community virtue and service. Her journey was closely tied to USI, creating a relationship allowing many firsts for her and the University.

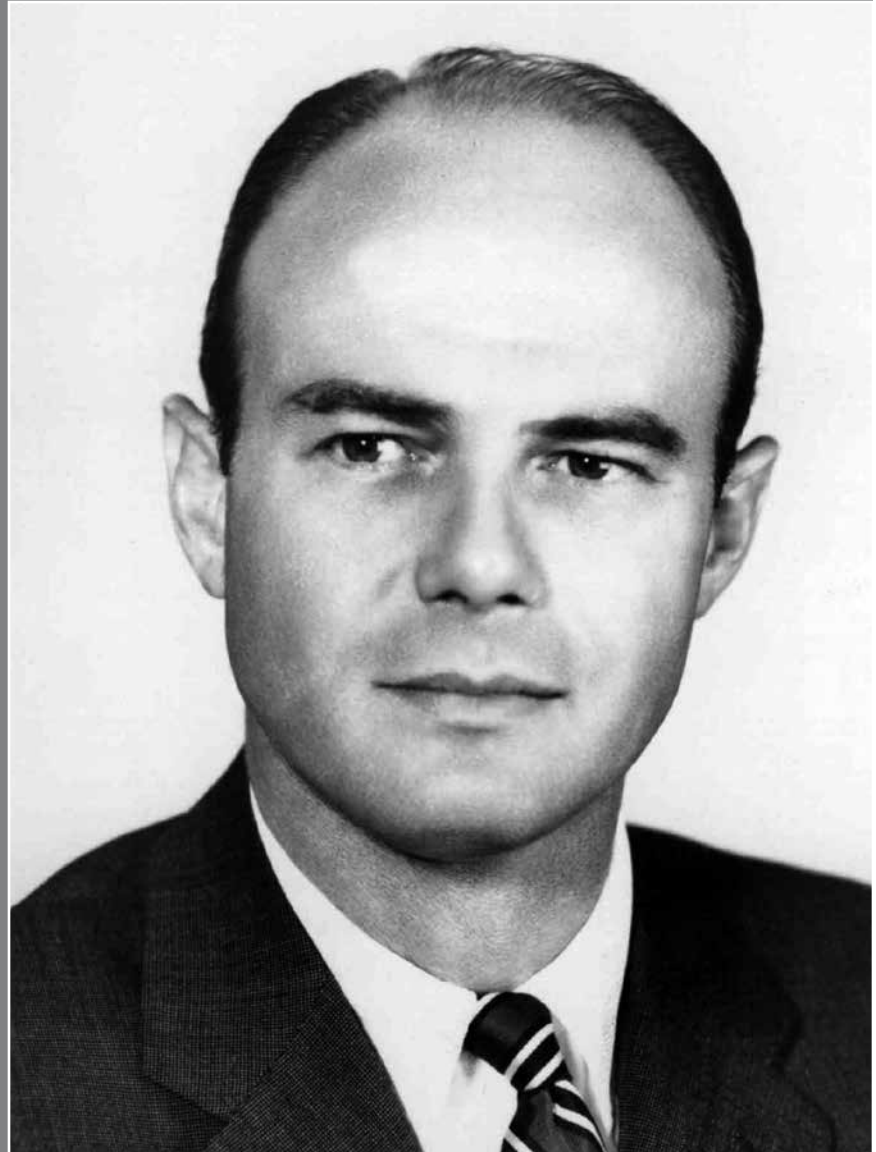
In 1953, Georgette graduated from F.J. Reitz High School and immediately attended Lockyear Business College. That same year, she began her career with the Indiana Bell Telephone Company. Her first role was as a teller, but she eventually rose to be the first woman promoted to an executive position within the company. In 1992, Georgette retired as the director of Consumer Market & Manager of Community Affairs for the Evansville area. Her professional tenure showcased her exceptional talent and outstanding ability to inspire all the individuals she encountered. She truly believed in giving back, and giving back more than she received.

Georgette was a tireless advocate for the Evansville area, having served in various capacities in the Evansville Redevelopment Commission, Keep Evansville Beautiful, Leadership Evansville, the Reitz Museum Home, Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, Junior Achievement and St. Mary's Foundation. Recognized as a civic pioneer, Georgette was president of the Southern Indiana Chamber of Commerce, one of the first two women voted to membership of the Rotary Club of Evansville, and additionally the first female deacon and president of the Church Council at St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Georgette demonstrated some of her strongest affinities for a quality community by her service to USI. In 1982, she became the first female director of Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), which paralleled an important milestone in the organization's history. During that time, SIHE announced plans to break ground on the Mid-America Student Housing. As USI approached its independence in 1985, Governor Robert D. Orr appointed Georgette to be on the Board of Incorporators to help guide the establishment of a new university. Then, in 2002, Georgette was elected as the first female to chair the USI Foundation Board of Directors.

In 2015, the 50th anniversary year of the University's founding, USI recognized Georgette posthumously as a phenomenal woman and role model. Her legacy and vigor for higher education emphasize the importance of helping to fulfill community visions. All of these qualities make Georgette a moral exemplar. With a generous heart, spirit of humility and embedded with an innate sense of altruism, she is the USI culture. Her defining characteristics continue to contribute to the unique USI experience.

*D. Mead Johnson
was a man vitally
concerned about
the community.*



D. Mead Johnson

D. Mead Johnson turned his family's business into an international company in over 50 countries, with over 70 diverse products. Becoming the leader of infant and children nutritional products was due to his drive, perseverance and robust character.

Johnson graduated valedictorian of his class at the Tennessee Military Institute in 1932 and was an honors graduate at Johns Hopkins University. He joined the Mead Johnson firm, founded by his grandfather, first as a sales representative and later moved into management, relocating to Evansville in 1938. World War II interrupted his tenure at the company, but his moral fiber demonstrated the deep commitment he had for his fellow citizens. Medical issues disqualified him from keeping his post in the U.S. Army, so he persisted and volunteered with the British 8th Army and was assigned as an ambulance driver.

In 1955, he became president of Mead Johnson and served until 1968. During that time, the pharmaceutical and nutritional product giant grew its workforce from 1,400 to 4,300, and sales from \$41.2 million to \$160 million. Knowing the value of employing skilled workers, D. Mead Johnson sought to enhance the educational opportunities of the southern Indiana region. He was an early and ardent supporter of public higher education in the Evansville area. These efforts led to the founding of what we now know as the University of Southern Indiana.

He purchased Centennial School from the local school corporation in the summer of 1965. This elementary school had served Evansville well since its opening in 1876. Johnson had plans to use the land for his company's expansion, but when he saw the need he leased the building to the University for one-dollar.

Johnson developed longstanding friendships over the years with University and community leaders. One of his best decisions was to ask his employee, Rolland Eckels, President of Mead Johnson Foundation and Director of Public Affairs, to take a leadership role with this new University. Upon Johnson's death in 1993, Eckels stated, "He was a man vitally concerned about the community." Because of this early involvement in welcoming public education to Evansville was key to the University's establishment. In 1989, D. Mead Johnson was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Innovation is synonymous with D. Mead Johnson. He used innovation in his business, but also approached community engagement with the same mindset. His contributions to Evansville have made him one of the most celebrated citizens of the mid-twentieth century, and his legacy remains a vital part of USI's history. His investments included time, personal resources and finances, expertise, and a rich network of community members who helped make public higher education possible in Evansville.

*The trees we're
planting today
eventually will
bear fruit if we
tend them well.*



Harold O. McCutchan

Enthusiastic about education, Harold McCutchan paved the way for the University of Southern Indiana. A soft-spoken demeanor, open-door policy attitude and intelligence were all traits of McCutchan.

Although McCutchan's family had strong roots in the Evansville area, he did not know the community until his twenties. Born in Chicago and raised in Missouri, his father was an accountant with the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad. The family moved regularly, depending upon company assignments. At the age of 15, McCutchan began working in the railroad business, posting route cards on boxcars in Arkansas.

Although he highly valued higher education, McCutchan was never able to attend college. With the completion of high school, he took correspondence courses. His determination and drive were second nature to him. In 1926, McCutchan was living in Evansville and became Mead Johnson Nutrition's first accountant. He had an ability to master every job before him, working from his position as an accountant to corporate secretary, controller, and eventually vice president. After 42 years of faithful service with Mead Johnson Nutrition, he retired in 1968 as chairman of the board.

As a founding member of the Evansville Industrial Foundation in 1959, McCutchan began to conceptualize how to utilize a similar model to create a university park and space for institutions of higher education. In 1966, he was instrumental in organizing Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), an official nonprofit with the sole purpose of bringing public higher education to the Evansville region. Thus began his leadership as president of SIHE, which raised \$1 million to purchase 1,400 acres of land west of Evansville. This land would serve as a permanent campus for Evansville's first public institution of higher education, the University of Southern Indiana.

Ed Klingler of the *Evansville Press* asked McCutchan upon his retirement what his greatest accomplishment was during his professional career. Always proud of his civic work, McCutchan commented his greatest contribution was his work with SIHE. He thought the founding of an affordable and accessible public university was the most worthy venture in his life. He often said Evansville would one day recognize this University as the most important organization in the city's history.

McCutchan's visionary idea has embedded an entrepreneurial spirit within the University. His unwavering commitment to education and his investments to help students find a meaningful career are his legacy to the University he helped establish. For his outstanding leadership, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1970. At his death in 1995, the USI Foundation established the Harold O. McCutchan Memorial Scholarship to recruit and retain top students whose major falls within the Romain College of Business.

*Mary Nurrenbern
provided the key
ingredient to make
USI a reality.*



Mary E. Nurrenbern

Conventional laws of economics state there are three factors of production: labor, capital and land. If the same model is used to explain the founding of the University of Southern Indiana, all three were present to open the new campus.

In 1966 when Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) was established, community members already were a driving force of support for Evansville's new institution of public higher education. Highly skilled faculty and the eagerness of students added to the effort to find a permanent campus. SIHE was at the helm of fundraising efforts to acquire land for a new campus location, but it was uncertain exactly where on the west side the campus would be located. That is, until Miss Mary E. Nurrenbern provided an answer.

At the age of 81, Nurrenbern was updating her estate plans. She was the only immediate member of her family still living and wanted to invest her 220-acre family homestead to a worthy cause. Her original intent was to give the property to the Catholic Diocese of Evansville for a new west side parish. Bernard Schenk, who attended St. Agnes Catholic Church with Nurrenbern, approached Mary's attorney, Jack Stone, with a different idea. Community leaders knew the permanent USI campus was going to be on the west side. Realtor Curt Huber was actively purchasing land. Stone liked the idea and presented this option to Nurrenbern. Mary was willing to do this but did not want to abandon the idea of a Catholic Church or chapel on her land. Since SIHE did not have tax-exempt status yet, Stone and Nurrenbern worked closely with the bishop's delegate, Monsignor Thomas J. Clarke. Together, this group came up with a plan that worked for all concerned.

Nurrenbern deeded the land to the Catholic Diocese as a charitable gift, with the stipulation all 220 acres be given to SIHE for the campus, with 43 acres reserved for a future Newman Club facility and Catholic chapel for students. Nurrenbern's sister-in-law, Julia Nurrenbern, owned 280 acres contiguous to Mary's land. Mary asked Julia to donate her land for the campus, as well, and a second agreement was struck. Eventually, SIHE acquired 1,400 acres from neighboring land owners. Because Monsignor Clarke was instrumental in this process, Clarke Lane was named for him.

Mary Nurrenbern and the Nurrenbern family are key figures in the USI story. Their kindness in giving the land their family farmed for 129 years made certain the Nurrenbern name would never be forgotten and ensured the University would have a magnificent setting for all time. A bronze display was placed at the main entrance to University Center when it opened in 1974, and tells the story of this generous gift and the legacy the University enjoys.

USI continues to benefit from Old National Bank's philanthropy.



The Fuquay Welcome Center grand opening is held November 1, 2018. The Old National Bank Foundation Atrium is named in gratitude for a leadership gift received to make the center possible.

In some cities, 180 years may not be a significantly long period of time for an institution to be in continuous operation. However, for Evansville, such a record is noteworthy. Old National Bank has outlived all business establishments that were in operation in 1834 when Evansville's first bank was founded. In fact, the bank's charter predates the charter of the city itself by 13 years.

The first Old National Bank, with the title of "Branch Bank at Evansville of the State Bank of Indiana," served a struggling community of 1,100 persons. The term "old" did not even appear in Old National Bank's name until the fourth rechartering in 1884. A padlocked door in a one-room facility was its only security when it was founded. Today, 184 banking locations bear the Old National name across Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Throughout the years, Old National Bank has taken its community responsibilities seriously while helping finance infant industries that have since become national giants, contributing immeasurably to the wellbeing of southern Indiana. Old National Bank also has fostered the growth of transportation facilities, encouraged the efficient use of the area's environmental resources, and assisted citizens by teaching the importance of financial literacy.

Old National Bank's company values fully embrace the notion that giving back is good for the individuals who live and work in the greater community. Within just the last decade of service, Old National Bank and its employees have contributed over 900,000 volunteer hours and raised over \$6 million for over 30 charities through their signature 100 Men Who Cook events. These efforts led Old National Bank to be recognized as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies® by the prestigious Ethisphere Institute®. More importantly, giving back to the community has contributed to a social, cultural, and economic stability known in the southern Indiana region. Old National Bank also remains one of the largest employers of USI alumni.

USI continues to benefit from Old National Bank's philanthropy. Campus endeavors have been achieved over the years because of Old National Bank, but recent investments in scholarship support have produced high-caliber student talent. During *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*, Old National Bank knew it was important to encourage a diverse student body. These investments in scholarships for diversity have allowed USI students to learn from one another as they prepare to live wisely in a global community. The Old National Bank Foundation also made a leadership gift for the Fuquay Welcome Center. The Old National Bank Foundation Atrium is named in gratitude.

To be successful, a bank must be an important, hard-working tool in the hands of those who have the vision, daring intelligence to dream, and the tenacity to carry those visions to realization. Old National Bank has proven many times over its commitment to such philosophy, and USI students reap the benefits.

*A. Wayne Place
had a zeal for
success and
optimism for USI
students and their
goals.*



A. Wayne Place

If there is one statement people remember from A. Wayne Place, it would be his consistent comment “quality is a very personal thing.” It was his life’s motto. The outcome of all his involvements in business and the community produced quality results that could only be accomplished because of his personal commitment.

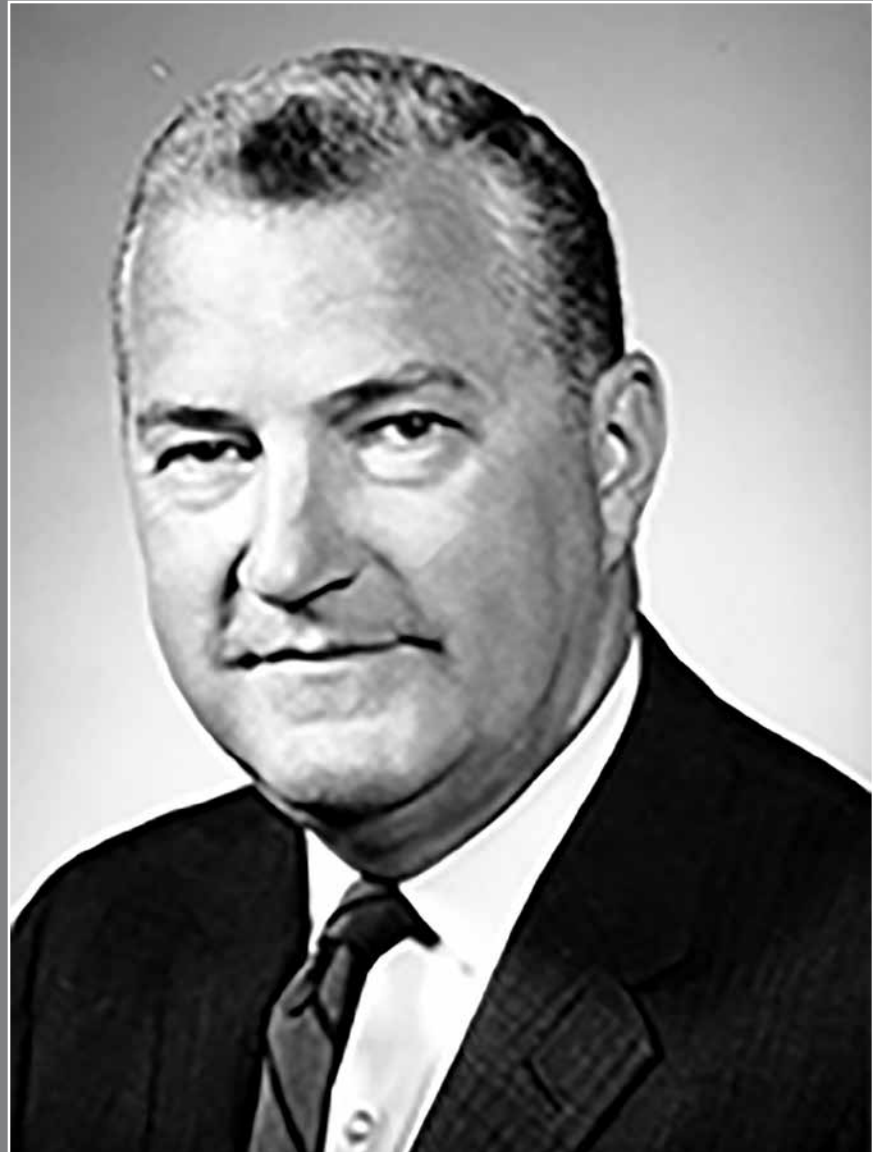
Place was an entrepreneur, able to take any cause from ground level, promote it and turn it into a success. In 1950, Place began the Jasper Rubber Products business alongside his father, Albert Place. The first plant began with just 50 employees. Today, the company employs over 500 people and continues to be a leading developer of custom compounded rubber, plastic, silicone, and thermoplastic elastomer materials. What truly contributed to the growing success of Jasper Rubber Products was Place’s ability to connect with his employees. He knew everyone by first name and was never too busy to stop and check a press or a formula in the mill. His office door was open to anyone and his own personal touch underscored his commitment to quality, establishing the same principles for everyone in the company.

Quality, as Place put it, included engagement with the community and contributing to worthy causes. Place was a humanitarian at heart because of his brother, Charles “Buddy” Stanley, who was born with Down Syndrome. Knowing the challenges his brother faced early in his life, Place dedicated himself to helping others with disabilities overcome such obstacles. Beginning in 1987, Jasper Rubber Products offered a program to employ individuals with disabilities by providing full-time employment, helping them earn a living and be as self-supportive as their co-workers. Buddy was such an inspiration in Place’s life that he ensured the family legacy included assisting all those who needed help.

Place participated in many community projects. In 1969, he opened the first shopping center in Dubois County, Southgate Center, which is still in operation today. He served as a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict Development Council and on the Board of Directors at German American Bank. Place also founded the Abused and Neglected Children’s Fund in Dubois County, and supported the development of the Dubois-Perry-Spencer Exceptional Children’s Co-op, as well as Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

In 1988, Place was elected to the USI Foundation’s Board of Directors and served until his death in 1990. An advocate of higher education opportunities, Place endowed the first Presidential Scholarship to attract high-caliber talent to USI. Today, the JARCO – A. Wayne Place Presidential Scholarship is a testament to Place’s zeal for success, optimism for students and their goals, as well as his absolute spirit of service.

I am grateful for this collaboration which has brought new friends, provided a needed educational service, and has proved its worth in every diploma which bears the institution's name.



Dr. Alan C. Rankin

Alan Rankin's duties as Indiana State University's (ISU) seventh president began on July 1, 1965. Dr. Rankin hit the ground running. His first assignment was to open ISU's Evansville campus, which was ready to hold its first academic classes that same year.

Dr. Rankin's father was a college professor, his mother was a schoolteacher and his grandfather was a college president. A native of Kansas, he completed his undergraduate degree in 1937, obtained a Master of Arts in political science in 1939, and secured his doctorate from Syracuse University in 1955. Following his service in WWII, Rankin began teaching at Miami University, which led him to Cornell University and the University of Pittsburgh. In 1964, one of his closet colleagues submitted his nomination to become the president of ISU. No stranger to the academic environment, Dr. Rankin offered the leadership necessary during the infancy of ISU's satellite campus in Evansville. The rest is history.

His tenure as president of ISU paralleled the first 10 years of Indiana State University – Evansville. He fully embraced Evansville and its community members.

Prior to his appointment as president, Rankin was invited to the home of D. Mead Johnson, CEO of the Evansville-based Mead Johnson Company, for a gathering of several university presidents from around the state. The subject of the evening was clear: to identify which state university was most qualified to cultivate the Evansville campus. Composed, and speaking from his generous spirit, Rankin spoke about the importance of developing an attitude attentive to the educational attainment of students. It was in that moment community leaders knew Dr. Rankin radiated the character and competency desired for the region.

On several occasions, he remarked working with the emerging Evansville campus was one of his greatest professional accomplishments. A major contribution in this effort was his advocacy for the establishment of a foundation based in Evansville to benefit the satellite campus.

In recognition of his immeasurable service, the USI Foundation established the Alan C. Rankin Distinguished Leadership Award. This award recognizes his contributions to the University, and more importantly, the vision of higher education for southern Indiana. Dr. Rankin valued his relationships within the Evansville community. His spirit as one of the founding fathers of the USI Foundation lives on. Outside the Roeder Traditions Lounge in University Center East a bronze likeness of Dr. Rankin reminds all who see it of his good work.

Nothing has been more important to USI in its entire history than Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.



SIHE voted to dissolve in 2008. Pictured that day were Dr. H. Ray Hoops, Chris D. Melton '72 and Bix Branson.

Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.

In his remarks on August 21, 2008, thanking the SIHE Board of Directors, University President H. Ray Hoops said, “Nothing has been more important to USI in its entire history than Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.”

SIHE was born from the idea that higher education facilities can develop in the same manner as industrial parks. Civic leaders, including Harold O. McCutchan, Frank F. McDonald, Sr., D. Mead Johnson and Joseph E. O’Daniel, who worked tirelessly for the development of Evansville businesses, looked toward the Evansville campus with the same attitude when establishing SIHE.

By 1966, the organization was official and soon led a public fund drive to acquire land for a permanent Evansville campus for Evansville’s first public university of higher education. This effort involved the entire community and rapidly secured the purchase of 1,400 acres of land.

One of SIHE’s most important contributions was the development of student housing. With growth in the enrollment at the University and a lack of available rental property for students, SIHE leaders realized on-campus housing was necessary. However, student housing was not allowed as a matter of state policy on any extension campuses. SIHE developed a plan to build housing with low-interest bonds on land it owned. This first housing unit was known as the Mid-America Student Housing (MASH). Then, SIHE purchased a privately developed apartment complex and blended it with its own. In 1994, SIHE gifted the housing to the University, a \$15 million value.

In 2008, SIHE voted to dissolve its corporation, and donate the remaining assets totaling \$3.5 million to the USI Foundation. This gift included 900 acres of land and \$500,000. This cash portion was used to establish two endowments: first, for perpetual support of the Presidential Scholarship program; and second, for University-wide scholarships. Chris Melton, a 1972 graduate of USI, led this effort.

SIHE is a critical component in the history of USI. Members who conceived the idea for its inception were a catalyst for public higher education. Through their efforts and energies, a public University was born and remains an integral part of Evansville’s growth and development. The innovative ideas, resounding excitement and continued investments of SIHE members still resonate with USI’s students.

*Varsity Club
members share
a special bond
with USI student
athletes.*



Kristen Rettig '18 volunteers at the USI Varsity Club steak fry booth during the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival.

As soon as the doors of Centennial School opened in 1965, students began organizing intercollegiate athletic teams. Financing for sports was virtually nonexistent, so two local leaders took it upon themselves to elevate efforts to raise funds for the teams.

Dr. John Emhuff, the dean of students, and Elmer Sander, a certified public accountant on Evansville's west side, set a modest financial goal. Calling on clients of Sander, their first contact was Charles Weaver, head of Peerless Pottery. "We wondered if we dare ask for \$100, and we were so proud of it; Sander was so respected," Emhuff remembered.

And so was born the USI Varsity Club, originally called the Varsity Association. Sander and Emhuff recruited west side community leaders: Bill Moutoux, H. Byron "Barney" Hubbard, Bernie Powers, and Clarence "Lefty" Altstadt. Each of these men are acknowledged as founders of the Varsity Club. Marvin Smith also caught the energy early on. Altstadt said Sander was the Varsity Club's "guiding light," and was impressed that Hubbard invited people to his home in the early years to organize the work. "Both Lefty Altstadt and Marvin Smith have been mainstays in the Varsity Club since its founding," Emhuff said. Later, in the 1970s, the idea of the Varsity Club room was proposed. It has evolved into today's popular pre- and post- game gathering space.

The first goal of the Varsity Club was to raise \$3,000 to provide uniforms and travel for teams. Today, the Varsity Club is an integral part of University life, providing thousands of dollars annually for athletic scholarships. USI men and women student athletes compete in 17 sports sanctioned by the NCAA at the Division II level and participate in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). USI's student athletes continue to demonstrate strength in their performance in the GLVC and academic success. However, the NCAA limits the amount of financial aid universities can give per sport, and the Varsity Club works to fulfill such gaps. In the 50th anniversary year of the Foundation's establishment, average GPA for our 280 athletes is 3.305.

Varsity Club members are among the most generous friends and alumni, giving in both time and finances. Members volunteer to sell ribeye sandwiches during the annual West Side Nut Club Fall Festival. The funds raised help support athletic programs. Varsity Club members share a special bond with USI student athletes, creating a family community. Varsity Club members have been present since our earliest days to ensure our student athletes' success.

*The West Side
Nut Club knows
USI students
are a worthy
investment.*



The gazebo located by Reflection Lake was gifted by the West Side Nut Club.

West Side Nut Club

The West Side Nut Club was founded in 1921 by a group of Evansville's west side businessmen. Since its inception, the club had a single goal in mind "to initiate, promote and support any and all movements which are for the betterment of the West Side of Evansville, Indiana; also for the betterment of Evansville as a whole." Today, it has 300 active members and 100 honorable life members making it one of the largest service clubs in the local community. Throughout its history, the West Side Nut Club has demonstrated its fun, friendship-based organization makes civic work even more rewarding. For decades now, the official motto for the Nut Club, *From Small Acorns Mighty Oaks Grow*, has captured the spirit and impact of the club.

The list of its accomplishments in our community is outstanding, with the club spending over \$200,000 annually for civic purposes. These funds are raised primarily through the annual Fall Festival held on Franklin Street. Many USI student organizations and the USI Varsity Club are among the 130-plus food booths participating in the festival as a fundraising opportunity. For 25 years, the West Side Nut Club did not make a profit from the festival. In 1947, during the Silver Anniversary Festival, the Nut Club did show a profit of \$340.69. Since that time, the club has donated proceeds to benefit local charities and worthy causes.

The West Side Nut Club has been a loyal friend of USI since the University's earliest days. Contributing initially to the fund drive by Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE), to raise money for land to build the Mid-America University Center, members have nurtured the USI campus. In the fall of 1968, the Nut Club supplied money for uniforms for USI's first basketball team. The West Side Nut Club funded the first signage at the permanent campus, which opened September 11, 1969. It continues to be an active force in the USI Varsity Club and underwrites much of the programming with athletics. Scholarships also are an important endeavor of the club, supporting multiple scholarship opportunities to USI students.

For the University of Southern Indiana, the West Side Nut Club is so much more than a civic organization. It is a dedicated group of individuals who have committed financial resources, time and expertise in every imaginable area of life to the University, ensuring affordable and accessible public higher education in Evansville and the region.

More than \$5 million has been given back to community organizations and schools since the West Side Nut Club's founding. USI is honored to continue a special relationship with the Nut Club and will always value the thoughtful support of its members. The West Side Nut Club knows USI students are a worthy investment.

*The Westwood
Garden Club
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significant
investments
in USI.*



The move of the 1896 Bokelman #3 Schoolhouse to the USI campus occurred June 24, 1993.

Westwood Garden Club

Individuals consistently comment on the beauty of University of Southern Indiana's campus. Students are not only immersed in a high-quality academic environment, but they also learn in a scenic 1,400-acre setting, which adds to the specialness of USI. The Westwood Garden Club is responsible for much of the early efforts to beautify campus.

The Westwood Garden Club was founded in 1957 with 15 charter members. Eloise Werner served as its first president from 1957-1959. In the early years, club activities primarily centered around floral shows and landscape beautification. Members would decorate doors, mailboxes and lampposts during special occasions and holidays annually to raise funds for various projects. Eventually, these efforts grew to include the entire westside Evansville community. In 1968, members completed landscaping projects at Burdette Park and began to look at the new land acquired for USI's location. The acreage was heavily wooded with a rugged terrain. The Westwood Garden Club saw potential.

A master plan of trails and wayfinding was crafted and submitted to University president David L. Rice. Thus began the 25-acre tract known as Bent Twig, with a slogan that matched the educational efforts of the new University: "Take nothing but a picture; leave nothing but a footprint."

The Westwood Garden Club partnered with Boy Scout Troop #371 to clean path areas and line them with rounded limbs, as well as install a 30-foot rope footbridge. In addition, picnic tables were set, maps were drawn and nameplates placed onto trees. The result created an outdoor laboratory where students could go from grassland to dense forest. This project was submitted to the Sears Environmental Improvement Program and the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., and out of the 3,200 entries, the Westwood Garden Club won first place.

Members continued to do much more in terms of giving at USI. The Westwood Garden Club provided seed funding needed to plant greenery around the University Center, and landscape the University Home in 1984. Members also contributed to the physical, historical building integrity on campus. In June 1976, Westwood Lodge, then Breckinridge Cabin, was dedicated on campus. Members also helped relocate the Paul Grimes Haus to campus from Highway #62 in 1977, and move Perry Township #3 Schoolhouse/Bokelman School to campus in 1993. These facilities are located on campus near the baseball field, making up the Bent Twig Outdoor Education Center. The driving force behind these efforts was the late Doris Eicher (d 2008) who served for years as head of the Westwood Garden Club. The Eicher Barn is named for Doris and her late husband Virgil. The barn, located on their property, is part of the Outdoor Education Center

The Westwood Garden Club has made significant investments in USI. The campus we know today is due in part to the commitment members had for constructing a superior learning space for students. Members were not afraid to "get their hands dirty" to ensure student success, and their generosity is demonstrated in their legacy of beautification.

*Whirlpool
Corporation-
Evansville
Operations
believed in
investments in the
community and a
quality workforce.*



USI remains grateful for the many generous actions Whirlpool made for campus and students.

Whirlpool Corporation – Evansville Operations

Corporate support has been critical to the development of the University of Southern Indiana campus. Evansville businesses understand that in order for the regional economy to remain robust, investments in skilled labor are necessary. Whirlpool Corporation – Evansville Operations certainly believed in this mission and found USI students were a worthy investment.

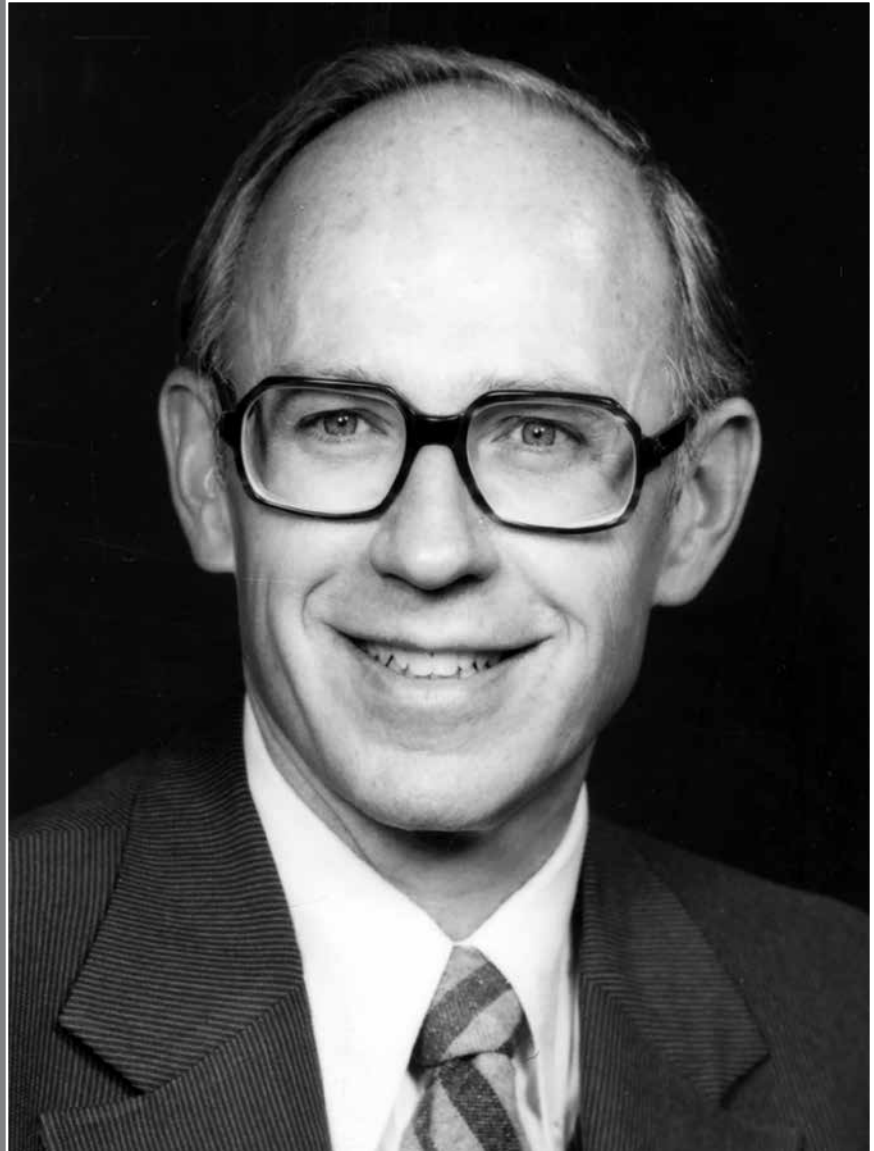
Over a 73-year span, a series of growing companies led to the development of the Evansville Division of the Whirlpool Corporation. An immigrant iron worker, Adam Schroeder, formed a family partnership in 1883 for plating silverware in Evansville. Production grew to include headlight reflectors, and the business was incorporated in 1903 as the Schroeder Headlight Company. More acquisitions occurred, in which the facility evolved into a manufacturing line primarily producing electric refrigeration units. By 1929, Sears demonstrated interest in the company and by 1930, full production of refrigeration products were underway. During WWII, the plant switched its focus to military matters.

In 1955, then known as the Seeger Refrigerator Company, it merged production operations with Whirlpool Corporation. This created a \$19 million facility, which allowed the newly minted Evansville division to be one of the largest and most efficient refrigeration manufacturing facilities in the world. At the height of production, over 500 models of refrigerators, vertical freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers were designed, developed and constructed by over 10,000 employees. After decades of production the 54- year-old Whirlpool plant closed its doors in 2010.

Whirlpool Corporation-Evansville Operations remained an active supporter of USI and its students from the beginning. Over the years, it provided funds, to underwrite the University's greatest needs, the Presidential Scholarship program, as well as donating various appliances to assist campus departments and facilities. One of the greatest contributions provided by Whirlpool Corporation–Evansville Operations was grant money to realize the Encourage Young Leaders to Improve Their Leadership (ELITE) program. This was a five-day summer experience to provide minority and underprivileged youth with enhanced academic skills and elevated career aspirations. It attracted students to USI and lifelong learning, as well as exposed them to highly skilled professions at Whirlpool.

Whirlpool Corporation-Evansville Operations also played a pivotal role in the fundraising drive conducted by Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) in 1966. Today, former Whirlpool employees comment that USI is their University, stressing they helped build the campus, due in large part to payroll deductions employees elected to make. USI remains grateful for the many generous actions Whirlpool and its employees made for USI students.

*He will be
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Southern Indiana.*



Byron C. Wright

Byron C. Wright, vice president emeritus for business affairs, died April 27, 2018. He will be remembered as one who was essential to the success of the University of Southern Indiana. He laid the groundwork for the University and campus, and guided all financial matters for 28 years – an impressive legacy.

Wright came to USI in 1967 and had an important role building the university alongside USI's first president, David L. Rice. The work he did was essential—first, guiding the business side of developing a regional campus of Indiana State University-Evansville, then working alongside Rice to advocate in the legislature for funding important academic programs and facilities, and later, overseeing details of the transition of ISUE to the independent four-year public University of Southern Indiana.

Wright served the University from 1967 to 1995 as business manager, vice president for Business Affairs, treasurer and senior vice president. Within that time, he oversaw the construction and growth of physical space and facilities. In an interview to celebrate the 30th anniversary of USI, Wright recalled an occasion when he was invited to take Dr. Rice's place speaking with a group of Evansville sheet metal workers. He brought a model of the campus and took it around to the workers showing them the building plans. Each was so engaged, and asked questions about when these construction projects were to begin. Wright knew this meant jobs and an economic impact for the region. He commented he saw in that moment the true enthusiasm of the community for the University.

He understood the importance of community support and engagement and worked hard to establish deep relationships with Evansville civic leaders. Wright always stated how interesting it was when he would run into individuals and they would say to him, "I paid for a part of that campus." This was due to the fundraising efforts of Southern Indiana Higher Education (SIHE), Inc. and the numerous regional employees who elected a payroll deduction to purchase the 1,400 acres to ensure a permanent campus. Those instances had a resounding impact on him.

Mr. Wright knew that although the University offered the lowest tuition of any in-state institution, barriers to higher education were very real. For this reason, the USI Foundation established the Byron C. Wright Scholarship in 2018 following Wright's death. This scholarship benefits students who are not eligible to receive federal grant or state grant aid, but have demonstrated financial need as defined by USI. Wright established the Byron and Joanne Wright Scholarship Endowment. Wright also was responsible for many years of overseeing the financial aspects of the University's Foundation, providing financial assistance to the University from private gifts.

In 1991, Mr. Wright received the Honorary Alumni Award from the USI Alumni Association as well as an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, the University's highest recognition. Upon his retirement in 1995, the Administration Building was named in his honor. A bronze recognition display with his image reminds all who enter of the positive impact Byron C. Wright made on this institution of public higher education he helped build.

USI Foundation Timeline

- 1966** Southern Indiana Higher Education Inc. raises \$1 million in a community fund drive to acquire land; future site of USI.
- 1968** University Foundation organizes.
First gifts made by Mayor Frank F. McDonald Sr. and his wife Cloedeen G. (Duvall) McDonald.
- 1970** Century Club enrollment reaches 100 members.
The USI Varsity Club is organized to encourage the support of athletic teams.
- 1972** The Donor Recognition Program is introduced with naming opportunities for the University Center.
- 1976** Dr. Darrel E. Bigham, professor of history, is the first member of faculty to establish a scholarship.
- 1979** Foundation assets reach \$1 million mark.
- 1983** University home is first capital project funded by private gifts.
- 1984** Southern Indiana Higher Education Inc. (SIHE) provides first student housing, Mid-America Student Housing (MASH) Inc.
- 1986** John Logsdon '73 and Suzanne Schnacke '75 are first alumni to each endow a \$10,000 scholarship.
- 1987** First USI Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment established with a generous gift of \$10,000 from Arthur Karch in memory of his wife Thelma.

- 1988** First Presidential Scholarship campaign.
- 1989** A. Wayne Place, chairman of the board and CEO of Jasper Rubber Products, donates the first endowed Presidential Scholarship.
- Fred Newman makes the first \$100,000 gift.
- USI Foundation assets top \$2 million.
- 1990** The Foundation celebrates the 25th anniversary of the University of Southern Indiana; charitable giving increases 59 percent.
- 1991** Annual Fund is established; the first campaign for the Annual Fund is led by Robert E. Griffin and Carole D. Rust '77.
- 1992** First year \$1 million raised.
- 1994** The Foundation receives its first \$1 million gift from Nick and Jo Carter.
- SIHE donates Mid-America Student Housing Inc. to USI Foundation.
- 1995** Mitchell Auditorium, named for generous donors Bill and Trudy Mitchell, opens in new Health Professions Center.
- Reflections*, USI Foundation's Planned Giving Society, is established with 175 charter members.
- 1996** *Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher* kicks off.

USI Foundation Timeline

1997 The first endowed academic chair, The Blair Chair in Marketing Science, is established.

Carter Hall, a generous gift of Jennings D. “Nick” Carter in memory of his wife Josephine, opens in the newly renovated University Center.

The first Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award is donated by Charles and Leslie Berger; Charles J. Bertram is the first recipient.

1998 Dallas Bower-Suhrheinrich endows the College of Education and Human Services, which is named in her honor.

Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher reaches \$24 million, exceeding its goal by \$11 million.

First \$2 million gift made by the Robert H. & Elaine H. Pott Foundation to endow the College of Science & Engineering, which is named in their honor.

2000 Dr. Z. Olen and Inez G. Pumphrey establish the first Deans Scholarship.

Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) Scholarship Program begins.

2001 USI breaks ground on the Science and Education Center and recognizes major donors W. Paul Torrington, Rebecca Nunn Couch, and Aline Nunn Renner for their contributions to the project.

H. Lee Cooper makes a leadership gift to establish the H. Lee Cooper Award honoring a faculty member’s creative and successful work in University Core courses.

2003 Legacy of a Lifetime of Giving established to honor donors’ lifetime charitable giving.

Foundation awarded a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment for the Initiative to Promote Opportunity through Educational Collaborations.

2006 Foundation Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards established.

2007 USI Foundation receives its largest bequest to date - \$6 million – from the estate of close friend Henry W. Ruston.

2008 Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries open.

Southern Indiana Higher Education votes to dissolve the corporation, donates assets totaling \$3.5 million establishing two endowments for the Presidential Scholarships and one University-wide scholarship with the cash portion of \$500,000 and 900 acres of land.

The Business and Engineering Center campaign for programmatic support surpasses its goal with over \$2 million in gift commitments.

2010 Phyllis R. Grimm provides a leadership gift to assist the University in expanding the choral music program.

Genevieve Bootz makes a leadership gift to help the University initiate plans to make music an academic offering.

2011 Foundation president David A. Bower calls special meeting of the Foundation directors on March 29, 2011; he addresses the board and asks for approval to proceed with a comprehensive capital campaign.

2013 On April 4, 2013, the USI Foundation announces a \$50 million campaign, *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*.

Ron '73 and Connie '74 Romain make a leadership gift commitment of \$5 million to the Campaign; the Romain College of Business is renamed in their honor.

USI Foundation Timeline

- 2014** The Ceramics Center is renamed in honor of retired professor Lenny Dowhie and his wife, Anne Dowhie '83; they continued their support of USI with a \$1 million commitment to the ceramics program.

Groundbreaking for the Griffin Center, a 14,000-square foot campus center takes place July 21, 2014, a gift of the Robert E. Griffin family.

- 2015** *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* surpasses its goal of \$50 million in July, almost a year early, thanks to a leadership gift from D. Keith Jewell '86 M'91. This was announced at the Foundation Board meeting on November 19, 2015.

- 2016** The Dr. Victor V. Schriefer Jr. Interactive Nursing and Health Professions Classroom was completed in January 2016 and allows interdisciplinary creative collaboration.

Griffin Center grand opening and ribbon cutting is held on May 6, 2016.

Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence ends on June 30, 2016, with a total of \$57.1 million in commitments. Reception honoring donors held July 22.

Ground is broken September 1, 2016, for the Fuquay Welcome Center, a 6,000-square foot facility made possible through longtime University friends Dan and Janet Fuquay and Old National Bank Foundation.

- 2018** The USI Foundation celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The Stone Family Center for Health Sciences officially opens in downtown Evansville to students and community on August 9, 2018.

October 26, 2018, President's Associates Dinner celebrates the Foundation's 50th Anniversary.

Fuquay Welcome Center grand opening November 1, 2018.

The University of Southern Indiana *Alma Mater*

The USI Foundation, as part of its 50th anniversary celebration in 2018, served as the catalyst for the University's first-ever *alma mater*. New faculty member Dr. David G. O'Neil, assistant professor of English, wrote the lyrics as part of a blind competition. Longtime faculty member Mr. Daniel R. Craig, associate professor of music and director of the University's choirs, was commissioned to compose original music. The public debut took place at the President's Associates Dinner, October 26, 2018. It was performed by the international award-winning USI Chamber Choir under Mr. Craig's direction and then sung together by all present.

The University of Southern Indiana *Alma Mater*

CONSTANT, FAITHFUL AND TRUE

Where the North meets the South,
And the East meets the West,
Where roads cross tall fields of grain,
Where Evansville stands on the Ohio's rough sands,
May we evermore hear that refrain.

USI... USI...
Constant, faithful, and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.

On these grounds by the people,
For the people endowed,
We honor the red, blue, and white
And that name we'll hold dear
To the end of our years
As we lift up our voices on high.

USI... USI...
Constant, faithful, and true.
We'll remember our home, wherever we roam.
In our hearts, we'll be loyal to you.

Lyrics by Dr. David G. O'Neil

Music by Mr. Daniel R. Craig

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
2012–2014

Marie A. Bussing
2014–2016

Kevin L. Hammett '90
2016–2018

Karen S. Walker
2018-current

† Deceased