

Faces of Philanthropy:
Generous Friends of Vision

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary
of the Founding of the University*

University of Southern Indiana Foundation • Established October 1, 1968

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Contributing writers

Sherianne Standley

David A. Bower

Dr. Daniel Miller, “How the South Won: The Making of USI”, published 1989.

Contributing photography

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Graphic design

Amy Ubelhor

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university in Evansville, Indiana. Approximately 10,929 (Fall 2015)* 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 at USI.edu.

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

Dear Friends,

As the University of Southern Indiana celebrates the 50th anniversary of its establishment, our thoughts quite naturally turn to the past and to those generous friends of vision who formed that history. The wider community also is helping us commemorate this milestone.

The Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science has originated a special exhibition of the University's 50-year history. In August, when I walked into the museum's history gallery, it was with a deep feeling of great pride that I read the exhibition's title:

The Founding of the University of Southern Indiana: An Unparalleled Vision

In a dramatic way, that one sentence describes perfectly what those founding visionaries accomplished. In Evansville, in this region and in the State of Indiana there has been no greater accomplishment in the past 50 years than the success of this University.

This year's edition of *Faces of Philanthropy* attempts to illustrate just how many people were involved in seeking a common goal of public higher education in southwest Indiana. Our hope is to honor all those individuals who were and are part of this great endeavor.

A well-known and favored son of Evansville, the late Honorable Robert D. Orr, Governor of Indiana from 1981 to 1989, loved this University and he played a significant role in our history. On April 16, 1985, in the USI Physical Activities Center Governor Orr signed into law the bill creating the University of Southern Indiana. On that occasion he said:

Today marks a magnificent accomplishment and someday being a graduate of this University will mean every bit as much to our alumni as it does to those alumni of the greatest universities, not just in Indiana, but in the entire United States of America. I believe the spirit which prevails, which has made this emancipation possible today will most certainly achieve that standard, and that is the standard to which we can all aspire. I thank you for your dedication. I thank you for the inspiration which has created the University of Southern Indiana and which is going to make it a great university.

Well said. Well said, indeed.

Sincerely,



David A. Bower
President, USI Foundation
October 1, 2015





The Early History of USI

The compelling story of the development of public higher education in southwestern Indiana can be told again and again without losing any of its excitement and marvel. It is a story of community, of linking arms and minds and resources to overcome constantly changing hurdles in its path. In the early 1960s, a combination of forces inspired community leaders to bring public higher education to the state's third largest urban center and the southwestern Indiana region. Marked by low educational attainment levels and diminishing employment opportunities, the region wanted improvement. And public higher education was at the top of its list of remedies. In 1965, urged by Evansville leaders and enabled by legislation, Indiana State University opened an Evansville Campus in the vacated Centennial elementary school on the West Side of Evansville. ISU officials were buoyed by the initial response and joined community leaders in an effort to create full educational opportunities and to create an institution by the people, for the people, and of the people. That early collaboration and cooperation has been at the heart of the development of the University of Southern Indiana, which stands proudly today in the place of Indiana State University Evansville. The first authorized history of the campus was written by Dr. Daniel Miller, a history professor and former chair of the Division of Social Science, after the University of Southern Indiana was made a separate state university in 1985.

From “How the South Won: The Making of USI” by Dr. Daniel Miller:

“The real history began not with...Centennial but with a vision that originated in the minds of a few dedicated citizens and eventually spread throughout the community. In the late 50s, this vision, or dream if you will, crystallized into one central idea - the establishment of low cost, quality public higher education in Evansville. Several factors were involved, but foremost was the serious economic depression in the 1950s caused by the exodus from Evansville of Chrysler, Briggs, International Harvester, and Hoosier Cardinal, and the failure of Serval. There were few if any federal agencies at this time to help; the city was almost totally dependent on its own citizens and its own resources. Fortunately Evansville had a group of business leaders interested in helping to revitalize the economy and the community. Some of them felt that the lack of public post-high school educational opportunities aggravated the dismal economic scene. In order to help solve these problems, some of them founded Evansville's Future, Inc. Notably among these were Joseph O'Daniel, Richard E. Meier, Kenny Kent, M. C. Oberhelman, Curtis Huber, James Igleheart, J. Sherman Hinkebein, H. A. Woods, Rolland Eckels, D. Mead Johnson,



Evansville Mayor Frank F. McDonald Sr.

A. B. Brown, Norman Shane Sr., Walter A. Schlechte, Ferris Traylor, Robert Slade, James E. Fields, Mayor Frank McDonald Sr., and Kenneth J. Hahn.”

“Out of the campaign to help economic recovery came the realization for another and related need — a local four-year public university. Rolland Eckels, a Mead Johnson executive, was one of the first to articulate this need. According to him the entire Southern quadrant of the state, unlike Northern and Central Indiana, had been left unserved by public higher education. This void was not only inequitable to area citizens and their children, who paid taxes like everyone else, but also prevented large numbers of young

people...the opportunity to attend college. If local, relatively inexpensive education were available, Eckels felt, many more young people would attend college. There was also a related factor: a local public university made good business sense. New jobs would be created, a new capital flow generated, and more important to a growing community – a new generation of leaders would be trained. However, even before Eckels and Evansville’s Future became interested in local public higher education, other area leaders were talking about a different, but compatible institution — a public medical school in Evansville. As it turned out, this effort to establish a medical school, in the period after 1960, joined with the early history of USI. ”

“The person who was first identified with a public medical school in Evansville was Dr. Weston Heinrich, a well-known local physician. In the 1960s, Dr. Heinrich actively recruited community leaders to help bring a medical school to Evansville. In 1965 he organized MEDCOE (Medical Educational Committee of Evansville) whose sole purpose was to establish a public medical school here. In July 1965, Dr. Heinrich approached Dr. Alan Rankin, who was soon to replace Dr. Raleigh Holmstedt as Indiana State University’s president. Dr. Rankin had been invited to Evansville by Mayor Frank McDonald Sr., to discuss the possibility of Indiana State’s interest in

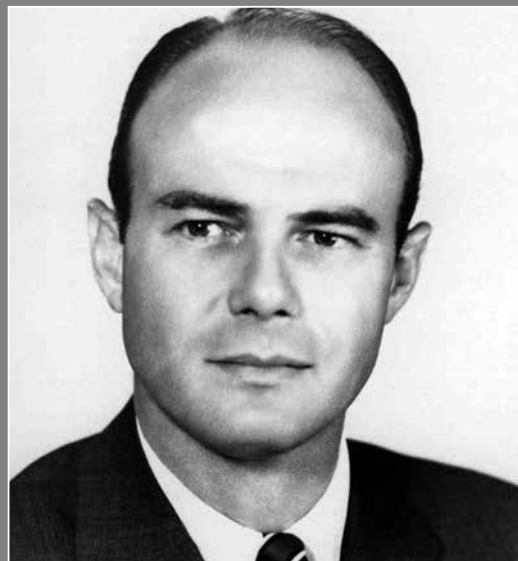
opening a branch campus in Evansville. Although nothing formally came of these meetings at this time, a dialogue began. ”

Planning continued, led by D. Mead Johnson, president and chief executive of Mead Johnson & Company, who was committed to public higher education for many reasons, including economic development and the attraction of professors and scientists who could collaborate with his researchers at Mead Johnson & Company.

“In the fall of 1964, Mr. Johnson hosted a party at his home for a number of influential people. Among those present were Herman Wells, President of Indiana University; Frederick Hovde, President of Purdue University; Melvin Hyde, President of Evansville College (then); and Mayor Frank McDonald. At this meeting, Mr. Johnson inquired about the existence of a contract or agreement between Purdue, Indiana, and Evansville College which operated against public higher education in Evansville. While it was true that no legal contract or document existed among the three schools, it was also true, as reported in a history of the University of Evansville, that the three schools had reached an oral “gentlemen’s agreement,” whereby neither Indiana nor Purdue would hold extension classes in Evansville. According to this source, so long as the College “with its broad program of cultural and professional



Dr. Weston Heinrich



D. Mead Johnson

education” served the needs of the community, Indiana University was not interested in bringing a branch campus to Evansville. Purdue, due to its distance, also had no desire to enter the Evansville area. Mr. Johnson, on learning of this “agreement,” was furious, and chided his guests for their “ridiculous contract.” Nothing, however, came from the Johnson “summit” meeting, except perhaps to harden the resolve of its host to pursue further the cause of public higher education in Evansville. ”

“Failure in 1963 to bring legislative action to bear (notably by State Representatives Tom Toon and Charles Abshier) now was identified (by some) as an obvious collusion by I. U., Purdue, and Evansville College against a school in the Evansville area. In 1965, however, new and formidable forces entered the fray, and these were formed by a determined and aggressive leadership into a campaign which eventually brought results. ”

“When the 1965 Indiana legislature convened, a concerted effort of the entire Evansville delegation, led by State Representative(s) William B. Snyder and F. Wesley Bowers, focused upon bringing public higher education to Southern Indiana. The work of men like D. Mead Johnson, Tom Toon,



Rolland M. Eckels

Charles Abshier, Harold O. McCutchan, Rolland Eckels, and Mayor Frank McDonald enlisted community support for Snyder and Bowers. Public meetings were held to encourage people from all social, political, and economic backgrounds to support local public higher education. Governor Roger Branigin encouraged legislators Snyder and Toon by publicly endorsing the need for public higher education in the South after the two legislators had co-sponsored a resolution to achieve that goal. The Evansville media gave a virtual day-by-day report of the progress of the resolution through the General Assembly. In response to this burgeoning community support, House Concurrent Resolution No. 42

“memorialized and encouraged” the Boards of Trustees of Indiana University, Purdue University, and Ball State University, acting “jointly, individually or in any combination. . . to do all things necessary and requisite to establish a four-year college in the Evansville Metropolitan area.”

“On March 19, 1965, Dr. Norbert Stirzaker (ISU director of extended services) reported to the ISU Board on the developments in the Evansville program. A school building to be vacated by the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation at the close of the present school year may be available for lease, he said. The building is in good condition and was owned by Mead Johnson & Company. He felt that it would be ideal to serve the needs of an extension program in Evansville. The Board replied by requesting that President Holmstedt and Chairman Mr. James Acher arrange a meeting with Governor Branigin to obtain the governor’s approval for establishing an Indiana State University Center in Evansville. The Board asked for a report on this conference be given at the April meeting, if this were possible.”

He felt that it would be ideal to serve the needs of an extension program in Evansville. The Board replied by requesting that President Holmstedt and Chairman Mr. James Acher arrange a meeting with Governor Branigin to obtain the governor’s approval for establishing an Indiana State University Center in Evansville. The Board asked for a report on this conference be given at the April meeting, if this were possible.”

“President Holmstedt was succeeded in July 1965 by Dr. (Alan) Rankin, who soon became active in setting up the branch campus, and preparations for establishing the new school went on at a feverish pace. Quite apart from the task of trying to patch up the ancient buildings of “old” Centennial was the more difficult one of recruiting faculty and administrators. This task was turned over to Terre Haute’s expert on off-campus classes, Dr. Norbert Stirzaker. ”



*Indiana State University President
Alan C. Rankin*

Building the Faculty

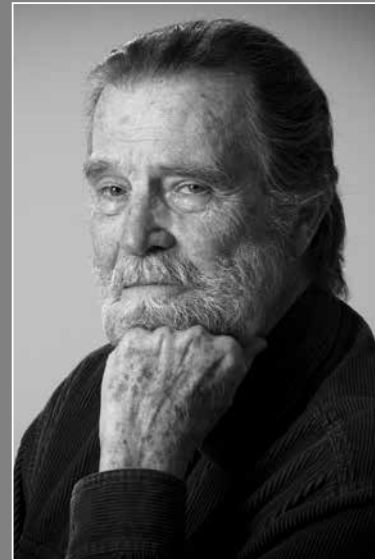
“The recruitment process was not completed until literally the first week of classes. Two full-time instructors, Ms. Marjorie Labhart and Mr. James Lynch, were joined by thirty-two part-time or “adjunct” instructors, all of whom taught one or two classes in the evening or night sessions. Labhart and Lynch taught four courses in the day sessions. As intimated before, Dr. William Jones was Director and Dr. Robert Clark, Registrar and Admissions Director. . . Evening classes lasted one and one-half hours twice a week. This enabled students to take four courses per week at night: 6-7:30, 7:30-9:00, TTH or MW. Most instructors were experienced teachers; most came from area high schools. Mr. Walter Wahnsiedler, of Central High School, was the senior teacher, with nearly thirty years of experience. I had the only Ph.D. degree. Mr. Eric vonFuhrmann and myself, both from OCC (Oakland City College), had the only college teaching backgrounds.”



Daniel Miller



Marjorie Labhart



Eric vonFuhrmann

Dr. Miller’s book reports that a study, “The Needs for Higher Education in the Evansville Area to 1980,” by Nelson Associates, Inc. of New York, gave rise to two important organizations, the Evansville Campus Advisory Committee and Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.

Evansville Campus Advisory Committee

“A thirty-two member advisory group, (was) nominated by Mayor McDonald and appointed by President Rankin, to channel local initiative and to help develop the Evansville Campus. Rankin challenged the Advisory Board, ‘that it would be what you would make of it’ and suggested a number of tasks to be done, notably the raising of money and purchasing land for the development of the campus. Mayor McDonald suggested that the Evansville Campus of Indiana State would bring to Evansville a ‘large industry without a smokestack on it.’”

Those who served on the **Evansville Campus Advisory Committee** were:

Charles Abshier	State Representative
F. Wesley Bowers	State Senator and Attorney
William Brooks	Councilman-at-Large and Chamber of Commerce representative
Monsignor Thomas Clarke	Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Evansville
George Damm	President-elect, AFL-CIO Council
Charles Day	President, Evansville Concrete Company
Walter Dreier	President, Union Federal Savings and Loan
E. Donald Elliott	Vice President, Mead Johnson & Company
Jack Hahn	Executive Vice President and Treasurer, Hahn, Inc.
Dudley Heath	Manager, Arkla Louisiana Gas Corporation
James Helfrich	Representative, West Side Businessmen Club
Elmo Holder	State Senator and President, Holder Oil Company
K. Wayne Kent	City Judge and Attorney
Robert L. Koch Sr.	President, George Koch and Sons
Burkley McCarthy	President, Evansville’s Future, Inc. and President, Fendrich Cigar
Harold O. McCutchan	Executive Vice President, Mead Johnson & Company
Frank F. McDonald Sr.	Mayor of Evansville
Richard E. Meier Sr.	President, Interstate Finance
William J. Moutoux	President, Moutoux, Inc.
William Needler	President, Chamber of Commerce and National City Bank
Joseph E. O’Daniel	President, Central Evansville Improvement
E. Donald Raeber	President, Citizens Realty and Insurance

Marshall Rushing	President, Swanson Nunn Electric
Aubrey Ryals	President, Wesselman's Markets
John Soucie	President, Hod Carriers and Building Laborers
James Stagg	President, Stagg Inc.
Frank Starkey	Group Manager, Sears Roebuck & Company
Robert Tackett	President, IUE Local 808
Frank Taylor	Industrial Relations Manager, Whirlpool Corporation
Thomas Toon	State Representative

Members of the Indiana State University-Terre Haute Board of Trustees were ex-officio members of this Committee.

Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc.

Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) was to have a positive, long-lasting and unparalleled impact on meeting the needs of students, faculty, staff and alumni of the institution.

"...Originally SIHE grew out of informal meetings of men who belonged to MEDCOE, Evansville's



Robert L. Koch Sr. was campaign chair for the SIHE fund drive that raised almost one million dollars.

Future, or both. Such men as Harold McCutchan, Frank McDonald, Elmo Holder, Joseph O'Daniel, Richard E. Meier, Robert L. Koch, Jack Tyring, and Dr. Weston Heinrich were noteworthy examples. Dr. Heinrich and Mr. McCutchan were the first to formulate the concept of applying the industrial park idea to the development of a local campus suitable for public higher education. Realtor Curt Huber was asked by these men to obtain options on land parcels eventually totaling 1,200 acres in an area west of Evansville."

"These efforts were accelerated in the Fall of 1966 when SIHE began its public fund drive for what it called "The Mid-America University

Center” (credit for this name goes to SIHE Board Member Elmo Holder). Robert L. Koch, the campaign chairman, along with associate chairman Alan Brentano, President of Keller-Crescent, announced a fund drive to raise \$750,000 to purchase the land optioned by Huber. This would comprise the “educational park” described earlier. In January 1967, the fund drive officially began. According to Rolland Eckels, who did most of the work organizing the drive and who nominated the chairmen for its several committees, the drive was an immediate success. In March 1967, he called Mr. Koch and informed him the goal of \$750,000 had been achieved. Bob Koch replied, “Forget it, the money is still coming in.” And it was! Eventually, SIHE raised \$967,000 for the Center, and of all the money pledged, all but two percent was collected.”

“Not all of the donations to SIHE for the Mid-America University Center were financial pledges. In December 1967, Bishop Paul Liebold of the Catholic Diocese of Evansville presented SIHE with a deed for 220 acres of land from a parcel originally deeded to the Diocese by Miss Mary Nurrenbern, member of a pioneer Vanderburgh County family. Miss Nurrenbern’s original gift contained the stipulation that 40 acres be set aside for a Newman Center and a parish church, the location of which would be determined later. SIHE agreed to this and assumed title to the land in December 1967.”



Mary Nurrenbern donated 220 acres of land for the new campus.



Chris Melton '72 served as president of SIHE for 20 years.

Those who served on the SIHE Board from its inception in 1966 to its dissolution in May 2008 were (the original six members are in bold type):

Randall K. Alsman
Marie A. Bussing
C. Jack Buschkill
Rolland M. Eckels
E. Donald Elliott
O. George Everbach
Raymond L. Farabaugh
James E. Fields
Carolyn S. Georgette
William G. Greif
James R. "Dick" Harris
Elmo Holder
H. Ray Hoops

Charles W. Jarrett
Edward W. Johnson
Susan McGregor Knight '94
Robert L. Koch Sr.
Robert L. Koch II
Joel M. Lasker
Steven R. McCullough
Harold O. McCutchan
William M. McCutchan
Frank F. McDonald Sr.
Richard E. Meier Sr.
Chris D. Melton '72
William J. Muller
Joseph E. O'Daniel
David L. Rice
Connie S. Dartt Romain '74
Mark Rozewski
Robert W. Ruble
Henry E. Sauer
Richard W. Schmidt
Alan N. Shovers
Albert J. Umbach Jr.
Christopher S. White
James L. Will Sr.
Eric R. Williams '89
Stephen J. Witting
C. Wayne Worthington
Byron C. Wright



C. Wayne Worthington ensured the financing for first housing.

One of SIHE's most important contributions was the development of student housing. With growth in enrollment and escalating gasoline costs, SIHE leaders realized that on-campus housing was necessary. At the time, no student housing was allowed, as a matter of state policy, on any extension campuses. SIHE developed a plan to build housing with low-interest bonds, but a public entity was needed to accept the housing project when the bond was retired. Indiana State University trustees refused the offer, and set off a community reaction that gave rise to a new public demand for full university status. SIHE, on land it owned, developed the housing, first known as Mid America Student Housing (MASH). Then, SIHE purchased a privately developed apartment complex (Campus Apartments) and blended it with its complex. In 1994, SIHE donated both complexes to the University, a \$15 million value. The University renamed the housing units in honor of Frank F. McDonald Sr. and Joseph E. O'Daniel. Later the University developed its own residential units, but the McDonald and O'Daniel Apartments remain a vital part of student housing.



SIHE Board members Carolyn Georgette, E. Donald Elliott, Joel M. Lasker, Robert L. Koch Sr. and Alan Shovers break ground for the Mid-America Student Housing apartments.



After SIHE gave its student housing complexes to USI, the University named them for two of its most prominent founders, Frank F. McDonald Sr. and Joseph E. O'Daniel.

Creating a University of Excellence

The opening of ISUE in 1965 met an immediate need for many. From high school graduates to working adults to returning military veterans, it was clear that affordable higher education in Evansville and the Tri-state region was here to stay.

“...Mead Johnson & Company had given ISU a three-year lease on the building (later extended to four years). The first year’s operation evidenced considerable growth in enrollment and the full-time faculty was augmented in Fall, 1966, by Mr. Eric vonFuhrmann, English; Dr. Daniel A. Miller, history; Ms. Ruthann Sturtevant, biology; Dr. James R. Blevins, English; Dr. Jon Wilson, speech; Mr. Dean Phelps, English; Mr. Jack Engelke, business; Mr. J. J. Koss, economics; Mr. Wiley Smith, sociology; Mr. Steven Suckow, librarian; Mr. John Price, political science; Dr. Eugene Schroeder, botany and zoology; Ms. Pat Rom, junior librarian; and Mr. Charles E. Jordan, industrial education.”

“Returning were James J. Lynch, English and philosophy; Richard W. Mercer, English; Walter J. Hogman, biology-zoology, and Marjorie Labhart, mathematics. In August 1966, the entire staff assembled for a briefing by President Rankin, assisted by director Dr. William Jones. In his address, President Rankin outlined the intent of the University and the Board of Trustees. This “mission statement” identified two fundamental and distinctly interrelated areas for teaching and learning: general liberal education and specialization. The general liberal education would provide experiences in the humanities, sciences, and cognate fields suitable for the development of an educated person. Specializations would provide professional and vocational educational needs.”

In July 1967, Indiana State University announced that Dr. David L. Rice would become dean of the Evansville Campus. Dr. Rice, a native of New Market, Indiana, held degrees through the Ph.D. from Purdue University and had been a professor of education and researcher for Ball State University. His wife, Betty Fordice Rice, also a native Hoosier, welcomed her role as first lady of ISUE with the same enthusiasm Dr. Rice gave his work. For years, their first home on Mels Drive, near the campus’ permanent location, was a center for hospitality and fellowship. Later they helped the University Foundation design the University Home which has been a residence for all presidential families. A true partner with her husband, Mrs. Rice helped establish a culture of friendship and hospitality that remains a hallmark of the University today.



David L. Rice



Betty Fordice Rice

“News of the change filtered down slowly from Terre Haute to Evansville. Eventually we were informed of Dr. Rice’s appointment, along with the fact that Dr. Jones remained as “associate dean. “ (He resigned the following year and took a position in Wisconsin.) Meantime, Ms. Beverly Nelson, business education; Dr. Rolla Dyer, chemistry; and Mr. Ernst Griffin, geography, had been added to the ISUE faculty.”

“Dr. Rice greeted his faculty in August 1967, now 36 in number. New additions were Mr. John Deem, business; Mr. James Stewart, business; Mr. John Harrison and Ms. Mary Schroeder, speech; Mr. Maurice Medley, sociology; Mr. Enrique Pujals, Spanish; Dr. Donald Pitzer, history; Mr. James Townsend, life science; and Mr. Benjamin Miller, physics.”

“The faculty was organized into quasi-departments under heads selected by Dean Rice and approved by the ISU Board of Trustees. These “heads” were Dr. Rolla Dyer, science and mathematics; Mr. Jack Engelke, business; Dr. Daniel Miller, social sciences; and Mr. Eric

vonFuhrmann, communications, arts, and literature. A new position, the director of business affairs, was capably filled by Mr. Byron C. Wright, a former assistant finance officer at Ball State University. Mr. Wright, with degrees in business education (BS) and education administration (MA) from Ball State, previously taught as a business teacher in Muncie Community and Jefferson Township School. ”

The Faculty Council

With the appointment of Dean Rice, ISUE became a separate unit reporting to Indiana State University-Terre Haute Vice President and Dean of the Faculty Dr. Charles Hardaway. As the ISUE faculty grew in numbers, it followed the structure of Indiana State University and elected a Faculty Council to represent faculty interests in the development of the Evansville Campus. Those who served on the first ISUE Faculty Council during 1968-69 were:

Dr. Benjamin Miller – Physics
Dr. Donald E. Pitzer – History
Dr. James R. Blevins – English
Mr. Dean Phelps – English
Mr. John Price – Political Science

The University Foundation

A vital step in the University’s development was the establishment of the University Foundation. The ISUE Foundation was chartered to invite and manage private gifts for the campus. The first gifts were initiated by Mayor Frank McDonald and his wife Cloedeen, who each gave \$100, beginning what became known as the Century Club.

The Foundation became the official gift-receiving agency for the Evansville Campus on October 1, 1968. As an Indiana not-for-profit corporation, its principal functions were established to promote, receive, invest and disburse charitable gifts for the benefit of the University. Its organizing committee included:

E. Donald Elliott
Kenneth Jack Hahn
John E. McCutchan

Frank F. McDonald Sr.
Joseph E. O'Daniel
Richard E. Meier Sr.
ISU President Alan Rankin
Evansville Campus administrators David L. Rice, Byron C. Wright,
and Donald D. Bennett (who came as assistant dean of campus in 1968).

These organizers received strong community support from industrialists Robert L. Koch Sr. and D. Mead Johnson, as well as west side business leaders H. Byron Hubbard, William J. Moutoux, and L. Bernard Powers.

Over the years, hundreds of men and women have served on the Board of Directors of the USI Foundation. The board presidents and chairs have been:

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-present

In 1969, the campus moved to its permanent location on the 1,400-acre tract of land assembled by SIHE. For many years, the property was known as the Mid America University Center, where other educational institutions would be welcomed to bring specialties. With the exception of the Indiana University School of Medicine Evansville Center, no other educational institution took advantage of this opportunity. The first



Attending the groundbreaking for the Evansville Campus of Indiana State University were (left to right) ISU Trustee John E. McCutchan, ISUE Dean David L. Rice and Evansville Mayor Frank F. McDonald.

building was the Administration and Science Center. In 1971, the University Library opened; and in 1973, a University Center opened. Other important classroom and support buildings followed, and today the investment in the campus physical plant exceeds \$425 million.

The Student Government Association

The first Student Government Association was organized in 1969. A spring 1969 issue of the student newspaper refers to Tom Scott as president. Records from a September 1969 meeting show Pat Ziemer as president, Rita Ohlman as secretary and Dave Miller as treasurer.

Pat Ziemer recalls that the planning for student governance started at the Centennial campus. “Dr. Rice and I talked in the parking lot of Centennial about establishing fraternities, sororities and student government. Dr. Rice was so open and he drew on his experiences at Purdue. His attitude was ‘let’s make it happen.’ And once we were on the new campus, it all started dove-tailing,” Ziemer said.

An election was held and the minutes of a November 17, 1969 meeting show these Student Government Association members and officers:

Harolyn Atwater ’71
Mike Cook
Joe Elliott
Mark Hampton, president
Bill Hudson
Butch Hogue
Betsy Latham ’72
Pam Martin ’71

Dave Miller ’72, treasurer
Debbie Miller ’72
Steven P. Mosley
Randy Nixon
Rita Ohlman, secretary
Bob Roeder ’71
Dennis Woehler ’73

The following students have served as president of SGA:

Alexa L. Bueltel ’16
Zack Mathies ’15
Sarah M. Krampe ’14
Jordan M. Whitledge ’14
Hope A. Fussner ’12

Bob M. Wolfley ’10
Amy L. Beard ’09
Kristina M. Pelly ’08
Jeff K. Clark ’07
Scott M. Carr ’07



Students pulled a historic plow to break ground for the first University Center.

Eric J. Sharp '05
 Troy D. Nethery '05
 Britney N. Gentry Orth '03
 Rick A. Hudson '02
 Brian E. Pauley '00
 Patrick A. West '00
 Allyson R. Breeden '98
 Chris E. Williams '97
 Deborah L. Duren '97

Robert L. Kerney '95
 Kenneth E. McWilliams '95
 Douglas A. Schneider '92
 Mathew B. Igleheart '93
 Lori D. Rexing '92
 Paula J. Harmon '90
 Mini Aggarwal '91
 Carol J. Dunkel Smith '89
 Robert A. Hon '89
 Michael A. Bevers '85
 Edward A. White '86
 Ronald R. Bongor '83
 Lori B. Carroll Bryant '82
 William E. Harrison '80
 Tony Scales '80
 Robert D. Barnes III '79
 Harold J. Beumel Jr. '78
 Jeff L. Wolf '78
 Billie Sue Koester Heckel '76
 Van A. Jones '75
 Robert D. Schuttler II '75
 Dave W. Baumgart '75
 P. Steven Mosley
 J. Patrick Hinkle '71
 Mark Hampton
 Patrick J. Ziemer '73

The First Commencement

On Wednesday, June 2, 1971, the first Commencement ceremony was held for 151 graduates who received degrees. It took place on the lawn north of the Administration Building. Proudly, Evansville resident John W. McCutchan was president of the ISU-Terre Haute Board of Trustees. The printed program from that ceremony documents many of the founders.

The Founding Faculty

From the beginning, the most valued traits in a professor were love of teaching and the desire to guide the educational experience of students. Between 1965 and 1971, when the first graduates received degrees, a talented faculty was recruited. Many of these dedicated professors spent their entire careers at the University of Southern Indiana. The 1971 Commencement program carried the names of these faculty.

Division of Business

Edward D. Marting, Acting Chairman
Sammy D. Blakenship
John T. Ferrell
Dona F. Frost
Wanda Hibbitts
William B. Leedy
Barbara J. Marting

Division of Education

Ted D. DeVries, Chairman
Gerald J. Altstadt
James P. Brown
Jane A. Davis
J. Maxwell Davis
John H. Emhuff
Glenn L. Kinzie
Robert M. Small
Janet R. Venatta

Division of Humanities

James R. Blevins, Chairman
Bradley M. Awe
Seymour Brodsky
Clayton Crenshaw
Doris C. DaRosa
David V. Deeg
Lomberto Diaz
Thomas L. Eichman
Jane A. Follis
John H. Gottcent
Marion A. Hesler
Ramona Hinton
Marilyn Lisman
John W. McNaughton
Richard R. Mussard
Michael Pasko
James B. Richards
Thomas M. Rivers
Helen R. Sands
William H. Sands
Mary A. Schroeder
Carl D. Sclarencio
Kenneth G. Vance
Thomas A. Wilhelmus

Division of Science and Mathematics

Rolla M. Dyer, Chairman
John M. Barnes
Charles J. Bertram
Melvin W. Denner
Howard E. Dunn
Billy J. Fairless
Yen-Tzu Fu
Benjamin P. Miller
Sister Victoria M. Pohl
Frank L. Stanonis
Ruthann Sturtevant
James W. Townsend

Division of Social Science

Daniel A. Miller, Chairman
Darrel E. Bigham
Curtis J. Cole
J. Eliseo DaRosa
Susan L. Donaldson
William J. Kirsch
Donald E. Pitzer
Robert Rounsavell
Daniel C. Scavone
Wiley C. Smith
Wallace C. Wardner

The Founding Administration and Officers

In the 1971 Commencement program, the Evansville Campus administration was listed as:

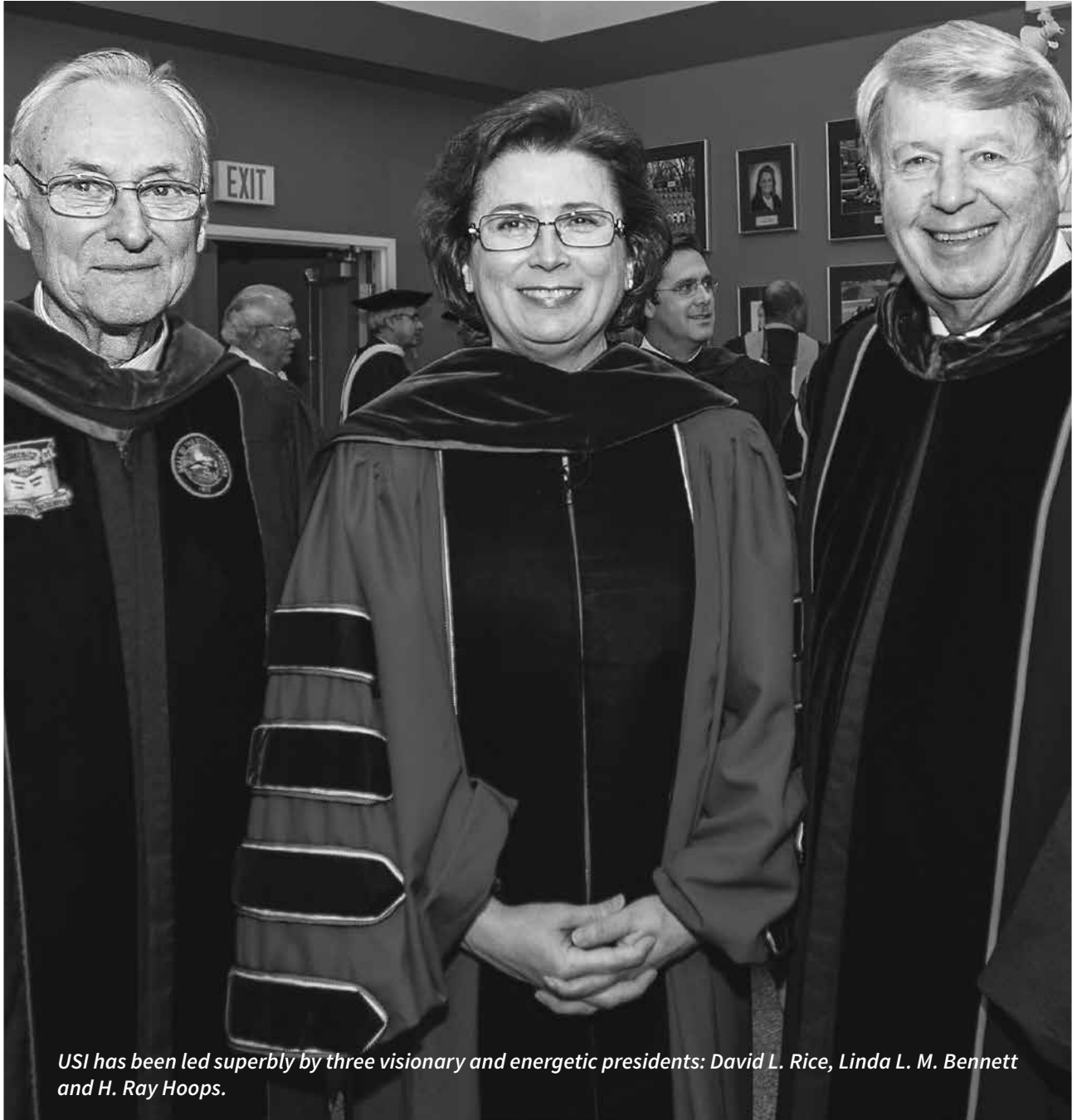
David L. Rice, Dean of Campus
Donald D. Bennett, Assistant Dean of Campus
Byron C. Wright, Business Manager

The early administrators became the founding officers of the University:

David L. Rice became President
Donald D. Bennett became Vice President
for Student Affairs
Byron C. Wright became Vice President for
Business Affairs
Robert L. Reid became Vice President for
Academic Affairs in 1975



The founding officers are depicted playing cards in a painting by Katie Waters that hangs in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Indianapolis.



USI has been led superbly by three visionary and energetic presidents: David L. Rice, Linda L. M. Bennett and H. Ray Hoops.

The Alumni Association

The class officers of 1971, listed in the Commencement program, were:

Ralph H. Kent Jr. '71, President
Stephen A. Dezember '71, Vice President
David E. Morris '71, Treasurer
Pamela A. Martin '71, Secretary

The class officers worked with the University to create an Alumni Association with the stated purpose to “promote alumni support for projects on the Evansville Campus, such as basketball games, plays and musicals, convocations and other projects that need community support; promote public understanding of the school; and . . .raising funds. . .” It was developed as an arm of the ISUE Foundation, with funds collected and channeled through the Foundation. The founding group was called the Alumni Association Advisory Council and Executive Board, comprised of:

Donald D. Bennett
William A. Burgdorf '71
John L. Deem
Stephen A. Dezember '71
John W. Fehrenbacher '71
Ralph H. Kent Jr. '71
Loryl W. Lackey *Centennial* '68
C. Robert Lawson
Dennis R. Orsburn '71
David L. Rice
Betty F. Rice
Kathy Will Funke *Centennial* '69
Byron Wright

Kent was class president; Bennett, Deem, Lawson, the Rices, Will and Wright were administrators appointed by the Alumni Association president to advise the direction of the organization's development.

Interestingly, the first Alumni Association organizational meeting was held on September 15, 1971, six years to the day from the opening of the Evansville Campus classes. Within a month, the group had considered

and adopted a constitution. The members of the first full Council, which served in the 1971-1972 academic year, were:

Ralph H. Kent Jr. '71, President
Pamela A. Martin '71, Vice President

Sharlene Taylor Wooten '71, Secretary
David E. Morris '71, Treasurer

William A. Burgdorf '71
Stephen A. Dezember '71
John W. Fehrenbacher '71

Loryl W. Lackey *Centennial* '68
Dennis R. Orsburn '71
A. Jean Rickard '71

Today, the Alumni Association represents more than 37,000 graduates of the institution with the Alumni Council directing activities consistent with its original mission. Since its founding, these faithful graduates have served as president of the Alumni Council, developing its programs and sustaining the University.

Suzann M. Baehl '86
H. Alvin Basham II '00
Jean M. Blanton '01
Steven L. Bohleber '72
Ronald R. Bonger '83
Stephanie S. Buchanan '97
David A. Bunner '72
Jina L. Campbell '01 M'03
Mark A. Chandler '01
Doug F. Claybourn '77
Deidra R. Conner '87
Daniel J. Fink '73
Jeffrey W. Gaul '75
Geoffrey A. Gentil '92
David E. Gray '74
Kevin L. Hammett '90
John C. Heard '73
David W. Herrenbruck '76
Pat Hinkle '71
Rita H. Joest '84
Ralph H. Kent '71
Kirk W. Knight '93

Susan McGregor Knight '94
Nancy J. Sieben Koehler '93
Jessica A. McCarthy '00
Donna M. Mesker '86
Allen R. Mounts '74 M'91
Mark E. Neidig '76
Dennis R. Orsburn '71
A. Jean Rickard '71
Connie S. Romain '74
Carole D. Rust '77
Wm. Michael Schiff '75
Tina Kern Schutte '86
John L. Schutz '82
Robert W. Swan '72
Jennifer L. Titzer '00 M'10 D'13
Jamie L. Wicks '91 M'97
Eric R. Williams '89
Kyle S. Winingar '01
Donita F. Wolf '83
Robert Carl Woosley II '92
Rose Marie Zigenfus '78

The Varsity Club

At the same time the new campus opened, students were organizing intercollegiate athletic teams with the blessing of the University administration. Finances for sports were virtually nonexistent, so “town and gown” took it upon themselves to elevate their efforts. Dr. John Emhuff, who was dean of students, and Elmer Sander, a certified public accountant in practice on the west side of Evansville who later became the campus director of Student Financial Assistance, set a modest financial goal and called on clients of Sander. Their first call was Charles Weaver, the head of Peerless Pottery. “We wondered if we dare ask for \$100, and we were so proud to get it; Sander was so respected,” Emhuff remembered.

Thus was born the 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 -- all acknowledged as founders of the Varsity Club. Marvin Smith, a Northwestern Mutual Insurance agent who often recruited students for sales internships through Emhuff, caught the energy early on. Altstadt said Sander was the Varsity Club’s “guiding light” and that Barney 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 a Varsity Club Room was proposed by Altstadt. It has evolved into today’s popular pre- and post-game gathering space in the Physical Activities Center.

The first goal of the Varsity Club was to raise \$3,000 to provide uniforms and travel expenses for the teams. Today, the Varsity Club is an integral part of University life, providing thousands of dollars annually for scholarships and other program support. USI’s intercollegiate athletic program has become one of NCAA Division II’s most competitive, capturing national titles in men’s basketball, men’s baseball and individual titles in cross country/track. USI also has been ranked nationally for its outstanding student-athlete graduation rates.

Since its founding, these men and women have served as Varsity Club Presidents:

Marvin L. Smith	1972-1973
Clarence J. Altstadt	1974-1975
H. Byron Hubbard	1975-1976
James L. Will Sr.	1976-1977

Steve R. McCullough	1978-1979 and 1980-1981
Patrick J. Ziemer '73	1979-1980
Bernard W. Head	1981-1982
Terry A. Babb	1982-1983
Dr. James L. Fleck	1983-1984
John H. Willis	1984-1985
Lloyd D. Jost	1985-1986
Roger L. Griffin '72	1986-1987
J. Robert Moye	1987-1988
Michael R. Siebeking	1988-1989
Leslie C. Shively	1989-1990
David E. Sartore '87	1990-1991
Richard E. S. Diggs	1991-1992
Steven P. Eickhoff '77	1992-1993
James R. Ahrens	1993-1994
Joseph W. Cannon	1994-1995
David W. Herrenbruck '76	1995-1996
William J. Joergens <i>Centennial</i>	1996-1997
Richard S. Kersting	1997-1998
Raymond J. "Duke" Coudret	1999-2000
Mark J. Altstadt	2000-2001
Russell L. Woosley '79	2001-2002
M. G. "Rocky" Wrye	2002-2003
Helen T. Hamilton	2003-2004
Jackson L. Marr	2004-2005
Darrell A. Ragland	2005-2006
Donna M. Mesker '86	2006-2007
Kent L. Kleiman '97	2007-2008
Jeffrey R. Worthington '93	2008-2009
Sandra A. Hatfield	2009-2010
John E. Campbell Jr. '00 M'06	2010-2011
John L. Schutz '82	2011-2012
Donita F. Wolf '83	2012-2013
Robert A. Werner	2013-2014
Donald R. Powers '74	2014-2015
Justin S. Schmitt	2015-2016

A Separate State University

Between 1973 and 1984, legislation was introduced to make the campus a separate state university, but it took an Evansville native in the Governor's chair to ensure the University's future and its full development. Governor Robert D. Orr guided legislation in 1984 that created a Board of Incorporators, charged with recommending all the legal and transfer steps necessary to establish USI as a separate state university. Governor Orr appointed a Board of Incorporators whose members had a wide range of educational and experiential backgrounds. Serving on the Board were:

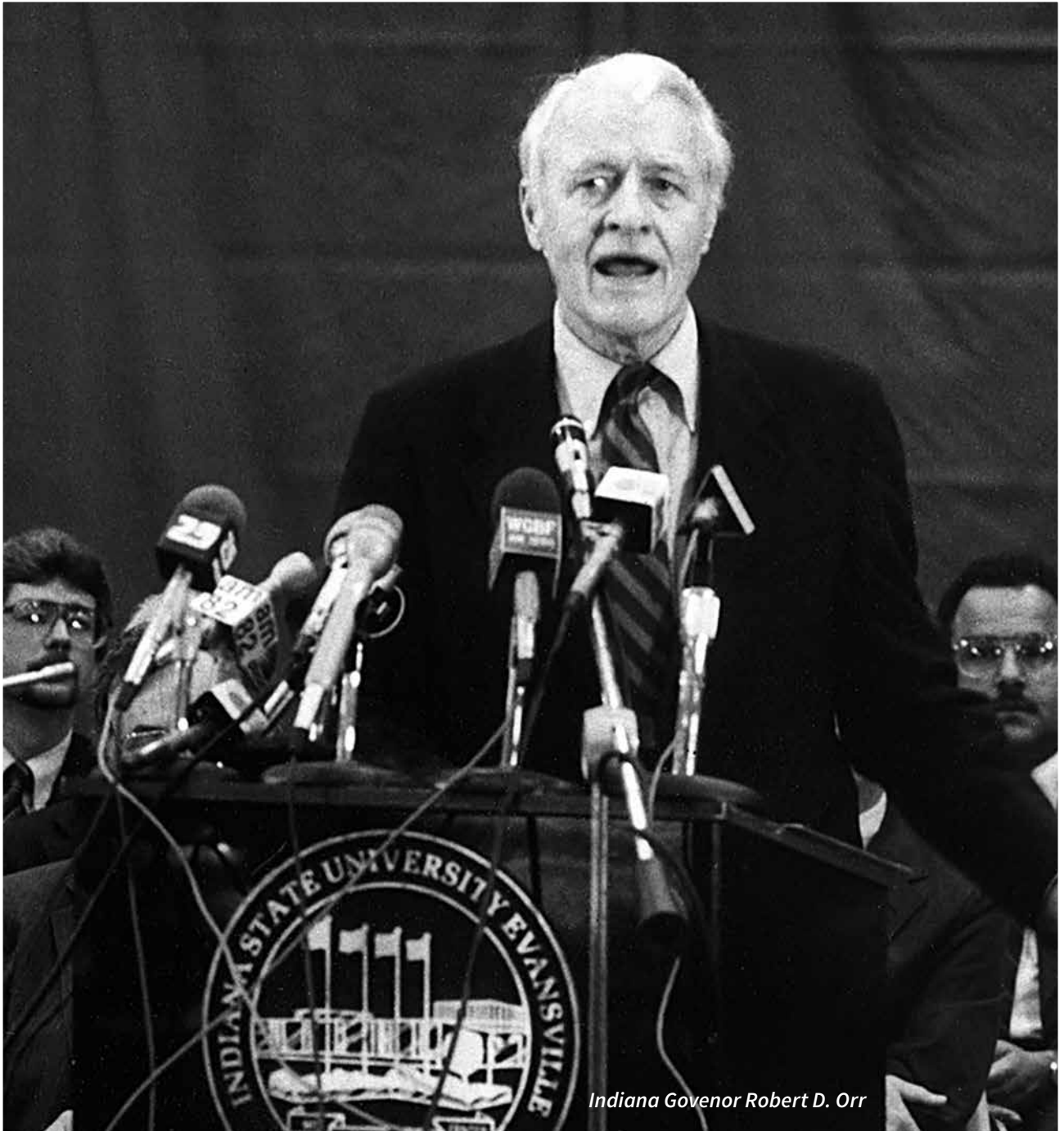
Walter R. Brunton '73	Alumni representative, Mount Vernon
Nancy Malin Bennett '13	Student representative, Evansville
Dr. Percy Clark Jr.	Superintendent of Lawrence Township Schools, Indianapolis
Rolland M. Eckels	Mead Johnson executive, Evansville
Carolyn S. Georgette	Indiana Bell executive, Evansville
Dr. Jack Johnson	Professor of Political Science, Indiana State University, Terre Haute
Robert J. Fair	Attorney and former State Senator, Princeton
Joseph E. O'Daniel	Business leader, Evansville
Dr. John J Pruis	President emeritus, Ball State University, Muncie



John J Pruis

With Dr. Pruis as chair, the Board set a brisk meeting schedule and issued its report at the end of 1984, setting into motion legislation which was enacted in spring 1985 creating the University of Southern Indiana in the place of ISUE.

Governor Orr came to campus to sign the legislation on April 16, 1985, welcomed by a standing ovation of 1,500 community leaders, students, faculty and staff. He appointed the first nine-member Board of Trustees and stressed that the University of Southern Indiana was to be a "statewide" institution in every sense of the word.



Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr

The founding Board of Trustees included:

William E. Brooks	Editor and Publisher of <i>The Vincennes Sun Commercial</i> , Vincennes
Robert M. Boyer	Old National Bank executive, Terre Haute
Dr. Percy Clark Jr.	Superintendent of Lawrence Township Schools, Indianapolis
Robert J. Fair	Attorney, Princeton
Joseph E. O'Daniel	Business leader, Evansville
Dr. John J Pruis	President emeritus, Ball State University, Muncie
Carole D. Rust '77	Alumni representative, Mount Vernon
Dr. George B. Weathersby	Former Commissioner for Higher Education, Indianapolis
Eric R. Williams '89	Student representative, Newburgh

Robert J. Fair was elected the first chair of the Board of Trustees.



(Standing): USI President David L. Rice, Honorary Trustee Albert A. Woll, Trustees Robert J. Fair, Joseph E. O'Daniel, John J Pruis and William E. Brooks.

(Seated): Trustees Eric R. Williams '89, Carole D. Rust '77, Percy Clark Jr. and Robert M. Boyer.

The first meeting of the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees

Governor Orr also appointed Albert A. Woll, businessman from Evansville, as an honorary trustee. Mr. Woll served with distinction for many years on the Indiana State University Board of Trustees. Two other dedicated southwestern Indiana citizens who served on the ISU Board and advocated for separate state university status were William L. Hitch of Princeton and John E. McCutchan of Evansville. Both were influential in the full development of the Evansville campus. Another ardent advocate for separation, Gregory T. Hall '84 was the only ISUE student ever appointed to the Indiana State University Board of Trustees.

From 1985 forward, the USI Board of Trustees has been dedicated to the full development of educational opportunities for students, and has been keenly responsive to the needs of regional employers. Working with the University administration, the trustees have undertaken ambitious initiatives that have set USI apart from other institutions. The University of Southern Indiana stands as a model of excellence in the strength of its academic programs and its dedication to teaching and learning. University trustees who have served since the beginning in 1985 are:

Brent A. Auberry '95
Bruce H. Baker
Ira G. Boots
Robert M. Boyer
William E. Brooks



William L. Hitch



John E. McCutchan

Louise S. Bruce
W. Harold Calloway
Nicole L. Cable Hume '97
Dr. Percy Clark Jr.
Charles S. Combs
Brendan Davidson '15
Mark A. Day
John M. Dunn
Susan Ellsperman '13
Robert J. Fair
Lauren K. Raikes Gilliam '11
Ryan A. Helzerman '01
G. Patrick Hoehn
J. David Huber
Walter J. Jermakowicz III '03
Jeffrey L. Knight
J. Patrick Leahy '91
Lauren C. Fultz Lutz '07
Amy W. MacDonell
Frank F. McDonald II '73

Thomas F. McKenna
Jamie L. Johnson Mull '09
Joseph E. O'Daniel
Brian E. Pauley '00
Dr. John J Pruis
Ronald D. Romain '73
Carole D. Rust '77
Steven J. Schenck '72
Brad A. Schepers '91
Kenneth L. Sendelweck '76
Tina M. Kern Schutte '86
Evan Stieler '17
Kristel M. Swan '72
Robert W. Swan '72
Harolyn G. Atwater Torain '71
Samuel J. Tucker '05
Dr. George B. Weathersby
James L. Will Sr.
Eric R. Williams '89
Ted C. Ziemer Jr.

The Legislative Delegation

The remarkable development of the University would not have been possible except for the support of the Indiana General Assembly. The legislative delegation from southwestern Indiana ensured the establishment of public higher education in 1965 and worked closely with community and educational leaders to transform the Evansville campus to a full state university in 1985. The earliest legislative efforts were initiated by State Representatives Tom Toon and Charles Abshier in 1963. In 1965, State Representatives William B. Snyder and F. Wesley Bowers took up the cause, resulting in the opening of the Evansville campus of Indiana State University on September 15, 1965.

The Southern Indiana Legislative Delegation, 1965-2015, includes:

State Representative Charles K. Abshier
State Representative Carl Allen
State Representative Dennis T. Avery
State Representative Ron Bacon
State Representative Elsie Barning
State Representative and Senator Vaneta G. Becker '94
State Senator F. Wesley Bowers
State Representative and Senator Joseph G. Bruggenschmidt
State Representative John C. Cox
State Representative David L. Crooks
State Representative Suzanne Crouch
State Representative H. Joel Deckard
State Representative and Senator Bob Deig
State Representative Maurice E. Doll Jr.
State Representative Wilford C. Edwards
State Representative Sue Ellspermann
State Senator Robert J. Fair
State Representative John G. Frenz
State Representative and Senator James R. "Dick" Harris
State Senator Philip H. Hayes
State Representative J. Jeff Hays
State Representative Brian K. Hasler
State Representative Dennis H. Heeke
State Senator Elmo Holder
State Senator Erin Houchin
State Representative Phil Hoy
State Representative Orvil Huett
State Representative Donald E. Hume
State Representative and Senator Lindel O. Hume
State Senator Michael C. Kendall

State Senator Sidney S. Kramer
State Representative Jerry Lamb
State Representative Sally Rideout
State Senator Larry E. Lutz
State Representative and Senator Mark Messmer
State Senator James R. Monk
State Representative Richard L. McConnell
State Representative Wendy McNamara M'99
State Senator Frank L. O'Bannon
State Senator Robert P. O'Bannon
State Representative Maurice C. O'Connor
State Senator Joe O'Day
State Senator Robert D. Orr
State Representative Dennis Oxley II
State Representative Mark A. Palmer
State Representative Michael K. Phillips
State Representative Robert L. Rickard Jr.
State Representative Gail Riecken
State Senator Emil Schmutzler
State Representative Frank Schuetz
State Representative and Senator Gregory D. Server
State Representative Kenneth C. Snider
State Representative William V. Snyder
State Representative Russell L. Stilwell '77
State Representative Holli Sullivan
State Senator Harry E. Thompson
State Senator Jim Tomes
State Representative Tom Toon
State Representative W. Trent Van Haaften
State Representative Jonathan D. Weinzapfel
State Senator Richard D. Young Jr.

The Power of the Press

No history would be complete without an acknowledgement of the role of the media. For 50 years, the reporters, editors, publishers and managers of the Tri-state's major news-gathering operations have illuminated the need for public higher education in southwestern Indiana. Those include:

Evansville Courier and Evansville Press
Evansville Sunday Courier and Press
Our Times
The Shield, student publication
WEHT-TV
WEVV-TV
WFIE-TV

WTVW-TV
WNIN Public Broadcasting
WGBF Radio
WIKY Radio
WKDQ Radio
WPSR Radio
WSWI Radio



This 1981 editorial cartoon from the Evansville Sunday Courier & Press accompanied a letter to the editor by ISU President Richard G. Landini, in which he asserted “the governor does not need to ride your hobby horse.” It caused a new community effort that moved Governor Orr forward on independence for the campus.

Two extraordinary contributions by the media include the role of Judy Clabes, then editor of the *Evansville Sunday Courier and Press*, for courageous editorial leadership on the issue of separate state university status. Her advocacy led to Governor Orr's movement to establish a Board of Incorporators. And, the Engelbrecht family and South Central Communications donated USI's first on-air radio station in 1981, elevating forever the educational experience of communications students.

Today: An Industry Without a Smokestack

As former Mayor Frank McDonald Sr. predicted, the University of Southern Indiana has become an industry without a smokestack. An economic impact study in 2015, using data from 2013-2014, details how the University enriches southwestern Indiana, and indeed the entire State of Indiana. “The contributions of USI consist of more than just influencing the lives of students. The University serves a range of industries in the USI service area and supports regional businesses. Communities throughout Indiana benefit from an expanded economy and improved quality of life. The benefits created by USI extend as far as the state and local government, in the form of increased tax revenues and public sector savings.”

Consider today’s impact:

The University has an annual average payroll of \$116.3 million.

There are 652 full-time faculty and staff, 239 part-time faculty, 371 full-time support staff, 317 part-time staff, and 609 student employees.

Student spending equals \$43 million.

Visitor spending amounts to \$353,000.

The 2013-2014 state appropriation was \$55.1 million, which is only 52 percent of USI’s current operating budget.

Student fees make up 43 percent and 5 percent comes from other sources.

Enrollment was 9,364, with 76 percent as full-time students.

An additional 15,000 people enroll in continuing education and special programs.

Over 74 percent of USI graduates remain in Indiana.

USI confers associate, baccalaureate, master and doctoral degrees in programs that lead the state and nation in their standards for excellence.

The economic impact study concludes that USI:

creates new income throughout the region, supports local jobs, sustains a skilled workforce, increases students’ lifetime income, expands the state’s economic base and improves the quality of life.

Mayor McDonald and all those who have played roles in founding and sustaining the University were right that it would bring permanent positive change to southwestern Indiana and its economy. In the past 50 years no individual or organization has had a more positive impact on this region than the University of Southern Indiana.



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–

† Deceased