John M. Dunn is a driving force in the Evansville hospitality industry and in the continued development of the University of Southern Indiana. A 2012 inductee into Evansville’s Business Hall of Fame, he is best known as the chair and CEO of Dunn Hospitality Group, Ltd. and as a member and past chair of the USI Board of Trustees and the USI Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Dunn began working at age 10, delivering the Evansville Press newspaper, to help support his family following the death of his father. At age 12, he was a ride operator at Yarbrody Amusement Park; at 16, he worked as a lineman at Crescent City Aviation, where he fueled and parked planes. After serving as an electronics specialist in the U.S. Air Force, he worked in sales at Evansville-based Fuqua Industries, which owned WROZ radio and WTVW-7 TV. There, he was promoted to vice president and general manager.

His first hotel, The Williamsburg Inn (now HomeLife Studios and Suites), was built in 1978 at the Lloyd Expressway (then Division Street) and Green River Road. The new hotel was the beginning of Dunn Hospitality.

“He is an advocate for educational opportunity, Mr. Dunn has assisted in the development of the University of Southern Indiana, actively raising funds to support the University’s goals and mission,” said Bruce H. Baker, 2012-14 chair of the USI Foundation Board of Directors. “He has helped to marshal financial resources for the University through his enthusiasm and advocacy for USI.”

Mr. Dunn joined the USI Foundation Board of Directors in 1993, bringing with him the same business acumen that lead to his corporate success. He was active as a member of the major gifts committee in the Boards Division of the University’s first capital campaign. He and his wife Gail pledged an unrestricted estate gift, qualifying them as charter members in the Reflections planned giving society.

He was appointed to the USI Board of Trustees in 2006. In 2009, while he was chair of the board, he directed the search for USI’s third president. He received an honorary degree from USI in recognition of his innovative business leadership, prominence as a civic leader, advocacy for educational opportunity, and voluntary service to many nonprofit and social service organizations.

“John is one of those people, who you can count on one hand, who really has made USI what it is today,” said Ted Ziemer, current chair of the USI Board of Trustees and life director and former chair of the USI Foundation Board. “He is wonderful.”

John and Gail Dunn

continued
“The most important part of being in business is making sure you are paying back the community that allows you to make a living,” Mr. Dunn said. “I have been doing that since day one, and I preached it to my children, and they are all heavily involved in the community.”

Mrs. Dunn and their daughters also lead by example. Gail serves on boards for the Reitz Home Museum, Keep Evansville Beautiful, and the Evansville African American Museum. She enjoys planning the annual gathering of USI friends and alumni in Sarasota, Florida, where the Dunns have a home.

Daughter Holly Dunn Pendleton M’06 co-founded Holly’s House in 2008, a child and adult advocacy center for victims of intimate crimes. It is a safe location in Evansville where adult and child victims of intimate violence are interviewed. She and her husband, Jacob, are expecting their first child in June 2012.

Daughter Heather Niemeier is an eighth-grade teacher at North Junior/Senior High School in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. She and her husband, Fred, have three children.

Daughter Kathy Jagielski was an art professor at Oakland City University before becoming a stay-at-home mother of five children.

“He has helped to marshal financial resources for the University through his enthusiasm and advocacy for USI.”

The Dunn family link with USI is robust. The Dunns’ planned gift is an investment in Indiana higher education and an endorsement of their expectation for USI to continue to develop for the benefit of future generations and the communities of Southern Indiana.

Bequests

Through a bequest, friends can contribute to the work of the University of Southern Indiana long past their lifetime while maintaining full control of their assets for as long as they live.

Bequests can take several forms: real or personal property, a stated dollar amount, a percentage of the estate, or the remainder of an estate after providing for loved ones. Significant tax savings can result since bequests to the USI Foundation may be deducted from the taxable estate in determining estate taxes.

Your annual gifts can continue forever

The University of Southern Indiana depends on many loyal friends and alumni who make annual gifts which help the University underwrite student scholarships and enhance its educational programs. When a benefactor dies, then that support ends.

You can continue your commitment to support higher education on an annual basis beyond your lifetime by including the USI Foundation in your will. With a bequest to the USI Foundation, you can continue your annual support where the need is greatest or to sustain specific programs which were important to you during your lifetime. You can create a permanent legacy. Here is how to accomplish that:

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*Assumes an average annual rate of return of 4.5 percent on bequests received by the USI Foundation.

Concerned about the level of your Social Security income? Would you like to have more income and help USI at the same time? Call the USI Foundation and ask how you can do both with a charitable gift annuity.

This newsletter is for information only. For specific legal and tax-planning guidance, please consult your professional advisors.

For more information or other gift-planning ideas, return the enclosed reply card or contact the USI Foundation.

David A. Bower • USI Foundation • 8600 University Boulevard • Evansville, Indiana 47712 • 812/464-1918 • www.usi.edu/foundation

Leave A Legacy® is a community-based effort that encourages people from all walks of life and all income levels to make gifts from their estates to the nonprofit organizations of their choice. This program is sponsored in Evansville by the Partnership for Philanthropic Planning through the Evansville Area Fundraising Council.