Honoring Colleagues...

*Professor emeritus honors close friends through bequests to benefit the University.*

Geologist, artist, poet, philosopher, naturalist, lover of music, avid reader, entrepreneur, risk taker, and world-class swimmer are vocations and avocations of the late John M. (Jack) Barnes, assistant professor emeritus of geology and geography. But ask anybody who knew Barnes and they’ll tell you his number-one trait was his passion—passion for Mother Earth, passion for art, and passion for humanity. His zeal shined through his work at the University of Southern Indiana.

“Jack and I connected through our love for the environment, and he reaffirmed my staunch belief that passion and rigor will make you a more successful educator,” said Paul Doss, professor of geology.

Barnes was an active environmentalist, playing a key role in several environmental studies, including one that assisted in the modification of federal blasting laws.

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“Blasting of strip mines was tearing apart people’s homes north of town,” explained Dr. Howard Dunn, professor emeritus of chemistry. “Jack had strong ethics, and he vowed to see that families’ homes stay intact. He was always advocating for the public in that way.”

Following employment with Carter Oil and Exxon in oil and gas exploration, Barnes formed his own Mid-States Consulting Corporation before...
joining the University in 1969 to be a part of the new geology program.

Choosing a position at USI “was the best thing for me,” he said. “I developed new insights, took art classes, learned how a university operates, and studied philosophy and creative writing.”

A devotion to lifelong education is what inspired Barnes and others like him to set the foundation for USI. Barnes died in July 2011, but bits of his legacy, including maps, books, published articles, artworks, and other collections continue to be found in geology classrooms, labs, and offices on campus.

His legacy also lives on through the Belle McGregor Student Scholarship in Geology honoring his grandmother, and bequests honoring three of his colleagues at USI, including a gift to support the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, honoring Dr. Thomas Wilhelmus, professor emeritus of English; a gift to the USI Geology Department for geology field studies, honoring Dr. Frank Stanonis, professor emeritus of geology; and a gift to finance faculty training and research in environmental chemistry, given to the USI Chemistry Department to honor Dr. Howard Dunn, professor emeritus of chemistry.

“I was honored by this unexpected gift to the Chemistry Department,” Dunn said. “Jack was an inspiration, and for him to regard me in this way is a great compliment.”

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:

You can perpetuate your annual support of: With a bequest of:

$ 450 $ 10,000
$1,125 $ 25,000
$2,250 $ 50,000
$3,375 $ 75,000
$4,500 $100,000

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